

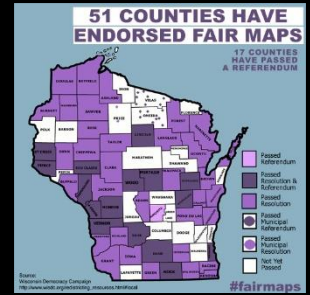


**WISCONSIN  
DESERVES  
FAIR MAPS**

fairmapswi.com

# Fair Maps Wisconsin Newsletter

May 8, 2020: Vol. 1, #6



My name is Hans Breitenmoser. I'm a dairy farmer and Lincoln County Board Supervisor. I first got involved in the fight against gerrymandering in the Spring of 2017. By that time, I had been on the Board for about five years and felt that the State Government wasn't hearing or understanding the realities we were/are facing locally. I came to conclude that at least part of the problem is that because of politically gerrymandered maps our representatives in Madison don't really have to be responsive.

I drafted a resolution insisting on a nonpartisan procedure for drawing legislative and congressional district boundaries. The Lincoln County Board voted 18-4 in support.

In the Fall of 2018 the Lincoln County Board voted to put the question of Fair Maps on the ballot and let the citizens of Lincoln County voice their opinion. We the people voted overwhelmingly to end gerrymandering.

My goal in getting a resolution passed at the Lincoln County Board was to help educate and inspire people, using the tiny platform I have as a supervisor of a small rural Wisconsin county. I think it's working.

Forward!



## Fair Maps Teams meet via ZOOM

Fair Maps Team Meetings in May will continue to be held through Zoom. Please contact Carlene ([carlene@wisconsinvoices.org](mailto:carlene@wisconsinvoices.org)) or Holly ([holly@fairelectionsproject.org](mailto:holly@fairelectionsproject.org)) if you would like to be added to the Zoom meeting invitation for your region.

- **1<sup>st</sup> CD Fair Maps Team** -Tuesday, May 19, at 5:30pm
- **2<sup>nd</sup> CD Steering Committee** - Tuesday, May 12, at 10:00am
- **3<sup>rd</sup> CD Fair Maps Team** - Thursday, May 14, at 6:30pm
- **Jefferson County Fair Maps Team** - Wednesday, May 20, at 6:30pm
- **Midstate Fair Maps Team** - Thursday, May 21, at 4:00pm
- **Lodi Fair Maps Team** – Thursday, May 28, at 4:00pm
- **7<sup>th</sup> CD East/Central Fair Maps Team** - Tuesday, May 19, at 7:00pm
- **7<sup>th</sup> CD West Fair Maps Team** – Thursday, May 14, at 6:00pm
- **8<sup>th</sup> CD Fair Maps Team** - Tuesday, May 26, at 6:30pm

## Mark your calendars for *Slay the Dragon!*

The Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition, in partnership with Participant Media, is hosting **Fair Maps Week from Sunday, May 24 through Friday, May 29**. Fair Maps team members across the state will have the opportunity to view *Slay the Dragon* for free and in the comfort of your own homes. Keep an eye out for an email arriving in your inbox next week and on our website, [fairmapswi.com/slaythedragon](http://fairmapswi.com/slaythedragon) for information on how to register.

Concluding Fair Maps week on **Saturday, May 30**, the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition will be **hosting a *Slay the Dragon* online panel discussion**.

More information on panelists and how to tune in will be available soon.



# 72%

GERRYMANDERING IN WISCONSIN

## 72% Project – A Family Effort

*Anthony (Tony) Phillips, an oncologist working in the Appleton area for the last 21 years, persuaded his daughter, Emaley, to use her superior tech skills to help him create the [72%: Gerrymandering in Wisconsin](#) presentation to help explain what gerrymandering is, how it affects us and why 72% of Wisconsinites cannot be ignored. Tony plans to retire soon and dedicate his time to ending partisan gerrymandering. He welcomes Fair Maps Teams and supporters of fair maps to use it.*

### *How did you become aware of the problem of partisan gerrymandering?*

**Tony:** As with many of us in the Fair Maps movement, I became frustrated over time with the lack of government action, at both the federal and state level, on issues that are supported by a great majority of citizens. Trying to understand how a democratically elected government can be so unresponsive to its constituents, I began to learn about the effects of gerrymandering as a root cause of this inaction.

