

## **RESOLUTION 2018-04**

**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 can not be reached, would impose requirements on any proposed map, including minimizing the splitting of communities and that the map can not 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; 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 Ohio Democratic Party and 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 Ohio Democratic Party endorses the passage of State Issue 1 on May 8, 2018.

Adopted on February 28, 2018

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David Pepper, Chairman

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William P. DeMora, Secretary