

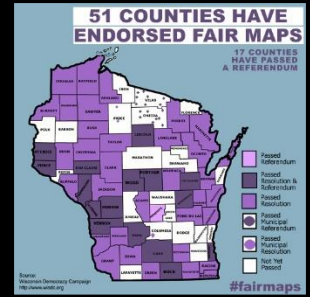


**WISCONSIN  
DESERVES  
FAIR MAPS**

fairmapswi.com

# Fair Maps Wisconsin Newsletter

July 12, 2020: Vol. 1, #9



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## Meet Jackie Cody

Jackie Cody is a dynamo! Her belief in participatory government has made her a force to be reckoned within Oneida County, where she grew up.



A long-time activist who enjoys biking and being outside, even in winter, Jackie became particularly incensed by the 2010 Supreme Court Citizens United decision. When George Penn from United to Amend asked Jackie to help get referendums on ballots in Oneida County, it made sense to her to get nonpartisan redistricting referendums on at the same time.

To Jackie, money in politics leads to rigged maps and rigged maps lead to more money in politics. The two are conjoined.

Here’s Jackie’s story:

My interest in Fair Maps was initiated while working to place United to Amend on the ballot in the City of Rhinelander and towns in Oneida County. It was a natural to work on both at once. It was a matter of not having to gather signatures at another time and requesting to be on town agendas only once. The referendums are entwined. Both subvert power from the people to an elite group.

Important to me was voter’s participation

(cont’d next page)

## Fair Maps Teams Meet via ZOOM

Fair Maps Team Meetings in July will continue to be held through Zoom. Please contact [Carlene](#) or [Holly](#) if you would like to be added to the Zoom meeting invitation for your region. To connect with the Fair Maps Team in your region, please complete this [Google form](#).

- 1st CD Fair Maps Team – Mon., July 13, at 5:30pm
- 2nd CD Steering Committee – Mon., July 20, at 9:00am
- 3rd CD Fair Maps Team – Thurs., July 16, at 6:30pm
- Jefferson County Fair Maps Team – Wed., July 15, at 6:30pm
- Midstate Fair Maps Team – Thurs., July 16, at 4:00pm
- Lodi Fair Maps Team – Tues., July 14, at 4:00pm
- Waukesha County Fair Maps Team – Tues., July 14, at 1:00pm
- 7th CD East/Central Fair Maps Team – Tues., July 21, at 7:00pm
- 7th CD West Fair Maps Team – Thurs., July 9, at 4:00pm
- Western WI for Nonpartisan Voting Districts – Tues., July 14, at 9:00am
- 8th CD Fair Maps Team – Mon., July 20, at 6:00pm

**(Jackie Cody continued)**

at the ballot box. For that to happen meant finding and encouraging volunteers and raising up new leaders in the city and towns in Oneida County.

Oneida County has but one city, the City of Rhinelander. We began by circulating signatures of friends then it was to knock on doors. Six volunteers gathered signatures representing 15% of the people voting in the 2018 governor's race for a total of over 550 signatures in less than 15 days.

Placing the referenda on the town ballot required a town resident to present them before the town board. The town board then votes whether to place it on the town ballot. A dozen volunteers presented in eleven towns. We were successful in placing the referenda on the ballot in seven towns and the City of Rhinelander. Volunteers would bring 10-20 supporters with them when presenting at a town board meeting often to the shock of the town officials whose meetings often have little attendance by town residents.

Kay Hoff worked simultaneously in Vilas County where volunteers gathered the necessary signatures in the City of Eagle River and volunteer presentations led to 10 towns placing the referendum on the ballot. All referenda were supported by the voters.

COVID-19 makes the grassroots activity before town boards more of a challenge and signature gathering, however, every opportunity we can to engage the voter's voice in the decision making the stronger the fabric of democracy becomes. Referenda encourage voters to participate bringing in new voters as well as the "lifetime" voter.

The volunteers were richly rewarded with the passage of both referenda—Fair Maps 80.4% approval and United to Amend 85.8%. In the City of Rhinelander, the passage percentage was 89% for both referenda.



## **Fair Maps Virtual Town Hall & Video Premier**

**HOST: Wisconsin Farmers Union**

**WHEN: Tues., July 14, 2020 at 7:30 pm**

Voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around. Wisconsin Farmers Union invites you to an important virtual gathering on the issue of nonpartisan redistricting and how we can work together to fight for a democracy that works for ALL people. Featuring the premier of a video highlighting the issue of fair voting maps, followed by a Q&A with Matt Rothschild, Executive Director of Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. Register now and a meeting link will be sent the week of the event. **Register on the WFU website [here](#).**



**Wisconsin  
Farmers  
Union**

**UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE**

## Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, Angela Lang and Ari Berman panelists for *Slay the Dragon* Film Discussion

We are excited to announce the next *Slay the Dragon* film discussion!

