**The Lakewood Democratic Club**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting held** **October 28, 2021
Online space at zoom.us**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Erik Meinhardt.

Officers present were President Erik Meinhardt, First Vice-President Maureen Dostal, Secretary Nicole Parke. The President chaired the meeting. The Secretary took notes.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES - The body approved the minutes from August 26 and September 30, 2021.

HOUSEKEEPING - Next month’s meeting is Thursday, November 18 NOT on the last Thursday of the month (Thanksgiving). Please join us after the meeting for food, a drink, and social time at Sauced Taproom at the corner of Detroit and Warren.

RECOGNITION OF NOTABLES - State Senator Nickie Antonio, Judge Maureen Clancy, Judge Richard Bell, State Representative Mike Skindell, Lakewood City Councilperson & candidate for Lakewood Municipal Court Tess Neff, candidate for School Board Nora Katzenberger, Judge William Vodrey, candidate for Lakewood City Council Kyle Baker, Judge Thomas O’Malley, CCDP City Leader Karolyn Isenhart, Judge Francine Goldberg, Judge Michelle Sheehan, Judge Deborah Turner, School Board President & candidate Betsy Shaughnessy, Lakewood City Councilperson & candidate Sarah Kepple, Judge Mary Eileen Kilbane, Lakewood City Council candidate Mark Schneider, Lakewood City Councilperson & candidate Tom Bullock

**PROGRAM:** We are honored to welcome our special guests Kathleen Clyde and Collin Marozzi, experts on Ohio's redistricting process. Currently, the fight over legislative redistricting maps is ongoing with lawsuits in the Ohio Supreme Court and shenanigans with the redistricting commission, and the future of our democracy is on the line. Will our state embrace fairness or will we live with gerrymandered districts that silence the votes of millions of citizens? Join us to learn more about where the process is between the maps for the Ohio General Assembly and the US Congress.Kathleen Clyde is Chair of the Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission, former Ohio State Representative, Portage County Commissioner, and Democratic nominee for Ohio Secretary of State. Collin Marozzi is a Policy Strategist and redistricting & voting rights expert from the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio.

**Collin Marozzi:** mostly focusing on lawsuit regarding Ohio General Assembly districts

From Collin Marozzi to Everyone: (7:16 PM)

 https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/Clerk/ecms/#/search

Encourage everyone to go to website & sign up for tracking on this case number 2021-1193. Ohio Supreme Court handling ACLU’s lawsuit with Ohio Organizing Collaborative & League of Women Voters. Addressing on expedited timeline. Evidentiary filing deadline last week. First merit briefing deadline tomorrow. 2000-3000 documents uploaded by evidentiary deadline.

1. depositions

revealed statewide officeholders on redistricting commission did not have much of a role in creating both initial Map and enacted Map. statewide officeholders were not allowed any money from state operating budget that’s been allocated to redistricting effort. allowed themselves to be at the mercy of the legislative leaders. Senate President Matt Huffman & Speaker Cupp were using sophisticated software. Gov DeWine washed his hands of the process. at the last minute tried to broker a deal and delegated Jon Husted to do so as well. intentional & deliberate decision-making pattern that was designed to not leave any paper trail around this process. no more than 3 members of the commission were in the same room at any given moment. claimed sunshine laws. breakdown between what was promised in 2015 and what actually happened. statewide officeholders did not play their part.

