

August 22, 2017

My name is Charles Lewis. I'm a registered voter in the Orange County precinct of Dogwood Acres and a native North Carolinian. I'd like to thank the committee members for their time today.

The courts have determined that during the current and previous legislative cycles, the gerrymandering of voting districts by Republicans was not lawful. I recognize that the Democratic Party has been involved in partisan gerrymandering over the years as has the Republican Party. Now is the time for a change in these partisan procedures

I stand with the League of Women Voters who promote non-partisan voter registration and support non-partisan voting districts. These voting districts would not be based on previous voting history, race, age, or any other factors that attempt to predict election outcomes and keep the incumbent candidates or political party in power.

I support HB200 and SB209. These bills, designed to establish a non-partisan redistricting commission, have been introduced in the NC General Assembly. A non-partisan legislative staff would create legislative and congressional districts rather than lawmakers. The districts would be drawn completely blind to political considerations or partisan political advantage. It would take effect for the next redistricting cycle, in 2021.

In closing, will this committee provide the public the basis on which these new voting district maps have been drawn?

Thank you,

Charles Lewis
424 Northside Drive
Chapel Hill, NC
919-6191215