

**FAIR MAPS COALITION
NEWSLETTER**

**AUGUST 2020
VOL. 1
NO. 11**



**FAIR MAPS
COALITION**

END GERRYMANDERING

#FAIRMAPSWI



FAIR MAPS WISCONSIN NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020: VOL. 1, #11

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Fair Maps Teams Meet via ZOOM

Fair Maps Team Meetings in August 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** - Aug. 18th, 5:30pm
- **2nd CD Steering Committee** - Aug. 24th, 9:00am
- **3rd CD Fair Maps Team** - Aug. 20th, 6:30pm
- **Jefferson Co Fair Maps Team** - Aug. 12th, 6:30pm
- **Midstate Fair Maps Team** - Aug. 20th, 4:00pm
- **Ozaukee/Washington County Fair Maps Team** - Aug. 12th, 3:00pm
- **Waukesha County Fair Maps Team** - Aug. 11th, 1:00pm
- **7th CD East/Central Fair Maps Team** - Aug. 18th, 7:00pm
- **7th CD West Fair Maps Team** - Aug. 13th, 4:00pm
- **Western WI for Nonpartisan Voting Districts** - Aug. 11th, 9:00am
- **8th CD Fair Maps Team** - Aug. 25th, 6:00pm

Meet Leslie DeMuth



Leslie DeMuth is a retired teacher who became activated during Scott Walker's administration and continues working for democracy and equality. DeMuth, age 65, lives with her husband, Steve Bower, in a sustainable house they built on the edge of restored prairies in Lake Mills. DeMuth also holds an MFA from the UW. Her paintings of Wisconsin and New England landscapes are held in many private collections. Here, in her own words, is how she got involved in the movement to ban gerrymandering.

The gerrymandering of 2011 divided us into bizarre voting districts. Jefferson County now elects seven members to the state legislature, none of whom live in the county! Our elected officials feel no obligation to listen to us, just as intended.

At the same time, most of the issues I care about — equitable schools, environmental protections, gun violence prevention, labor rights, affordable health care, transparent government, and, of course, voting rights — quickly went in the wrong direction. This was due to the Walker Administration and the gerrymandered GOP Assembly and Senate — the trifecta of the decade.

Continue reading on next page

Continue reading 'Meet Leslie DeMuth'

I stood out at the Capitol with more than 100,000 other working people to protest against Walker's shameful union busting and budget cuts.

We went beyond demonstrating. Here in Lake Mills, we organized monthly gatherings at a local bakery to stay connected and empowered. We called our group PIE: Progressives Informed & educated. And several of us brought homemade pies to those gatherings.

The 2016 presidential election proved to be an even larger organizing opportunity. In January 2017, after Trump won, a group of us formed Indivisible Jefferson County to amplify our concerns and hold our officials accountable. We hosted speakers, supported each other, and made sure that someone from our group would always show up to testify at the Capitol, Town Halls, and elsewhere.

I was honored to be a plaintiff in *Gill v. Whitford*, the landmark Wisconsin gerrymandering case, where a federal court ruled that our First Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment rights were violated by the grotesque partisan gerrymandering of 2011. Our case made it up to the U.S. Supreme Court, which punted on a technicality and then dashed our hopes last year by ruling, in the Maryland and North Carolina cases, that even though partisan gerrymander is "incompatible with democratic principles," such cases are beyond the reach of the judiciary.

We've had some important victories, though. At an April 2019 Fair Maps Town Hall organized by Indivisible Jefferson Co., we secured the commitment of County Board Supervisor Brandon White to call for a nonbinding referendum for nonpartisan redistricting, so it's going to be on the Nov. 3rd ballot. Our Jefferson Fair Maps Coalition is working hard to pass it. We've conducted exit surveys at the polls in February, we've written letters to the editor, and we've made presentations to community groups. A forum is planned for September with the American Association of University Women.

I'm inspired and energized by the passionate people of courage — leaders, organizers, and volunteers — whom I have met in my fair maps work. Because of you, I am filled with hope for the future, as we build the communities of strength and justice that we desire.

**PEOPLE SHOULD CHOOSE
THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, NOT
THE OTHER WAY AROUND.**

Training for Testifying at People's Map Commission hearings

The PMC will hold at least one hearing for each of Wisconsin's 8 Congressional Districts. Hearings will be virtual and are tentatively scheduled for:

- Week of September 21, 2020
- Week of October 26, 2020
- Week of November 16, 2020
- Week of December 7, 2020
- Week of January 18, 2021
- Week of February 15, 2021
- Week of March 15, 2021
- Week of April 19, 2021

We believe the people who know and care the most about their communities should be the people whose voices are heard the loudest and taken the most seriously, by decision makers. To that end, we will be hosting trainings for those who wish to testify, to help you hone your message regarding the issues that affect your region, and how electoral maps impact those issues.

[Use this form to register.](#) Training dates to be determined.

