

Resolution No. 847-2021

By Council Members **Spencer, Gray, Polensek, McCormack, Santana, Hairston, Conwell and J. Jones**

FOR ADOPTION
September 27, 2021

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Condemning the new state legislative maps as deeply flawed and unconstitutional gerrymanders of state legislative districts; and calling upon Ohio lawmakers to immediately enact a transparent and deliberative public process for bipartisan Congressional districts.

WHEREAS, in 2015, Ohio voters overwhelmingly supported state legislative redistricting reform and in 2018, voters followed up by passing congressional redistricting reform, with over 70% of Ohio voters approving a “transparent, bipartisan process that would result in fair, representative maps”; and

WHEREAS, after an unmistakably disastrous process by which the Ohio Redistricting Commission came up with the maps, the Republican majority of that Commission voted 5-2 along party lines to approve new state legislative maps that flout voters’ intent to prevent overtly partisan gerrymandering; and

WHEREAS, the new state legislative maps will allow Republicans to maintain their veto-proof majority in both the House and the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Republicans Frank La Rose and Mike De Wine, even while voting to approve the maps, acknowledged that the maps could be found unconstitutional in that they are not supposed to favor any political party and are supposed to be proportionate to recent vote results; and

WHEREAS, Ohio lawmakers must carry out a more transparent and deliberative public process resulting in bipartisan Congressional districts, keeping communities together and putting the needs of voters first, while meeting Constitutional deadlines;

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 condemns the new state legislative maps as deeply flawed and unconstitutional gerrymanders of state legislative districts; and calls upon Ohio lawmakers to immediately enact a transparent and deliberative public process for bipartisan Congressional districts.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to all members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission.

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.

JS:rns
9/27/2021
FOR Council Member Spencer

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**REPORT
after second Reading**

**By Council Members Spencer, Gray, Polensek, McCormack,
Santana, Hairston, Conwell and J. Jones**

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**READ FIRST TIME
and referred to**

REPORTS

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME on SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

Recorded Vol. **108** Page _____

Published in the City Record _____

READ FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME