

## Ohio Congressional Districts 1972 Bi-Partisan Plan



Let's look at Ohio congressional districting over the past 30 years. That raises the issue of bipartisan gerrymandering. Republicans controlled both the governorship and the legislature when Ohio's congressional districts were re-drawn in 1965 and 1968 to conform to the Supreme Court's one man-one vote rulings. Not surprisingly, those plans were drawn to favor Republicans and in 1971 Republicans enjoyed a 17-7 dominance of Ohio's congressional delegation. But a Democrat governor was elected in 1970, so that meant the 1971-72 congressional districting would have to be a bi-partisan compromise. The state's congressional delegation was to go from 24 to 23, but Republican incumbents McCulloch in CD 4 and Betts in CD 8 were retiring. That meant every remaining incumbent could be given a "safe" district; and then an open district could be created somewhere in the state.