1. arguments we can anticipate from the other side

both huffman and cupp never viewed Section 6 as mandatory criteria. called it “aspirational”. Section 6 talks about “not unduly favoring.” for there to be section 6 violation, has to be clear mechanical infraction in mapmaking - must show splitting of designated areas etc. No clear remedy. will also argue that they had to follow “inefficient distribution of voters”, b/c democrats live in more concentrated areas? if were to create fair map, 45-55 % of each party. some members of commission felt republicans were entitled to 81% of seats. claim they would have had to pull democrats out of urban areas to draw them into rural districts. however, PhD professor at Harvard Dr. Amai (sp?) built his own algorithm to draw & analyze over 5000 sample ohio maps. the map that was enacted was significant outlier by every metric, most notably efficiency gap of 10.2%. every map he created, efficiency gap of about 3%. democratic candidate would have to do 7 points better than a typical candidate from the other side. example: danny o’connor. in delaware county, significant population growth and political shift to the left. could have split county between north and south to keep like-minded demographics together, but split east and west so that republicans would win both seats.

**Kathleen Clyde: focus on congressional districts**

very well represented in lakewood! btw collin is from portage county! & Kathleen went to law school with kyle baker

still in map-drawing stages of congressional districts

served as co-chair of Ohio Citizens’ Redistriction Commission. model commission put together by Ohio Org Collab, NAACP , Ohio Brandoff Institute. commission of all different demographics. used 2020 census data to draw maps and adopt unanimously for both state leg and congressional. now commission in stage of congressional redistricting process where they could adopt 10-year maps if got 5 of 7 votes including democrat and republicans. commission met today and did not introduce their own map, kicked it back to legislature. if 1/3rd of democrats in ohio house and state senate votes for maps the 10-year map will be adopted. if not possible, republicans can pass four-year map with simple majority. unclear what will happen. citizens’ commission will be testifying. <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::97161bc9-7785-4494-863b-9a85f628ce25>  citizen’s commission’s map.

Ohio Senate Dems map: <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::a5d710a6-f571-4b1d-ada7-7baecf63fc0e>

Ohio will have 15 members of congress. these maps would have 8 republican, 7 democrat. 44/56 average split. would be fair! more fair than existing 12-4 split

dont anticipate this will happen. republicans wont allow it.

criteria for congressoinal districts is a bit different than state leg.

map should have equal population in each district, less than 1% variation is the goal.

want partisan fairness

one district will contain all of cleveland, one all of cincinnati, one will have most of columbus

limitations on splitting counties, cities, townships. can only have 23 county splits. but don’t need that many

District 11 long legacy of being represented by black leaders in Cleveland - Louis Stokes

Republican leaders and elected officials have blatantly disregarded expectations, done a disservice to ohioans. approved state leg map as gerrymandered as current maps. We must hold them accountable and replace them with people who will give us fair maps. Senate Dems map is fair. Democrats are not the same.

OCRC Report: <https://ohredistrict.org/assets/images/unity-maps/OCRC-Congressional-Report.pdf>

This was introduced as SB 237: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-237.

**Q&A:**

1. makeup of Ohio Supreme Court matters. Pat DeWine is hearing case where father is significant player.

Collin: conflict of interest. but he won’t recuse himself. partisan operatives calling on justice brunner to recuse herself b/c she has called for district reform. republicans trying to tit for tat!

Kathleen: we now have 4-3 split on Ohio Supreme Court, with 3 democrats and Chief Justice who voted with democrats in 2011.

1. if 4-3 win in our favor, what happens?

Kathleen: would likely give new deadline to create new map

Collin: hard stop deadline of February 2nd - petition filing deadline for candidates

1. claim of sunshine law violation in the lawsuit?

Collin: it doesn’t look like it

1. OCRC role moving forward?

Kathleen: as OCRC, testified at hearing today b/c submitted proposal, but wasn’t our “big show.” commission said ahead of time they weren’t going to introduce a map. after kicking to state leg, supposed to be joint senate and house committee, but could be separate committees.

1. what can we do to prevent worst case scenario?

Kathleen: if commission has to reconvene, public will have opportunity to give input. Show up! Also remember when you’re voting for statewide offices, you’re voting for fair districts. this isn’t done yet! If we aren’t successful, maybe we take reform to the ballot again.

