



A legislative update from
STATE REP ANITA SOMANI
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Dear Neighbor,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer, and are enjoying the fall weather. As we head into this season, the mid-cycle redistricting process will begin in Ohio. In this state, we are constitutionally required to redraw our Congressional maps if they were passed along party lines, and only Republicans voted for their passage in 2021.

Right now, Ohio is one of the most gerrymandered states in the nation. The current version of our Congressional maps were ruled unconstitutional by the Ohio Supreme Court. Using unfair maps to rig elections is blatantly disrespectful to the foundational principles of a democracy. Ohioans deserve to live in a state where voters choose their elected officials; not the other way around.

The process of creating new maps has four steps.

- First, the legislature has until September 30th to draw maps, hold a public hearing, and pass bipartisan maps. In order for the maps to be considered bipartisan, 50% of each caucus in both chambers must vote yes on the maps.
- If this does not happen by the end of September, then a Redistricting Commission will be created and they will have until October 31st to come up with bipartisan maps. The Commission will be made up of the governor, the auditor of state, the secretary of state, and individual lawmakers appointed by the House Speaker, Senate President, Senate Minority Leader, and House Minority Leader.
- If the Commission cannot agree upon bipartisan maps, then the map drawing process goes back to the legislature. The legislature then has until November 30th to come up with maps. At this point, the maps simply have to pass with a majority of the vote in both chambers; it does not have to have bipartisan support. This will be a problem as Republicans hold a super majority in both of the chambers.
- Finally, the maps will go to the Governor for him to either sign or veto.

My Democratic colleagues and I will continue to fight for fair maps throughout this process. We also will be advocating for a transparent and open map drawing process with ample opportunities for the public to weigh in with their thoughts about the maps. There was one public hearing about redrawing maps on Monday, but Republicans have yet to release any maps they might be considering. Constitutionally, there has to be at least one more public hearing on redistricting before this process is over, but we do not yet know when that will be. I will make sure to update my social media as soon as I am aware of dates so make sure you follow me! My handles are in the banner at the top of this page. It will be important to make sure your voices are heard during this process, and submitting testimony is a great way to do this.

As always, I love hearing from my constituents, so please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, or thoughts you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anita Somani". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Anita" on the top line and "Somani" on the bottom line.

