

Senator Wilborn, Representative Croft and Redistricting Committee Members

As a registered republican, I am beyond disappointed that the republican leadership authorized the announcement of the redistricting meetings late Friday (August 6) for meetings to be held this week, on such an important subject. It is obvious the leadership is not really that interested in input from the public. Your short notice gave little time for the public to prepare for the meetings and many that may have wanted to attend would have a difficult time arranging their schedule to attend them.

If the republican leadership is truly interested in redistricting correctly, they would want to incorporate the most recent population counts from the 2020 Census, which I understand will be available very soon. The reason this is important is that this will be the most accurate population count that is available. The population estimates that are made yearly by the State are just that, estimates. We are all aware of the changing demographics that continues to occur in our state. More people are migrating from rural areas to more populated locations Therefore, it is irresponsible to establish districts on data that is 10 years old and not wait a week or two to use more accurate information.

It is apparent the republican Leadership wants to ram the proposed redistricting map through with minimal feedback from the public. I know the Census data is a little late in getting released but setting meetings with little notice to prepare and scheduling all of the public meetings in one week ensures that not much public input will be received. This is not good governance; it is a charade, and this is a good example of why the citizens do not trust government.

I encourage the leadership to rethink what they are doing and either appoint a non-partisan advisory board to assist in this process or truly make this a bi-partisan effort. Even though I am a registered republican, I believe that our government works best when both parties work together and agree upon a solution.

Respectfully,

Gary Meagher
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