



## WHY IS OHIO DRAWING NEW CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAPS?

### The Landscape

Although several states like Texas and California have been making headlines regarding the redrawing of their congressional districts, Ohio stands alone this year as the only state required to create new congressional district maps. Why is this the case? The congressional map that Ohio passed in 2021 was only valid for four years because it lacked the necessary support from Democratic members of the Redistricting Commission. As a result, Ohio Republicans produced maps deemed unconstitutional, which were subsequently struck down by the state Supreme Court on five separate occasions. Now, a new map must be drawn in 2024—one that will remain in effect until the next redistricting cycle in 2031, following the 2030 census and reapportionment process.

### Why You Should Care

The current redistricting challenge in Ohio has significant consequences for Black communities across the state. As the congressional map stands, a small number of Democrats represent districts where most Black residents live, yet their ability to advocate for issues that matter to these communities is hampered. Because Republican leadership dominates the process and sets legislative priorities, concerns such as equitable access to resources, fair representation, and the specific needs of Black Ohioans often remain unaddressed. With Republican politicians controlling how district lines are drawn, consideration for keeping communities of interest—like those of Black residents—together is frequently overlooked. This means districts may not accurately reflect the diversity of the population, diminishing the power and influence of Black voters. The result is legislative maps that do not promote fair representation and fail to prioritize the concerns of Black Ohioans, perpetuating a cycle where their voices are heard less in policy decisions that affect their daily lives.





## Who Represents Ohio Now?

Currently, Ohio's congressional delegation consists of 11 Republicans and 5 Democrats. However, voting patterns suggest the split should be closer to 9 Republicans and 7 Democrats. The imbalance is partly due to higher Republican voter turnout. As a result, only a small number of Democrats represent areas with predominantly Black populations, and issues important to those communities often go unaddressed, as their representatives have less influence under Republican leadership.

## How the Process Works

Republican politicians currently wield complete control over whether district maps are fair and representative, often neglecting criteria such as keeping communities of interest together or reflecting the diversity within districts.

### The Ohio Constitution describes a three-step process for drawing these maps:

- The Ohio General Assembly - deadline for passage 9/30/25, if not passed then
- The Ohio Redistricting Commission - deadline for passage 10/31/25, if not passed then
- State Lawmakers – deadline for passage 11/30/25.

**Each step is designed to reach bi-partisan agreement. If all three steps fail, lawmakers can pass a temporary map that lasts for the next two election cycles (6 years).**

**Get Involved - For more information or to participate in the process visit:  
[www.ohiounity.org](http://www.ohiounity.org)**