Join us on **Thursday, July 16, at 2 PM CDT** for another panel discussion on the documentary *Slay the Dragon* and to discuss the fight to end gerrymandering here in Wisconsin.

Panelists will include Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes, Mother Jones senior reporter Ari Berman, and Angela Lang, Executive Director of Black Leaders

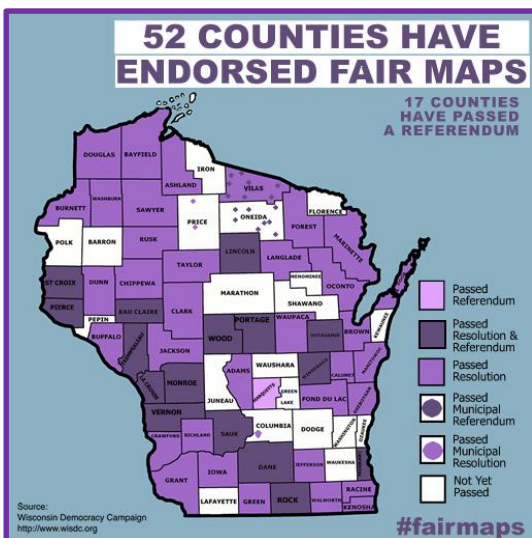
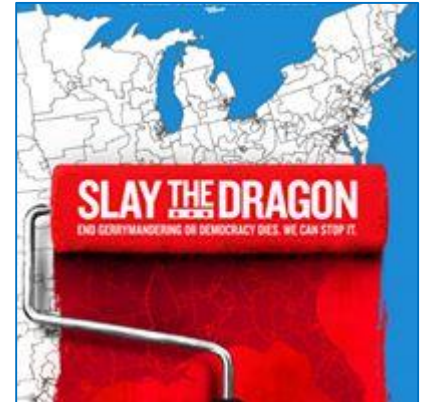
Organizing for Communities.

The discussion will be moderated by our very own Carlene Bechen, Fair Maps Organizer for Wisconsin.

Don't miss out!

Stream the film [here](#).

Register for our free discussion [here](#).



### Updated Counties Map

The map of counties endorsing Fair Maps has been updated (7/6/20) to include Vilas County and is posted to the [End Gerrymandering Toolkit](#) on the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign's website.

Also, the **Video Timeline has been updated** and uploaded to YouTube. [Note: previously shared links will go to the dated version]: <https://youtu.be/Evidjr59PNU>

### Ongoing Relational Organizing Trainings

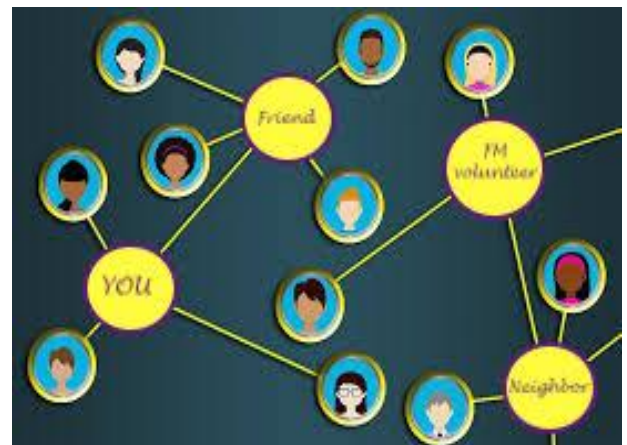
Mark your calendar for the 3rd Wednesday of each month for the **Introduction to Relational Organizing Training**. The next training is Wed., July 15, at 4:00pm.

[Register for Introduction to Relational Organizing.](#)

Please [download the Empower App](#) before the training

**Relational Organizer Session 1 Training** is the next step. This training walks fair maps organizers through how to use the Empower App to apply the soft skills we use in conversations with friends and family and adapt them to the digital space. It happens every Wednesday at 1:00pm. [Register here](#).

Most people take action because they can, because they care and because they are asked. It's time to ask.



## The People's Maps Commission News!

July 10, 2020

Yesterday Governor Evers announced the timeline, criteria, application and selection process for the nine-member People's Maps Commission:



“The Commission will host public hearings in each congressional district to receive input from the people of Wisconsin, experts, and stakeholders on the redistricting process. Following the release of data from the 2020 U.S. Census, the Commission will use the information gathered during the public hearing process to prepare maps for the Legislature's consideration.”