Collin: our hand is getting forced. will be two separate hearings for congressional maps. heard senator huffman say possibility that democratic proposal and republican proposal could get hearing next wednesday. everyone can take advantage of the work that district reform advocates have done. people now know what we’re talking about. we have to hold our leaders accountable.

Erik: dont forget to become a member of ACLU

1. this process has been blatantly corrupt. if supreme court doesn’t rule in our favor, take to the streets?!

Kathleen: yes! we may need to take it to the ballot again

Collin: becoming more clear that certain politicians were not on board with the mssion. Senator sikes “ we campaigned together for fair districts, not technically compliant districts” to Huffman

**REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President: sample ballot mailer going to 5300 households

First Vice President: Thanks to speakers! November, Nan Whaley is our speaker! Hoping for Holiday party in December.

Political Activism: Jay - call Senator Brown to pass the Freedom to Vote Act , ban partisan gerrymandering at the federal level. Need to get rid of filibuster. Leave a voicemail for Sherrod at :(216) 522-7272.  We need to pass the Freedom To Vote Act and John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Reform or get rid of the filibuster! Script for fair districts calls in Ohio, includes Zoom link for a weekly call meeting: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dbjFm45E1otKNxqsZxv3od8VX3onHk_35AY7j1O630Q/edit>

Donate once, or make a recurring donation, to Fair Fight Action: https://fairfight.com/

Book Club: Carol - Tuesday, November 16 @ 7pm at Bottlehouse Brewery. Book: AI 2041: Ten Visions of Our Future (halfway to end of the book). Film: Coded Bias on Netflix about facial recognition software

Second Vice President: (on leave of absence)

Treasurer: Erik gave report in Catie’s place. $15,335.18 in the bank. Does not count $3,905.57 we spent on our sample ballot

Secretary: No update

UPDATES

Statehouse: no update

County Council: no update

Lakewood City Council:

Tess - committee of the whole meeting. antiracism task force present. working to obtain consultant and strategic planning to make recommendations.

Sarah - just came from ADA taks force meeting. hired consultant to do study of public spaces. will be sending out survey

Tom - Democratic Club members should speak issues to City Council!

Lakewood School Board: Betsy- got help from lakewood police at most recent meeting. enforced mask mandate. mask mandate working for our schools! schools closed on election day but staff will be there

CCDP: Karolyn - tragic loss of Judge Mcdonnell, Judge Joe Russo, Judge Larry Jones. Tell 5 people to vote on tuesday!

Maureen - engaged democrats, don’t underestimate your influence!

Holiday party Thursday December 16th

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING - November 18, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 8:56pm

Event notes prepared by Nicole Parke on October 28, 2021.

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Secretary Approval: sign date

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President Approval: sign date

From the chat:

Hello, Lakewood Dems! Great to be back with you again. Hope you’ll come visit me in Courtroom 18A at the Justice Center sometime - you’d be most welcome.  (vodrey)

From Collin Marozzi to Everyone: (7:16 PM)

 https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/Clerk/ecms/#/search

From Kira Krivosh to Everyone: (7:24 PM)

 Great to see everyone. I'm off to tuck in the bambini, looking forward to seeing everyone hopefully during the Holidays!

From Erik Meinhardt (he/him) to Everyone: (7:24 PM)

 Good seeing you and have a great night, Kira!

From Sarah Kepple to Everyone: (7:42 PM)

 That was very informative, thank you!

From Judge William Vodrey to Everyone: (7:42 PM)

 Great presentation - thanks, Collin! Why do you think the Governor and other statewide officials were so timid? Afraid of being primaries, willing to let state legislative leaders take the lead, a combination of those things, or something else entirely? being primaried

From Trudy Hutchinson to Everyone: (7:44 PM)

 Is a violation of the sunshine law included as a cause of action in the lawsuit?

From Kyle Baker to Everyone: (7:44 PM)

 Great to see you as well Kathleen! It's hard to believe its been over a decade since law school.

