



Press Release: For Immediate Release – August 31, 2011
Contact Person: Pat Clifford (513) 312-7700

Redistricting Forum Lays Groundwork for Reform

Common Cause Ohio is sponsoring the **Ohio Redistricting Forum** on **September 8, 2011**, from 6-8 p.m. in Mayerson Hall on the campus of Hebrew Union College, 3101 Clifton Ave. The event is being hosted by the HUC-UC Ethics Center and is free and open to the public.

The first hour of the Forum will feature an informative panel including:

- **State Representative Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati)**. Before her appointment to the Ohio House, Rep. Reece served as Vice Mayor of Cincinnati from 2002-2006 and was a City Councilwoman for the eight years prior.
- **Ann Henkener, Legislative Director and Board Member for the League of Women Voters of Ohio**. Henkener has been active in the Ohio Campaign for Accountable Redistricting and the Draw the Line Ohio Competitions sponsored by the Ohio League and Ohio Citizen Action.
- **Greg Rabidoux, Fair Districts Director for Common Cause**. Rabidoux ran for Congress in the 7th District of Tennessee in November 2010. Most recently, he was a faculty member at Austin Peay State University, teaching law and politics in the political science department.

After the panel, both **Jim Slagle, Manager of the Ohio Campaign for Accountable Redistricting**, and **Keith Corman, Regional Liaison for Secretary of State Jon Husted**, will provide updates on the current redistricting process and ways which the public can become involved.

During the second hour, attendees will break into small groups and design ways to improve Ohio's redistricting process. Input will be collected and made available afterward to all attendees.

Common Cause has advocated for years to reform Ohio's redistricting process in order to check the effects of partisan gerrymandering. "Because one political party will always dominate the process, the public perception, and the reality to a large extent, is that politicians pick their voters rather than voters picking their politicians," said William K. Woods, Chair of Common Cause Ohio's State Governing Board.

Refreshments will be available and there is ample, free parking on site.

This event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Ohio and Cincinnati, Ohio Citizen Action and their Money in Politics Project, the Ohio Campaign for Accountable Redistricting, Ohio Votes, the Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati, the Cincinnati

Association, Citizens for Civic Renewal, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Ohio, the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (IJPC), the AMOS Project, Applied Information Resources, Inc. and Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion – Cincinnati.

##30##