

RESOLUTION 2018-01
State Issue 1-Congressional Redistricting Reform

WHEREAS, for decades, Ohio has been saddled with extreme partisan gerrymandering of congressional districts; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 gerrymander was the worst in the history of Ohio and one of the most extreme in the nation, such that the congressional breakdown after 2012 was 12R-4D even after a majority of Ohioans had voted for Democrats for President and the U.S. Senate; and

WHEREAS, under the current process, a Republican statehouse would have had the ability to draw a map guaranteeing a 12-3 breakdown between 2021-2030; and

WHEREAS, in November of 2015, tired of gerrymandering and its pernicious consequences, Ohio voters passed State Issue 1 with 71.5% of the vote, which reformed how Ohio draws state legislative districts—requiring bipartisan agreement, tightening requirements for keeping political subdivisions together, and requiring more transparency and public input; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, seeing this mandate, advocacy groups such as the League of Women Voters, Common Cause and the Ohio Environmental Council, joined by progressive groups and activists across the state, mobilized thousands of volunteers who collected over 200,000 valid signatures to place a congressional equivalent of Issue 1 onto the November 2018 ballot; and

WHEREAS, in response to the groundswell of energized activists and the signatures gathered around the state, a bipartisan group of legislators along with those advocacy groups came together to negotiate and pass Senate Joint Resolution 5, which will now appear on the ballot as State Issue 1; and

WHEREAS, State Issue 1 would amend the Constitution to require bi-partisan approval in the way state congressional districts are drawn, and in the event such approval cannot be reached, would impose requirements on any proposed map, including minimizing the splitting of communities and that the map cannot be drawn to favor one political party; and

WHEREAS, the advocacy groups championing the ballot initiative support State Issue 1 because it meets the goals for fair districts that animated their initiative by ending the partisan process for drawing congressional districts, and replacing it with a process with the goals of promoting bipartisanship, keeping local communities together, and having district boundaries that are more compact; and

WHEREAS, national groups advocating to end gerrymandering across the country—such as the Brennan Center and the National Democratic Redistricting Committee—have all hailed State Issue 1 as groundbreaking reform; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Democratic Party, our candidates and officeholders are committed to a public districting process that generates a congressional district plan that fairly represents the communities and diversity of Ohio voters, provides competitiveness and accountability in Ohio elections, and generates a congressional delegation from Ohio that reflects the overall political breakdown of Ohio voters;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Erie County Democratic Party endorses the passage of State Issue 1 on May 8, 2018.

Adopted on March 22, 2018



Amy F. Grubbe, Chairman



Timothy J. Dunlap, Secretary