From Collin Marozzi to Everyone: (7:46 PM)

 Thank you Judge! My gut tells me they were very hesitant to push against the legislative leaders because of the leverage they hold over them. DeWine is already treading water in the legislature over masks and Covid, and LaRose is trying to fight back against terrible voting bill (HB 294 & HB 387). Of course I could be mistaken however.

From Judge William Vodrey to Everyone: (7:48 PM)

 Got it - thanks.

From Jay Ketchaver to Everyone: (7:48 PM)

 @Judge Vodrey, an alternate explanation: because there are no good Republican politicians.

From Judge William Vodrey to Everyone: (7:49 PM)

 Ha! Thanks, Jay. There are some, but these days unfortunately you have to look VERY hard for them. The GOP of 2021 is, far too often, more of a personality cult than a healthy political party IMHO.

From Jay Ketchaver to Everyone: (7:50 PM)

 As Rep. Adam Schiff put it recently, they’re not a political party, they’re an authoritarian cult of personality.

From Kathleen Clyde to Everyone: (7:50 PM)

 <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::97161bc9-7785-4494-863b-9a85f628ce25>

From Judge William Vodrey to Everyone: (8:12 PM)

 This may also be of interest as to Justice DeWine: https://ohiocapitaljournal.com/2021/10/27/justice-dewine-defends-redistricting-recusal-decision-despite-murky-track-record/

From SUSAN SHAW to Everyone: (8:23 PM)

 How do you both feel about media coverage on this topic—shall we bug media outlets to cover this more?

From Kathleen Clyde to Everyone: (8:26 PM)

 Susan - YES. I think the coverage has been decent but they need to keep it up.

From Karolyn Isenhart to Everyone: (8:26 PM)

 No “if” - I’m sure the plan from the Rs is to make the map as bad as possible.

From Kathleen Clyde to Everyone: (8:26 PM)

 And they need to stop the “both sides” coverage. Again, Dems have been very fair here, and how can we possibly be to blame for these Republican gerrymanders?

From Jay Ketchaver to Everyone: (8:26 PM)

 #BothSidesDont

From SUSAN SHAW to Everyone: (8:28 PM)

 Yes the “Both Sides” logic is insanity.

From Erik Meinhardt (he/him) to Everyone: (8:28 PM)

 bothsides-ism is the media's favorite thing and don't forget Republican's love of whatabout-ism

From Karolyn Isenhart to Everyone: (8:29 PM)

 Dems in the US Senate need to dump the filibuster and pass the voting rights legislation to stop this across the country.

From Nora Katzenberger to Everyone: (8:29 PM)

 Agreed, Karolyn

From SUSAN SHAW to Everyone: (8:29 PM)

 100%

From Erik Meinhardt (he/him) to Everyone: (8:30 PM)

 if there is a march, we should get a bus or a few vans from our club to go down to Cbus - need to make our voices heard. this is a violation of the public's trust and the will of the people

Sarah Kepple: <https://tinyurl.com/Fall2021SKSuperSupporterSignUp>

From Nora Katzenberger to Everyone: (8:37 PM)

 I still have yard signs as well if anyone is interested! https://forms.gle/Qs8nfpPptUPfBsoc7

From Sarah Kepple to Everyone: (8:40 PM)

 Reminder that vote by mail ballots need to be postmarked by Monday, November 1st!

From Tess Neff to Everyone: (8:41 PM)

 If anyone has questions or wants to stand at a poll please email me through my website at WWW.tessforlakewood.com Thank you!!

From Sarah Kepple to Everyone: (8:50 PM)

 Link to the video of the Committee of the Whole meeting with the AntiRacism Task Force that Tess mentioned: https://onelakewood.granicus.com/player/clip/1300?view\_id=2&redirect=true

From Sarah Kepple to Everyone: (8:53 PM)

 Or vote before Tuesday! https://boe.cuyahogacounty.gov/en-US/11022021eip.aspx