WISCONSIN DESERVES FAIR MAPS

TAKE THE STATE CANDIDATE & LEGISLATOR PLEDGE

bit.ly/CandidatePledge



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Wisconsin Candidate and Legislator Fair Maps Pledge

Voters deserve to know where candidates and legislators stand on nonpartisan redistricting legislation. To that end, the [Wisconsin Candidate and Legislator Fair Maps Pledge](#) is now available for candidates and legislators to sign on our [website](#).

Those who sign will receive the 'Pledged Nonpartisan Redistricting Supporter' emblem which they can display on their social media platforms. It is important to know that the distinction IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT of any candidate or legislator. **Nonpartisan redistricting is NONPARTISAN.** The pledge reads:

As a candidate for the Wisconsin State Assembly/Senate, I support an independent process to draw legislative district maps. I pledge to support fair maps legislation, along the Iowa Model, to ban partisan gerrymandering in Wisconsin, and I will refuse to vote for any gerrymandering scheme.

If elected, I will fight to pass a bill by June 30, 2021 so we can be sure the next redistricting process results in Fair Maps for the next decade.



Candidates who have taken the Fair Maps Pledge as of 8.12.20

State Assembly

- 4th District State Rep., Kathy Hinkfuss (D)
- 8th District State Rep., JoAnna Bautch (D)
- 17th District State Rep., Chris Walton (D)
- 28th District State Rep., Kim Butler (D)
- 34th District State Rep., Kirk Bangstad (D)
- 35th District State Rep., Tyler E. Ruprecht (D)
- 37th District State Rep., Abigail Lowery (D)
- 44th District State Rep., Sue Conley (D)
- 48th District State Rep., Jorge Ramirez-Centeno (I)
- 51st District State Rep., Kris Marion (D)
- 52nd District State Rep., Julie Schroeder (D)
- 62nd District State Rep., August Schutz (D)
- 67th District State Rep., Chris Kapsner (D)
- 68th District State Rep., Emily Berge (D)
- 69th District State Rep., Brian Giles (D)
- 70th District State Rep., John Iver Baldu (D)
- 71st District State Rep., Katrina Shankland (D)
- 88th District State Rep., Kristin Lyerly (D)
- 89th District State Rep., Karl Jaeger (D)
- 91st District State Rep., Jodi Emerson (D)

State Senate

- 14th District State Senate, Joni Anderson (D)
- 26th District State Senate, Nada Elmikashfi (D)
- 26th District State Senate, Kelda Roys (D)
- 28th District State Senate, Adam Murphy (D)

To view the most current results [click here.](#)

Fair Maps Coalition Branding Update

We got a new look!

In the past month, the Fair Maps Coalition logo and website have been updated! This update will help in statewide recognition to the work our coalition is doing every single day. Many thanks to Alyssa at Wisconsin Voices for making our coalition logo & future swag look phenomenal.

We also hope this website update will help to better serve Fair Maps Teams as a tool to lean on when introducing new folks to nonpartisan redistricting and the fight to end gerrymandering.

In the coming weeks you will also see changes to printed materials, postcards, and you guessed it — merchandise! Including new yard signs, bumper stickers, and t-shirts! Information on how to retrieve and/or purchase these items will be coming soon. Stay tuned!

In the meantime, check out our new website [here](#), and please continue to share! If you have any feedback regarding the website, both in content and design, please send to [Holly](#).

**WISCONSIN DESERVES FAIR MAPS.
END GERRYMANDERING NOW!**

Activists Dissed by County Board Supervisors

We've been getting a lot of feedback from citizen activists in the Fair Maps Movement that they are being disrespected at county board meetings when their referendum motions are voted down.

For instance, at the July 15 meeting of the Columbia County Board, one supervisor, Adam Field, rolled his eyes, sniggered, and made other disrespectful expressions when activist Debra Byars was testifying in favor of the referendum getting on the ballot. The rules, which were handed out to all those testifying, stressed that everyone must be respectful. Evidently, the rules didn't apply to him. Supervisor Field also falsely asserted that the courts had rejected the claim that Wisconsin had been politically gerrymandered in 2011. Of course, that's nonsense. A panel of federal judges in Madison ruled that the 2011 gerrymander was one of the worst in modern American history. And the U.S. Supreme Court didn't rule on the merits of the Wisconsin gerrymander. At the meeting, constituents were not allowed to respond to this misrepresentation or other comments by board members.

At the August 4 meeting of the Lafayette County Executive, Rules, and Legislative Committee, Board Chair Jack Sauer went on a total rant and tangent, interrupting activist Coni LaBarbera 10 times by asking about where is the "white privilege" that he's been hearing about, though no one had brought it up at the meeting until he did. And he did so in a racist way, saying, "I've been milking cows since I was 5 years old, and the same goes for Andy Schilling who's doing the same thing. So I'd like to know where the white privilege is at while all these other people are sitting out rioting and throwing rocks and busting into."

Sauer and the four others on the committee who opposed the referendum lavished positive attention on only one member of the public who testified, and that was Dave Certa, chairman of the Lafayette County Republican Party, who stated bluntly, "I am against fair maps." (There you have it!)

Even though 264 citizens of the county had signed a petition urging the committee to move the referendum question to the full board, no one on the committee voted in favor except Kriss Marion, who chairs it. One member, Scott Pedley, left before the vote was even taken.

