

## **Republicans, Independents Democrats United - Meeting notes November 19, 2025**

*Today's meeting began at 1:15 due to a scheduling conflict with the City of Eaton.*

*Welcome - Bev Brubaker and Jon Smith*

*Introduction of the committee of six*

*Presentation of the Mission Statement*

*Treasurer's report - Janet Crelin*

Current balance - \$225.45

No new postcards were ordered. The remaining ones were passed out to the attendees along with Independent voter addresses. Attendees appreciated the addresses and will keep them for new postcards in the future.

*Comments on the No Kings 2 Rally*

Great turnout! Keep the foot on the gas for the future. Any pictures taken should assume to be OK with participants.

Please don't antagonize people.

Group didn't feel the need to have "Marshalls" at rallies!

*Announcements*

Retail Black Out Days Nov.25-Dec 2 – Shop LOCAL!

Christmas meeting December 17 at 7:00pm at the Eaton Youth Center. Treats to share, along with thoughts about the past year and thoughts for the future will be shared. There will be no guest speaker.

*Speaker - Carol Roe*

Gerrymandering and Redistricting

\*See attached handout

Congressional should be redrawn after a census (in 2030), but due to political pressure, states are doing it now, as in Texas and California. Ohio's redistricting is ongoing, as ordered by the state Supreme Court, who ruled the current map unconstitutional.

Prepare for the primary election on May 5, 2026, and the general election on November 3, 2026.

Carol's beginning and ending quote on Gerrymandering was from Ben Franklin:  
"A Republic if you can't keep it."

*Discussion*

Johnny Bohrer introduced himself as the chair of the Brown County Democratic Party. He spoke about Chris Gibbs and the Rural Caucus of the SW Ohio region. Very few comments, as he was not a RID United speaker.

Submitted by Kathy Stevens

November 20, 2025

**Gerrymandering and Redistricting – Carol Roe's Notes**

## 1 - Historical Context

- 1812 – Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry signs a district plan favoring his party; one district resembles a salamander. “Gerry-mander.”
- 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> centuries – Widely used to secure partisan control and marginalize minority communities.
- Today: Still used to manipulate elections, protect incumbents, and weaken opposition despite reform and court challenges.
- National picture: Texas, California, Louisiana, Indiana.

## 2 – Ohio Historical Picture

- Timeline of Ohio’s gerrymandered maps: How Ohio Politicians Defy Court Orders to Manipulate Legislative Districts: <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/timeline>
- Ohio Gerrymandering: A Brief and Awful History of the Recent Past: <https://www.ohiocapitaljournal.com/2024/1-11/ohio>.

## 3 - More Recent Ohio Redistricting

- September 30: Ohio General Assembly had until September 30, 2025, to hold hearings and vote on a bipartisan map.
- October 31: Redistricting Commission had until October 31 to hold hearings and vote on a bipartisan map.
- November 30: The General Assembly had until November 30 to hold hearings and vote on a bipartisan or party line map.
- Last Resort: Governor signs or vetoes the map passed by the General Assembly.

## 4 - Ohio Resources

- Innovation Ohio: <https://www.innovationohio.org>
- Equal Districts: <https://www.equaldistricts.org>
- League of Women Voters of Ohio: <https://www.lwvohio.org>
- Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission: <https://www.ohioredistrict.org>
- Brennan Center for Justice: <https://brennancenter.org>
- Fair Districts Ohio: <https://fairdistricts.org>
- How Things Work at the Ohio State House: [www.facebook.com/howthingsworkoh](https://www.facebook.com/howthingsworkoh)

### *Contact Information*

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