

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO**

League of Women Voters of Ohio, <i>et al.</i> ,  Petitioners,  v.  Ohio Redistricting Commission, <i>et al.</i> ,  Respondents.	Case No. 2021-1193
Bria Bennett, <i>et al.</i> ,  Petitioners,  v.  Ohio Redistricting Commission, <i>et al.</i> ,  Respondents.	Case No. 2021-1198
Ohio Organizing Collaborative, <i>et al.</i> ,  Petitioners,  v.  Ohio Redistricting Commission, <i>et al.</i> ,  Respondents.	Case No. 2021-1210

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This matter is before the Court on Motions for a Scheduling Order filed September 25, 2023, by the petitioners in the *Bennett* and *Ohio Organizing Collaborative* actions. Respondents Representative LaRe and Senator McColley, members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission and of the Ohio General Assembly, agree with Petitioners that this Court’s review of the Commission’s adopted map and its constitutionality is specifically contemplated by the order of May 25, 2023. *League of Women Voters v. Ohio Redistricting Commission*, 2022-Ohio-1727, ¶6 (“This court retains jurisdiction for the purpose of reviewing the new plan”). They agree as well that such review is important to the people of the State of Ohio, to the State’s Government including its General Assembly, to the redistricting process, and to the credibility of whatever plan determines districts for the next election. Without such review, the 2024 General Assembly election cycle could be delayed, as happened in 2022, or conducted under the same cloud of suspicion that districts were not appropriately drawn as the State experienced in 2022. To avoid those issues, this Court’s review of the next set of maps is particularly important.

Moreover, while the December 20, 2023 filing deadline for next year’s primary<sup>1</sup> is nearing, the Court has sufficient time to conduct a careful and thorough review of the plan. With such timing in mind, Respondents join Petitioners in asking that the Court provide a prompt and expedited schedule for proceedings in this case. The schedule Respondents suggest is as follows:

- The Ohio Redistricting Commission shall file the district plan with the Court no later than 5:00 pm on the day after the Commission adopts such plan;
- Petitioners shall file objections, if any, to the new plan, by 5:00 p.m., seven days after the new plan is filed with the Court; and
- Respondents shall file responses by 5:00 p.m., seven days after any objections are filed.

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<sup>1</sup> Because 2024 is a presidential election year, the primary is set for March 19, 2024. The filing deadline is 90 days earlier, R.C. 3513.05, or December 20, 2023.

The 7-day periods obviate the need to address weekends and provide an equal time-period to each side, irrespective of when during the week a filing is made. We also believe that the Court does not need further argument, but that it can proceed directly from the briefing to a decision on the merits.

For those reasons Respondents agree that this Court should enter a scheduling order on slightly different terms from that proposed by Petitioners.

Respectfully submitted this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

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I hereby certify that on this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023, I have served the foregoing document by email:

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