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Ohioans Deserve Fair Representation

For decades in Ohio, politicians and lobbyists have manipulated voting districts through a process called gerrymandering. It means decision makers are carving out voting districts to protect their interests and guarantee their re-election. In other words, we let politicians choose their voters, rather than voters choosing their representatives. Ohio is one of the most gerrymandered states in the nation. It has historically happened on both sides of the aisle, and has always led to unbalance.

In 2022, for both the primary and the general election, Ohio operated under maps deemed unconstitutional by the Ohio Supreme Court. <u>Instead of righting this wrong and finding a fair resolution</u>, <u>politicians and back-room insiders ignored the court and the will of the people by repeatedly submitting maps that were rejected as unconstitutional</u>. We know this is an unfair representation of Ohio citizens, and it has to change.

We have a solution. The Citizens Not Politicians Amendment will:

- Create the 15-member Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission made up of Democratic, Republican, and Independent citizens who broadly represent the different geographic areas and demographics of the state.
- Ban current or former politicians, political party officials and lobbyists from sitting on the Commission.
- Require fair and impartial districts by making it unconstitutional to draw voting districts that discriminate against or favor any political party or individual politician.
- Require the commission to operate under an open and independent process.
- The Citizens Not Politicians Amendment is proposed by a broad nonpartisan coalition of Ohio
 citizens to end gerrymandering by empowering citizens, not politicians, to draw fair districts using
 an open and transparent process.

The Citizens Not Politicians Amendment will end gerrymandering by empowering citizens, not politicians, to draw fair legislative districts using an open and transparent process. This same process drew fair lines in Michigan and lead to representation that allowed the repeal of so-called right to work in Michigan. This is a nonpartisan solution by Ohioans, for Ohioans, and we need to support it.

Please stay tuned to Rapid Response to see how you can help restore democracy in our state so every Ohioan is represented fairly.

For additional information, please contact District 1 Rapid Response Coordinator, Sue Browne at sbrowne@usw.org or 269 - 838 - 5956.