

# Resolution No. 1083-2024

By Council Member Starr and Spencer

**FOR ADOPTION**  
**October 7, 2024**

## AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Supporting the Citizens Not Politicians-Citizens Redistricting Commission Initiative, which would transfer the power of drawing legislative and congressional maps from politicians and lobbyists to the citizens of Ohio; and urging Ohioans and Cleveland citizens to support this Issue 1 citizen-lead ballot initiative to end partisan gerrymandering in Ohio for a freer, more democratic state.

WHEREAS, the drawing of legislative and congressional maps, or the redistricting process, has historically been controlled by politicians and lobbyists, leading to districts that serve political interests rather than the people of Ohio and Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, extreme gerrymandering prevents Ohioans and Cleveland citizens from having the fair representation they deserve, allowing politicians to manipulate and rig district boundaries to secure their own power and diminish the influence of individual voters; and

WHEREAS, gerrymandering takes power away from the people of Ohio and Cleveland, allowing representatives to choose their voters rather than voters choosing their representatives, thereby undermining the foundational principles of free and fair elections that produce democratic governance; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens Redistricting Commission Initiative proposes a more transparent and fair process by placing the responsibility of redistricting in the hands of a 15-member independent commission composed of Ohio citizens, rather than politicians and lobbyists; and

WHEREAS, Issue 1 citizen-lead ballot initiative requires the Citizens Redistricting Commission to operate under an open and independent process; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens Redistricting Commission Initiative seeks to create legislative and congressional maps that reflect the true will of the people, ensuring that every Ohioan's vote carries equal weight in determining their representation; and

WHEREAS, empowering citizens to be part of the redistricting process will strengthen Ohio's democracy, enhance the integrity of our elections, and restore trust in our political system; and

WHEREAS, Issue 1 is endorsed by a broad spectrum of Ohio citizens, including Republicans, Independents, and Democrats; and

WHEREAS, this Council supports the Citizens Not Politicians-Citizens Redistricting Commission Initiative and urges citizens to support Issue 1, because it serves the best interests of Ohioans and Cleveland citizens, will bring fairness and transparency to the redistricting process, and will protect the fundamental right of all Ohioans to have a meaningful and impactful vote;

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council supports Citizens Not Politicians-Citizens Redistricting Commission Initiative, which would transfer the power of drawing legislative and congressional maps from politicians and lobbyists to the citizens of Ohio; and urging Ohioans and Cleveland citizens to support this Issue 1 citizen-lead ballot initiative to end partisan gerrymandering in Ohio for a freer, more democratic state.

Section 2. That this Council directs the Clerk of Council to transmit copies of this Resolution to, State Representative Terrence Upchurch, Ohio House Minority Leader Allison Russo, all members of the Ohio General Assembly whose districts include the City of Cleveland, Governor Mike DeWine, and Citizens Not Politicians.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

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READ FIRST TIME  
and referred to

REPORTS

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME  
by the council

CITY CLERK

**READ THIRD TIME on OCTOBER 7, 2024**

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

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READ FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME