

## **RESOLUTION 1:**

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FAIR AND EQUITABLE LEGISLATIVE MAPS**

**WHEREAS, Article V, Section 1** of the Constitution for the State of Ohio provides that a citizen of the United States, who is eighteen years or older, who has been a resident of the state, county, township, or ward, such time as may be provided by law, and has been registered to vote for thirty days, has the qualifications of an elector, and is entitled to vote at all elections.

**WHEREAS,** every 10 years, following the decennial census, Ohio General Assembly and Congressional districts are redrawn to reflect changes in the state's population in two parallel, but separate processes.

**WHEREAS,** on November 3, 2015, voters in Ohio approved a constitutional amendment to create a bipartisan state legislative redistricting commission;

**WHEREAS,** on May 8, 2018, voters in Ohio approved a constitutional amendment establishing new procedures for congressional redistricting, beginning with the 2020 redistricting cycle, the following provisions were set to take effect: The amendment stipulates that 65 of Ohio's counties cannot be split during redistricting (18 can be split once, and the state's five most populous counties can be split twice).

**WHEREAS** all legislative districts are required to be compact and made of "contiguous territory." Also, the "boundary of each district [must] be a single nonintersecting continuous line." The amendment forbids district plans from favoring or disfavoring either political party

**WHEREAS** the Ohio Redistricting Commission approved new state legislative district maps by a 5-2 vote on September 16, 2021.

**WHEREAS** On January 12, 2022, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled against the state's enacted legislative maps, ordering the Ohio Redistricting Commission to redraw them within 10 days. The commission voted to approve a new set of maps in a 5-2 vote on January 22, 2022

**WHEREAS** On February 7, 2022, the Ohio Supreme Court rejected the state's redrawn legislative maps and ordered the Ohio Redistricting Commission to submit new maps. On February 24, the Ohio Redistricting Commission voted 4-3 to approve new legislative maps.

**WHEREAS** On March 7, the Ohio Supreme Court rejected redrawn legislative maps and ordered the Ohio Redistricting Commission to draw new maps by March 28, 2022

**WHEREAS,** On April 14, the Ohio Supreme Court rejected the Ohio Redistricting Commission's legislative maps for the fourth time and ordered the commission to redraw the maps by May 6, 2022. On May 5, the commission voted 4-3 to resubmit legislative maps it had previously submitted to the court on February 24, 2022.

**WHEREAS** the Ohio Supreme Court struck down the maps on May 25, 2022, and ordered the commission to redraw them by June 3, 2022.

**WHEREAS** A federal court ruling on Ohio's legislative maps took effect on May 28, which ordered maps drawn by the Ohio Redistricting Commission in February be used for the 2022 elections and set a legislative primary date of August 2, 2022. These maps took effect for Ohio's 2022 state legislative elections.

**WHEREAS** the above actions of the Ohio Redistricting Commission denied Ohio voters the opportunity to vote for their legislative representatives in accordance with the stipulations provided in the Ohio Constitution.

**THEREFOR IT IS RESOLVED** that the 2023-24 Ohio Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW/OHIO) Legislative Chair and the 2023-24 BPW/OHIO Legislative Consultant are hereby directed to monitor the development and implementation of proposed legislative maps for the 2024 elections and to keep the membership of BPW/OHIO informed of any developments regarding this issue.

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED** that the 2023-24 BPW/OHIO Legislative Chair, in conjunction with the 2023-24 BPW/OHIO Regional Legislative Chairs shall organize a letter and/or post card writing campaign for BPW OHIO members to send to our Ohio Legislators expressing our dissatisfaction with the current Legislative Maps and seeking to have the maps redrawn in accordance with the requirements stated in the Ohio Constitution.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that members of BPW/OHIO will engage in a letter writing campaign directed to their legislative representatives and members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission seeking the implementation for the 2024 election of legislative maps that support fair representation in the drawing of district maps in accordance with the stipulations contained in the Ohio Constitution.

**IT IS ALSO RESOLVED** that the 2023-24 BPW/OHIO Legislative Chair and the 2023-24 BPW/OHIO President shall send letters with a copy of this resolution to the leaders of the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate, the Ohio Secretary of State, and the Ohio Redistricting Commission expressing our concern about their failure to pass constitutionally required Legislative Maps in 2022 and requesting that immediate steps be taken to ensure that the Legislative Maps to be used in 2024 are in accordance with the Ohio Constitution.

**RESOLVED AND ADOPTED THIS** 21st **DAY OF** May, 2023.