

My name is Sadie Moore Stewart. I am a member of IndependentOhio and Independentvoting.org. I now reside in Cleveland Heights.

I was born in Tuskegee Alabama. In 1957, I was six years old. In that same year the Alabama State Legislature redrew the City of Tuskegee from a simple four sided square to the twenty-eight-sided polygon attached to my statement. There had been 400 black voters in Tuskegee before the redrawing. The redrawing left 5 five. Yet not one white voter was lost by the new borders. The city's former black citizens believed they had been denied a constitutional right.

A unanimous United States Supreme Court agreed, and Justice Frankfurter writes: "When a State exercises power wholly within the domain of state interest, it is insulated from federal judicial review. But such insulation is not carried over when state power is used as an instrument for circumventing a federally protected right."

This case, and more importantly the accompanying map, illustrates the blatant and shameless methods that the professional politicians will resort to in order to illegally prevent competition, keep themselves in power, and control the outcome of elections.

Here in Ohio, and throughout our nation, the independent voter, the non-political party affiliated voter, is subjected to no less blatant methods to circumvent their federally protected right to participate in the election process.

Tuskegee's 28 sided polygon has been replaced with a partisan political structure enforced by secretaries of states throughout this Country.

Article IX Sec.1 of the Ohio Constitution authorizes legislative lines to be drawn by a five-member commission composed of elected officials, and selected members from

each of the major parties. If you are an independent or have no party affiliation, for all practical purposes, you have no representation.

There are other ways in which voter participation is denied independents and non-party affiliated voters. For example

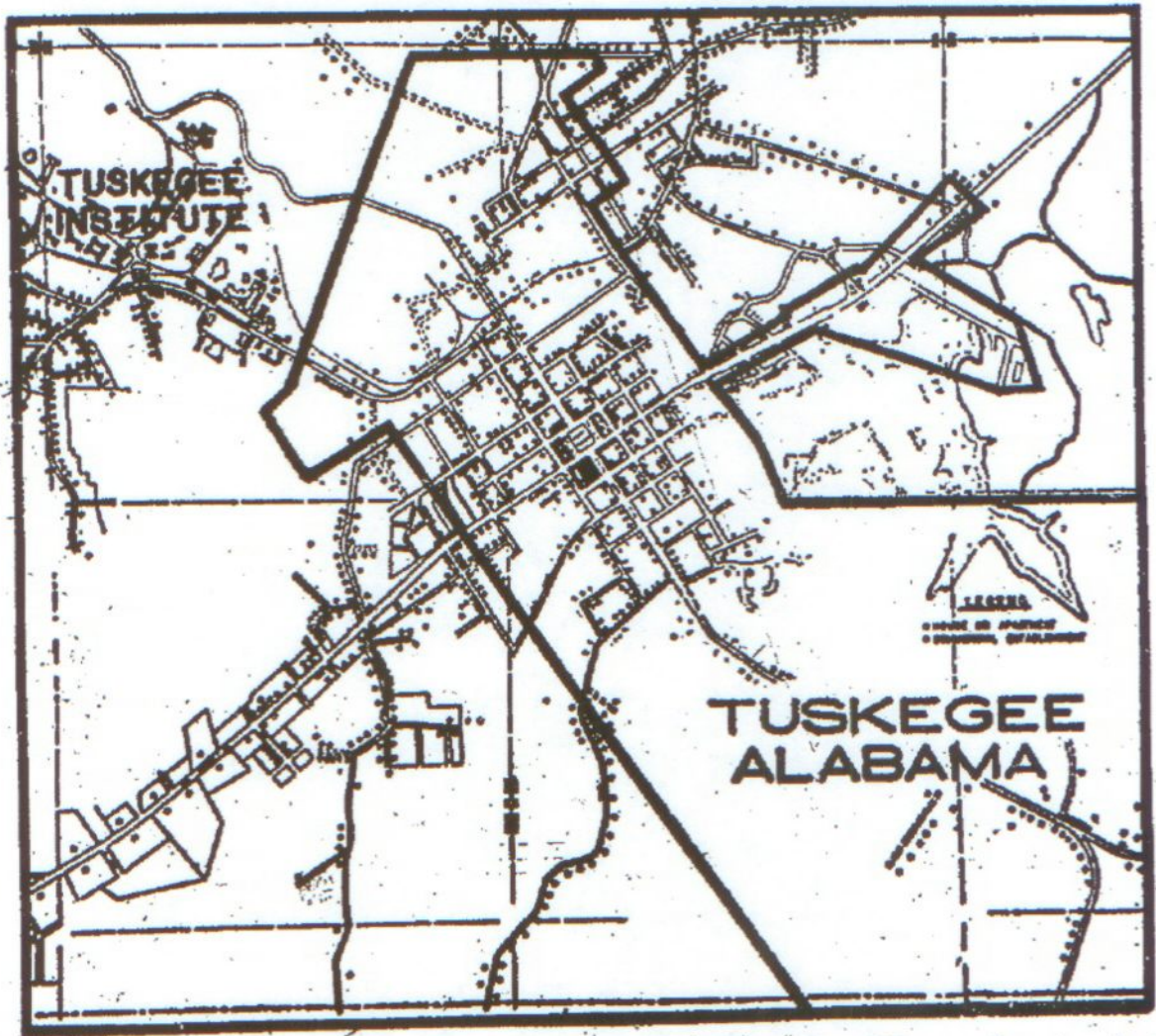
- In Ohio, you must be a member of one of the major parties to work at the polls.
- You cannot serve on Boards of Elections.
- A voter must declare affiliation with a major party in order to have a voice in who appears on the ballot in the general election.

In this country, it was agreed a long time ago that we would be governed by the “will of the people”, as demonstrated by their vote. The 28 sided drawing makes it obvious that blacks in Tuskegee were “locked out” of that process.

Unfortunately the ‘lock out’ of the independent voter used by today’s professional politicians is more subtle.

But it is no less a “LOCK OUT “.

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(The entire area of the square comprised the City prior to Act 140. The irregular black-bordered figure within the square represents the post-enactment city.)