



## How Browns' offense stands ahead of season opener

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## OH Dems, nonprofit gird for remap war

Will resist Republican gerrymandering efforts

Derek Kreider  
Akron Beacon Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

After Texas fired the first shots in the nationwide redistricting war, some Democratic states have responded in-kind, threatening to gerrymander their own maps to counter attempts by Republicans to extend their slim majority in the House of Representatives.

The Ohio Democratic Party has vowed unified resistance to Republican attempts to further gerrymander the state's congressional maps, and the nonprofit Equal Districts Coalition — a collection of faith communities, civil rights organizations, individuals, good government groups and others — is promising to push back against anything less than the maps currently in place, which give Republicans a 10-5 advantage over Democrats.

Deidra Reese, a member of the coalition's steering committee, said the group is demanding that the congressional district lines be drawn according to a 2018 anti-gerrymandering constitutional amendment approved by voters.

The amendment outlines a process for the Ohio General Assembly and an Ohio Redistricting Commission to draw the maps, a procedure entirely under Republican control.

"If we had that in our districting right now," said Reese, "we would probably have more like an 8-7 balance in terms of political party representation in our Congressional delegation."

The current 10-5 split doesn't

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Ohio Democratic Party head Kathleen Clyde, seen in 2018, called for an open process on redistricting.  
FRED SQUILLANTE/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

5 QUESTIONS WITH

## School crossing guard not stopping at 36 years



Marie Howell, a crossing guard for the past 36 years, stops traffic as high school students cross East Glenwood Avenue near Forest Hill Community Learning Center. Howell said she will help anyone who needs to cross at her corner.  
MIKE CARDEW/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

### Howell enjoys helping kids, bemoans scofflaw adults

Kelli Weir Akron Beacon Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

Dressed in her yellow reflective vest, Marie Howell holds a large stop sign above her head as she strides into the middle of East Glenwood Avenue. ● She waits for an oncoming SUV to fully stop and then motions to cross to the handful of Forest Hill Community Learning Center students and their adults waiting on the sidewalk. Howell walks behind the group, asking one girl about the topic of her upcoming class project.

"OK, I'll see you tomorrow!" Howell says when they reach the sidewalk.

You'll find Howell, who has been a crossing guard for 36 years, at the intersection of East Glenwood Avenue and Ranney Street each school day as she helps students and adults cross the street in the morning and afternoon.

Howell, who will turn 71 in November, is one of the longest-serving crossing guard among the 113 guards currently employed by the Akron Police Department, which handles 26 Akron Public elementary schools, Hyre Middle School, Case Preparatory Academy, St. Anthony of Padua School and St. Sebastian Parish School.

Akron Police Sgt. Karl Burton said the average tenure for crossing guards is between eight and 10 years.

The Akron Beacon Journal asked Marie Howell five questions about her crossing guard career:

#### 1. Why did Marie Howell become a school crossing guard?

"My kids," said Howell, whose two daughters will turn 40 and 44 years old this year. "I wanted to do a part-time job, and this was perfect for that. I could drop them off at school and do it."

She started at an intersection near the former Harris Elementary on Dayton Street. She moved to Ranney Street and East Glenwood Avenue in 2003.

Howell, who uses the same stop sign she was given 36 years ago, also has worked as a crossing guard for the past 14 years outside Case Preparatory Academy, an elementary charter school on South Arlington Street.

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## OH raw milk bill stirs safety concerns

Samantha Hendrickson  
Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Raw milk could be legal to sell in Ohio under proposed new legislation, but whether the milk is safe or beneficial is a matter of heated debate.

Raw milk, or milk that has not been pasteurized, has increased in popularity in recent years among wellness circles. It's touted by advocates as a "superfood"

whose health benefits are destroyed by pasteurization and has gained momentum in the Make America Healthy Again movement.

Health officials, however, say that superfood status isn't backed by science and that drinking raw milk poses serious health risks that could even prove fatal.

The legislation, introduced by state Reps. Kellie Deeter, R-Norwalk, and Levi Dean, R-Xenia, is about regulating a market that, despite being illegal, has big de-

mand in Ohio, Deeter told The Dispatch. Deeter, whose district is primarily rural, said the bill is about increasing the safety of a product people are already choosing to consume, not about MAHA.

"I'm personally not a raw milk advocate; I'm a liberty advocate," Deeter said. "As long as people understand what they're consuming."

What separates raw milk from the

See RAW MILK, Page 6A



Ohio lawmakers recently introduced legislation that would fully legalize the sale of raw milk in the state.  
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