

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Journal and Courier Lafayette, IN

May 15, 2016

### **Better way to redistrict legislative boundaries needed**

Four local citizens concerned about gerrymandering made the trip to Indianapolis on May 5 to attend a hearing of the special interim legislative committee on redistricting. The committee has until Dec. 1 to study alternatives to the present method of having the legislators themselves draw the boundaries of Indiana House and Senate and U.S. congressional districts and to make recommendations for action.

The committee is bipartisan and includes four citizen members. Two of these members presented testimony that suggested alternatives that would result in greater voter confidence by an electorate turned off by our current political system. Further, an analysis of legal precedents suggested that states that continue to gerrymander may face intervention by the U.S. Supreme Court. Other testimony argued there is no way to improve the redistricting process.

Local interest in redistricting reform has been shown by community groups who have attended presentations on gerrymandering. Further, the Lafayette and West Lafayette city councils, both mayors and the Tippecanoe County commissioners have supported an open citizen led process.

The committee plans to hold additional hearings. These should be held at different times and should be scheduled around the state and in larger venues so that everyone can participate. Further, a recommendation should be developed soon enough to gather public input on specific details.

There is much to be concerned about this election year, but making sure that the rules for playing the game are determined by neutral umpires rather than the players in the game should be near the top of the list.

**Sherry McLauchlan chairman, redistricting committee League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette**

## YOUR TURN

Submit letters to the editor of 250 words or fewer to [editor@jconline.com](mailto:editor@jconline.com) or to 217 N. Sixth St., Lafayette, IN 47901. Please include your name, town and phone number, for confirmation purposes.