Anita Somani, M.D
House District 8

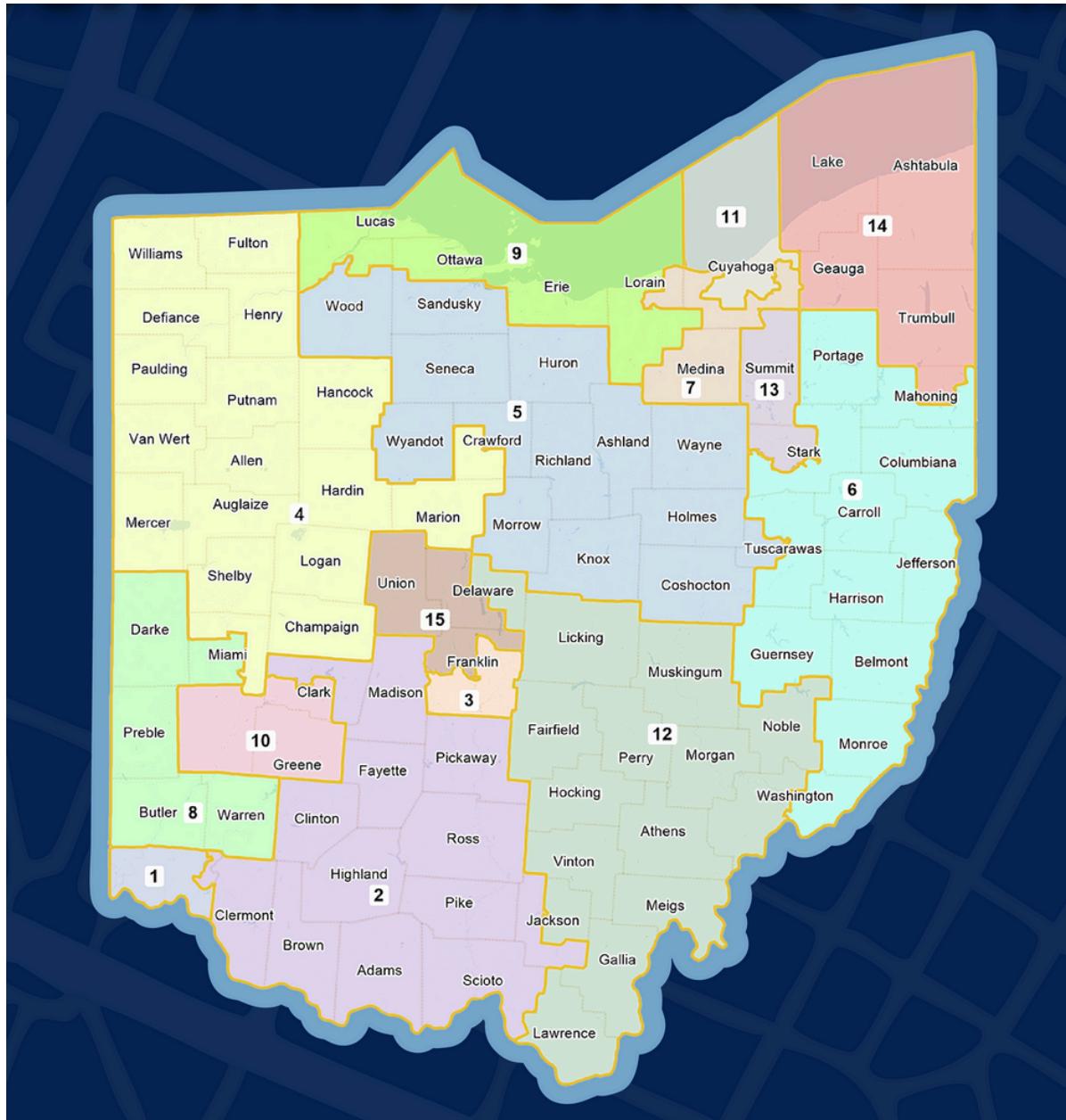


Upcoming Town Halls

I will be out and about in the coming months for a few different town halls. Mark your calendars for the dates and times below to come talk to my colleagues and I about any questions or concerns you have about the Statehouse:

- **Worthington Town Hall with Sen. Liston**
 - Wednesday, October 1st from 6-7:30pm
 - Worthington Park Library, Olentangy Meeting Room
- **Budget Town Hall with Franklin County Delegation**
 - Tuesday, October 14th from 6-7:30pm
 - Columbus Metropolitan Library - Whetstone Branch
- **Marysville Town Hall with Rep. Lett and Rep. Munira**
 - Wednesday, October 29th from 6-8pm
 - Marysville Public Library

Statehouse Dem Fair Maps



This is the House and Senate Democrats' proposal for fair Congressional maps. This map includes 8 districts that lean Republican and 7 districts that lean Democratic, which more closely reflects how Ohioans vote in statewide elections. Ohioans deserve a fair and constitutional map.



Out and About This Summer



My colleagues and I continued our ODWLC Town Hall tour in Chillicothe. I had a great time connecting with constituents and discussing how budget cuts affect rural healthcare access.



I toured the Heart of Ohio Family Health Center in honor of FQHC Awareness Week. They do incredible work proving critical and low-cost care to our most vulnerable communities.



Out and About This Summer



Sen. Liston and I hosted young trans rights activists at the Statehouse to better understand how legislators can support the LGBTQ+ community.

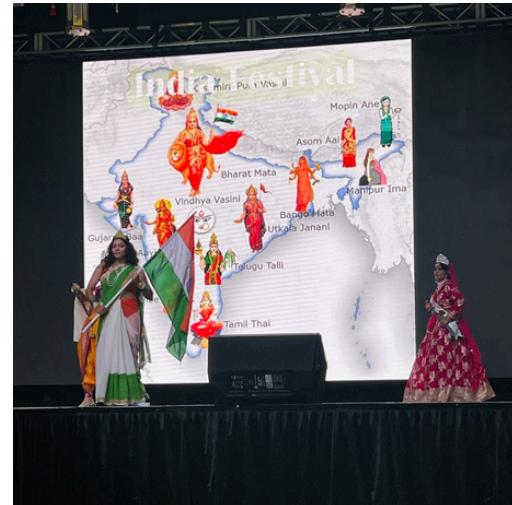


I attended the opening ceremonies of the Midwest's largest martial arts tournament, taking place in my district! It was an awesome opportunity to learn about the history and cultural significance of these sports.



I attended and spoke at a protest against the Trump administration and his extremist policies.

Out and About



I recognized the 41st India Festival in Columbus. Indian-Americans are an important part of our Central Ohio community!



I attended a reception for the release of a new book that sheds light on the struggle of those battling addiction at the Franklin County Coroner's Office. This was a powerful night that raised awareness about the realities of substance abuse.



Rep. Munira, Rep. Cockley, and I hosted a town hall in Mansfield. It was wonderful to meet everyone and talk about the issues facing Ohioans.



Out and About



I toured the High Road Gallery in Worthington to talk about the work they do to preserve the history of our community and support local artists.



The Columbus Zoo invited local legislators to tour the new North America exhibit at the Zoo!



I attended an event with Franklin Park Conservatory to hear about their plans for expansion in the coming years.

Out and About



I had the honor of attending the Asian American Commerce Group's Award ceremony. Asian Americans are an important part of the Central Ohio community, and this was such a wonderful night celebrating our community.



I met with medical students from around Ohio who are interested in the intersection of medicine and public policy. I love talking to future generations of leaders!



I went to the Cancer Action Network's Advocacy Lunch. We got to hear from leaders in the cancer research space about what policymakers can do to fight cancer.