### *What motivated you to create this presentation with your daughter Emaley?*

**Tony:** 72% is a very large percent of Wisconsinites wanting an end to gerrymandering, but 72% can also be relatively powerless unless we all refuse to be ignored. This presentation is an effort to educate, but also an effort to energize and bring a focus to the movement. Nonpartisan redistricting is not going to be simply handed to the Wisconsin people in 2021. Persistent and strong activism will be required from all of us.

## Building Unity Video Productions

Videographer Dan Folkman, long-time activist Mary Kay Baum and Fair Maps plaintiff Bill Whitford are collaborating to create short video interviews with accompanying maps to show how gerrymandering prevents good public policy, be it clean water, healthcare, worker rights, etc. This video project is initiated by the Building Unity Tour, a project of many organizations encouraging voter engagement between now and November. The end-in-view is an ever expanding circle of people and nonprofit organizations who find common ground while seeking peace, justice, sustainability and democracy.

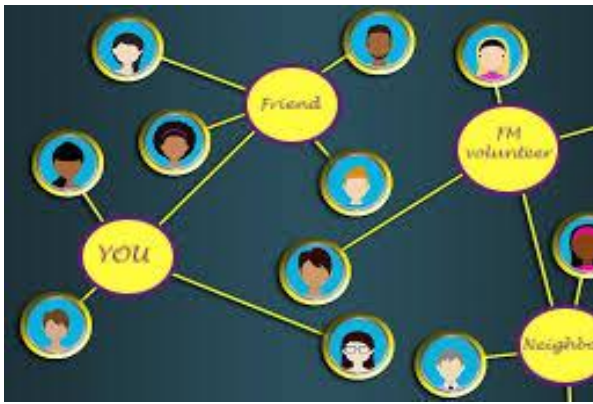
Contact [Dan](#) , [Mary Kay](#) or [Claire Swingle](#) to identify interviewees or to enlist your organization to help and to share across various social media platforms and archives for future use. Get more information on the tour [here](#).



**Clair Swingle, Host Building Unity Tour**



Discussing the Wis. April 7, 2020 Election While its Happening



## Relational Organizing: *Preaching beyond the Choir*

~ Carlene Bechen

Many Fair Maps Team members know by now that my father was a United Methodist minister. I grew up in the church – folding bulletins every Sunday, singing in the youth choir, watching over the nursery, and even working as church custodian all through high school. I know what that phrase *preaching to the choir* REALLY means. It's talking to the folks who already do everything. They don't just sing in the choir. They teach Sunday School, they mow the church grass for free, they serve on the Administrative Board, and the list goes on....

Just like the members of the choir, members of Fair Maps Teams are true believers... believers that partisan gerrymandering must end and that we have the power to do something about it. In order for that to happen, we will need to expand beyond the choir to reach those who slip into the back row just as the service starts and try to sneak out before they have to shake hands with the preacher.

On Wednesday, May 13 at 4:00pm, Cass Bowers of the Organizing Empowerment Project and I will be holding a relational organizing training to help Fair Maps volunteers/teams develop this skill into an effective strategy to persuade, engage and mobilize our friends and neighbors to take action with us to end partisan gerrymandering.

Please use this link to register:

<https://forms.gle/oe6QHXAckXrDN75a8>

## WDC Toolkit to Ban Gerrymandering

Since the first county nonpartisan redistricting referendum passed in April of 2014, it took five years to pass seven more in 2018 and 2019. Then, on April 7, 2020, 9 counties and 15 more municipalities (one town had already passed one in 2019) all across Wisconsin passed referendums by 70%+. Clearly, momentum is growing for ending partisan gerrymandering.

