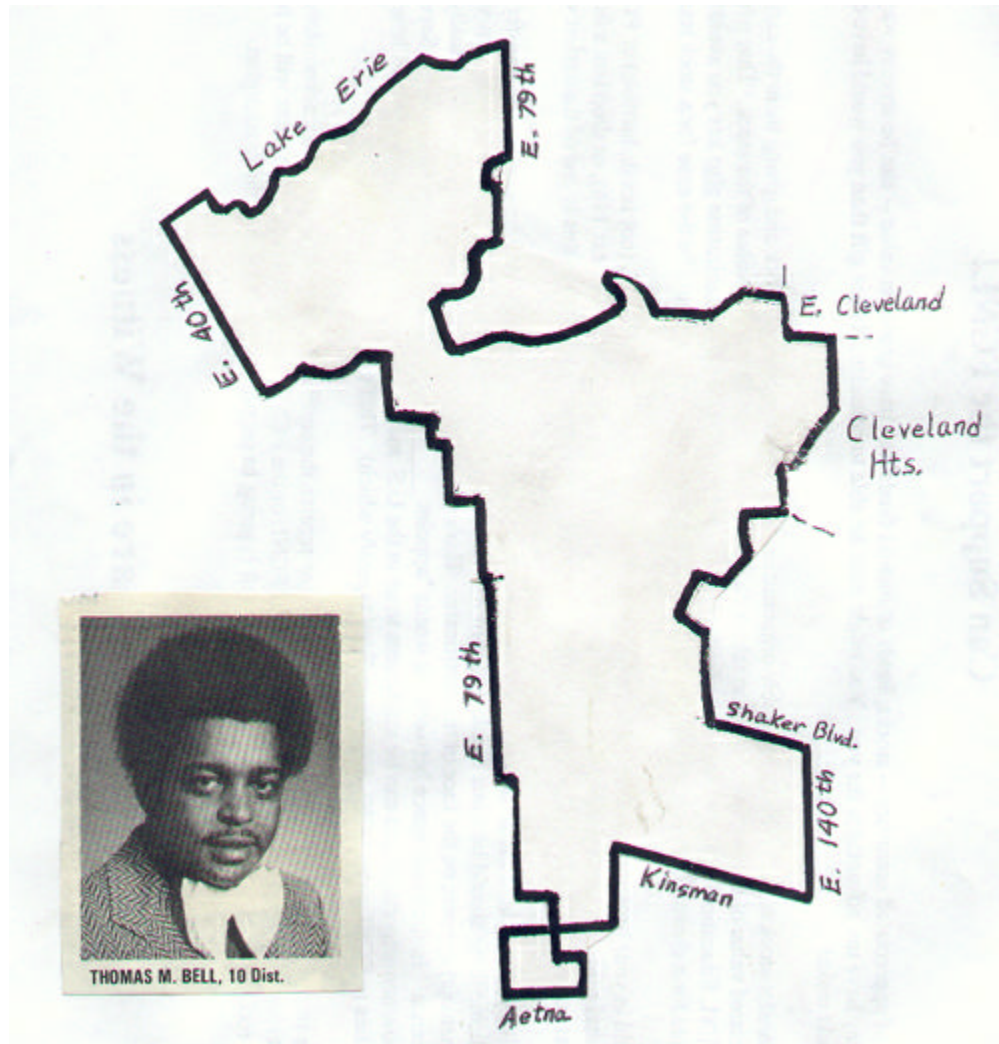


## House District 10

### 1971 Apportionment Board (Democrat) Plan



Race was another ingredient in the cauldron of Cuyahoga County politics. But, as we shall see, even race takes a back seat to personality and faction.

Consider HD 10 of the 1971 plan. With a C.I. of only 20.4, it was drawn with the intent of protecting African-American incumbent Larry Smith. But in the 1972 Democratic primary Smith was upset by Thomas Bell, described by *Ohio Magazine* as "the closest example of a militant in the Black caucus." During his five terms in the house he was "very much disliked by other blacks" and had a "terrible relationship with [house speaker Vern] Riffe and [Black caucus leader C.J.] McLin." We shall presently see what happened to him.