Input from the people all around the state of Wisconsin is a crucial factor in creating maps that reflect our state, its rich diversity and its varied needs. As important as serving on the People's Maps Commission is each of our perspectives about what should be considered when drawing new district lines. In the coming months, we will host trainings in how to testify effectively during the PMC hearings to ensure that your voice is heard.

Applications will be received until July 31, 2020, and will be evaluated by a panel of retired judges: Janine Geske, Joseph Troy and Paul Higginbotham. Monthly hearings are set to begin in September 2020 and will run through April 2021. For more information about the People's Maps Commission or to apply to become a member of the commission, visit the commission's website: <https://govstatus.egov.com/peoplesmaps>.

### [Gov. Evers Announces People's Maps Commission Application and Selection Processes](#)

## The People's Maps Commission Application Information

Eligibility criteria to join The People's Maps Commission includes that a person:

- Be 18 years of age or older;
- A Wisconsin resident;
- May not be:
  - Registered as a lobbyist in the last 5 years;
  - A declared candidate for a local, state, or federal elected office;
  - A state public official as defined by Wis. Stat. § 19.42(14);
  - A local public official as defined by Wis. Stat. § 19.42(7x);
  - An officer or member of the governing body of a local, state, or national political party.

Applications must be notarized and received by July 31, 2020. Information about how to get a document notarized and how to use a remote notary is [available here](#). Applicants may email their application to [PeoplesMaps@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PeoplesMaps@wisconsin.gov) or mail it to Office of Governor Evers, ATTN: People's Maps Commission Application, PO Box 7863, Madison WI 53707.



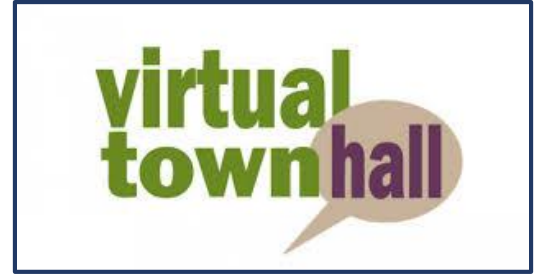
*Fair Maps partners stand with Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes as he speaks about the formation of the Commission at a press conference in Wauwatosa in January.*

## Fair Maps *VIRTUAL* Town Hall Tips & Suggestions

(Adapted from the [Wisconsin Democracy Campaign's Toolkit](#) for these 'virtual' times.)

Most Wisconsin citizens support fairness in our government and democratic institutions.

Gerrymandering is destroying fairness in our election process, by creating an UNFAIR ADVANTAGE for one political party over the others.



**PURPOSE:** While creating an open and non-partisan process to draw

Wisconsin's new voting districts is the goal of the Fair Maps initiative, organizers need to determine the purpose or purposes of the town hall. Three reasons to consider hosting a Fair Maps Virtual Town Hall at this time are:

- ⇒ Educating the community,
- ⇒ Encouraging support for an advisory referendum on the ballot in your county or municipality, and
- ⇒ Asking attendees to contact those running for the Wisconsin State.

**DATE:** Offer a few dates as you are working to secure a speaker(s); then lock it in.

**TIME:** Consider your audience -- in most communities, weekday evenings work best. However, because many people are working from home and the event can also be recorded and posted on websites and social media, timing is more dependent on the availability of your guests.

**MEDIA PLATFORM:** Selecting a viewing platform that a large number of people are able to access is important. YouTube, Facebook Live and Zoom are a few of the options available through the Fair Maps Coalition.

### **SPEAKER OR SPEAKERS**

- Consider inviting a Fair Maps speaker along with a speaker to address another timely issue. This may increase your draw. Some examples are healthcare, infrastructure, environment, public education, water quality, farming issues, money in politics, etc.
- Be sure to request speaker bios to promote the Town Hall (media invitations) and to be prepared for their introduction at the event.
- Plan for a practice time so everyone knows the format of the 'virtual' Town Hall. Make sure the speaker(s) have high speed internet that will allow them to participate with both visual and audio without a lot of delay.
- This blog post from Powerful Panels provides really solid suggestions for planning and hosting a virtual event: <https://powerfulpanels.com/how-to-moderate-a-virtual-panel-discussion/>

### **INVITE ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Send an email invitation to:

- all County Board Supervisors
- all Mayor and Village Presidents
- all City Alders, Town and Village Trustees
- your State Senator
- all State Assembly representatives for your county

At the 'virtual' Town Hall, be sure to share a list of all Elected Officials that have been invited and recognize those whom you know are in attendance. Thank them for attending. If an elected official responds that they were unable to attend, announce that as well.