The [Wisconsin Democracy Campaign Toolkit to Ban Gerrymandering](#) is an extraordinary resource. During recent Fair Maps Team Zoom meetings, teams suggested that the newsletter highlight various parts of the toolkit. This very [comprehensive how-to case study](#) submitted in September 2019 by Jack Connelly of Play Fair Wisconsin describes how a small team of dedicated volunteers in Vernon and La Crosse Counties got two referendums on the ballot and passed in three months. We strongly recommend that you check it out. Here's a brief summary of the steps (with updates):

### Step One: Getting Referendum on Ballot

- Identify Fair Maps Team partners
- Review your county's process
- Target an election (November is better than August)
- Visualize a campaign strategy
- Contact County Board Supervisors

### Step Two: After the referendum is on the ballot

- **Review referendum committee requirements**
  - *Members of the Fair Maps Coalition, including WI Voices, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, Fair Elections Project, Common Cause and League of Women Voters, are NON-PARTISAN. All activities of Fair Maps Teams should reflect this.*
- **Launch fund-raising and friend-raising appeals**
  - *Relational Organizing (RO) can be a great way to do this. Register here for RO Training on Wednesday, May 13: <https://forms.gle/y94CfulFoLas8P9a9>*
- **Plan the campaign**
  - Increasing awareness of nonpartisan redistricting
  - Promoting the upcoming referendum
  - *In this campaign year, consider how you can use the upcoming referendum to get incumbent legislators and candidates to commit to supporting nonpartisan redistricting legislation.*
- **Determine campaign budget**
  - Some things to consider include: informational materials, promotional materials, events, social media, public relations.
- **Execute the plan.**

### Step Three: After the referendum has passed

- **Press release**
- **Letters to editor thanking voters for their support**
  - *This is another opportunity to call for incumbent legislators and candidates to support nonpartisan redistricting legislation.*

## Exit Surveys Show Support for Nonpartisan Gerrymandering

Back in February, volunteers from the Jefferson County Fair Maps Team and the 2nd CD conducted exit surveys outside three polling locations in the county - Watertown, Johnson Creek and Jefferson. Nearly 400 people responded to the survey which asked three questions:

- Do you support ending partisan gerrymandering and the practice of legislators drawing their own maps?
  - 84% support ending partisan gerrymandering.
- Would you be willing to send an email to our state senator or assembly person on your feelings toward our current process for drawing maps?
  - 56% were willing to contact their legislators.
- Would you be willing to tell your friends and family about our work to end gerrymandering and be part of our coalition?
  - 68% were willing to talk with friends and family. Jefferson County Fair Maps Team will be contacting them to join the coalition.



## News and Resources

- [North Carolina Gerrymandering: Special interview by Princeton Gerrymandering Project](#) (May 6, 2020) -- **Aylett Colston** is an attorney and activist from North Carolina. She serves as the Political Action Chair of the Raleigh-Apex NAACP. She answered questions from the Princeton Gerrymandering Project about the future of fair districts and fair elections in North Carolina.
- [Census Data Drives Apportionment of Congressional Seats](#) (from The Census Project Blog, April 28, 2020) -- The apportionment of seats in Congress is the Constitutional rationale for the decennial census of the “whole number of persons in each State.” A new [fact sheet](#) from the Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality and Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC shows when and how the apportionment results will be released (including the current revised schedule) and who is included in the count.
- **NEW!** [Purple Counties Map Progress Video](#): Map showing a timeline of the counties and municipalities that have passed referendums and resolutions against gerrymandering and in favor of redistricting reform. (NOTE: Columbia County past municipal successes were inadvertently missed and will be added soon!)
- [Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition website](#)—[www.fairmapswi.com](http://www.fairmapswi.com)