Activists at both the Lafayette and Columbia County meetings believe that the opposition to the referendum was well orchestrated by hostile board members, which raises the question of whether these board members had been violating the open meetings law by huddling in private.

And at the July 28 Racine County Board meeting, where the supervisors shot down the referendum 11-8, they didn't even bother to read the 16 emails that constituents had submitted. Instead, they just noted whether they were for or against the motion to have the referendum. Some supervisors also took up the line from Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce that there shouldn't even be non-binding referendums. And Supervisor Tom Roanhouse, now chairman of the Racine County Board, said at last December's meeting that such referendums, "undermine democracy." Incredible!

County Board members need to be held accountable for their rudeness — and for disregarding the wishes of their constituents. This is not how democracy is supposed to work!

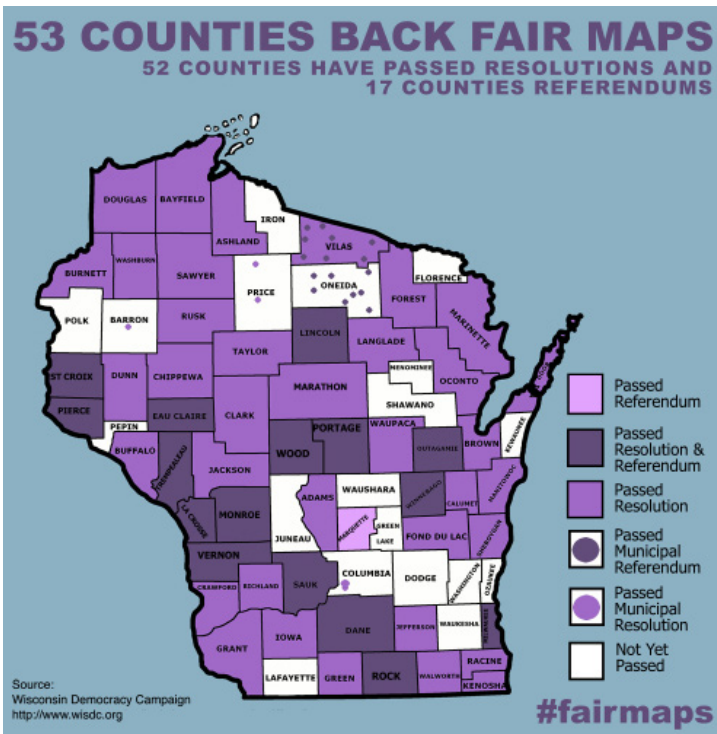
If you feel you've been disrespected by the elected officials you interact with on this issue of banning gerrymandering, please write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper and contact us at the Fair Maps Coalition.

We will not be disrespected. We will not be bullied. We will prevail.

no respect

for

disrespect



Updated Counties Map

The map of counties endorsing Fair Maps has been updated (7/27/20) to include a resolution passed by City of Barron in Barron County, and is posted to the [End Gerrymandering Toolkit](#) on the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign's website.

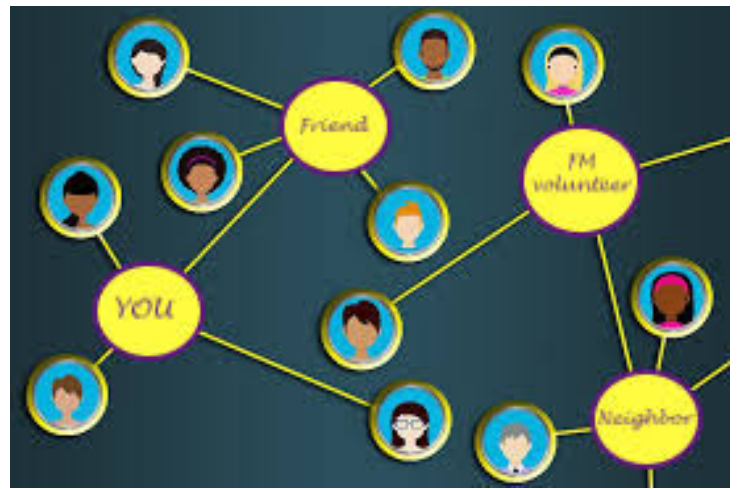


Building Unity Tour Travels Wisconsin

Upcoming dates:

- 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](#).



August Relational Organizing Training

Mark your calendar for the 3rd Wednesday of each month for the Introduction to Relational Organizing Training with Cass Bowers from Organizing Empowerment Project and Carlene Bechen. This training explains and demonstrates how relational organizing works and introduces participants to the Empower App.

- To register for Introduction to Relational Organizing, [click here](#).
- Please download the app before the training [here](#).

The next training is Wednesday, Aug. 19th at 4:00pm.

Relational Organizing has shown to increase voter turnout by 13.2%, much higher than phoning or canvassing. This training will focus on how to have conversations with family, friends and neighbors with whom you have a relationship, but with whom you don't normally talk about politics.

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



Make your plan to vote in the November election! Register to vote, request your absentee ballot, and more at myvote.wi.gov.