## INVITE THE MEDIA

(10 tips from Shareable.net: <https://www.shareable.net/10-steps-to-get-media-for-your-sharing-event/>)

**By following these 10 steps, you can join the buzz and capture media attention for your sharing project or event.**

1. Create a press list.
2. Frame your message.
3. Write a press release.
4. Create a media advisory.
5. Contact reporters directly.
6. Create a publicity plan.
7. Prepare your spokespeople.
8. Designate a media liaison.
9. Make your own media.
10. Keep the story alive.

## CO-SPONSERS

- Invite other grassroots organizations to co-sponsor and promote your ‘virtual’ Town Hall with email blasts and on social media.
- Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, Fair Elections Project, Common Cause the League of Women Voters and Wisconsin Voices are always willing to co-sponsor and provide speakers, as well as suggest local co-sponsors.
- Here are two sources with lists of local action networks interested in political reforms: [Wisconsin Grassroots Network](#) and [Indivisible local groups](#)

## YARD SIGNS & POSTCARDS

Contact [Wisconsin Fair Elections Project](#) to get information on obtaining Fair Maps lawn signs. Yard signs are ordered in bundles only (minimum 25 for \$100); postcards are free. They are available for pickup in Milwaukee, and in other designated locations, volunteers can work with you to get them to you.

## DAY OF THE EVENT

- Assign a few members of your group to greet and direct attendees to the room
- Sign-in table should ask for Name, Address, Phone & Email
- Ask if they will take the [Fair Maps Voter pledge](#) and [sign the petition to End Gerrymandering](#).
- Assign a member of your group to open the Town Hall and introduce your speakers.
- After the speakers have completed their presentation have a member of your group present the “ASK.” (There is an example of an “ASK” in the [Toolkit](#).)
- You will want to include instructions on how attendees can reach their County Board Supervisor, City Council Members or Village Trustees depending on your goal.



## Be Part of the Grassroots Volunteer Coordinating Committee

The task of coordinating volunteer fair maps teams, writing newsletters, conducting trainings, maintaining email lists, developing support materials, giving presentations, etc. etc. etc. has become too much for 1.375 people to keep up with. **WE NEED HELP!**

Therefore, we are creating a Grassroots Volunteer Coordinating Committee. Initially, we anticipate that the committee will meet weekly until we've established a workflow.

These are the areas where help would be most welcome:

§ Volunteer Engagement - help reach out to new volunteer signups to connect with local teams;

§ Data Entry/Management - help keep Fair Maps Coalition volunteer and supporter lists current (VAN & MailChimp);

§ Outreach/Education - help with newsletter; information distribution, presentation set-up;

§ Relational Organizing - help manage calls to action through Empower App and follow-ups with team leaders; and

§ Grant writing/fundraising - help write grants for funding fair maps team and coalition work

If any of these sound like an area you'd be willing to help with, please [use this form](#) to indicate your interest.

## Building Unity Tour Travels Wisconsin



The schedule for the **Building Unity Tour** is:

- ~~Greater Milwaukee area (5/23-6/20) DONE~~
- North East / Fox Valley area (6/21-7/15)

- Central Wisconsin area (7/16-7/25)
- Far North Eau Claire area (7/26-8/6)
- LaCrosse area (8/7-8/20)
- Richland Center area (8/21-9/3)
- Platteville area (9/4-9/17)
- New Glarus Monroe area (9/18-10/2)
- Deforest Beaver Dam area (10/3-10/16)
- Lake Mills Whitewater area (10/17-11/1)

Check the [schedule](#) for Building Unity Tour stop details, additional stops, and changes. If you would like to help pick a date and time for a virtual gathering in your area, [contact tour organizers](#).

## Other News and Resources

### Recent Letters to the Editor Endorsing Fair Maps:

[Wisconsin deserves fair maps](#)

[Columbia County Board committee vote stifles voices of voters](#)

[County Board Silences Residents' Voices](#)

### [How Partisan Gerrymandering Limits Voting Rights](#)

From Center for American Progress: "In recent years, gerrymandered legislatures have pioneered other tools to stay in power, including making it harder for voters who oppose them to cast a ballot. It is a power grab on top of a power grab.... This issue brief examines the only four states where, after the 2018 elections, the party that won a majority of state legislative seats received only a minority of the total statewide vote: North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Because of gerrymandering, these four states dramatically failed a basic test of democracy—votes did not translate into political power"

[Representable.org](#) -- a free, public web-based digital data collection tool for communities of interest.