



# FAIR MAPS WISCONSIN NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020: VOL. 1, #12

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## Contents

- Fair Maps Teams Meet via Zoom.....2
- Dismantle Structural Racism .....2
- Rodney in Gerrymander-land (cartoon).....3
- New Social Media .....3
- Fair Maps Beer Week .....3
- Press Release: 11 County Referenda in Nov ....4
- Candidate Pledge and Signer List.....5
- The Cost of Gerrymandering .....7
- Merch Store .....8
- Latest Fair Maps map/animation .....8

## Meet Mike and Judy Brodd



Very upset after the 2017 inauguration, Mike and I called friends and neighbors to our home to discuss what we could do -15 folks invited and over 40 showed up! We began Indivisible Door County - now with close to 400 members in our group and one of 6,000 Indivisible groups in the country.

As a group we set our principles and our goals: to resist the Trump agenda and make our elected representatives at the state and national levels accountable for their votes and decisions. After two years of calling, emailing, and trying to meet with them and with no response from Gov. Walker, Rep. Gallagher or Sen Johnson, we added the goal of electing new representatives replacing those with ones who will be accountable to their constituents.

2018 was revealing with the re-election of Tammy Baldwin, election of Tony Evers for Governor and Democrats winning all of the other statewide candidates. That year Door County turned blue!! However, the election loss for Caleb Frostman, to represent the county as State Senator was a wakeup call. We realized that because of gerrymandering, a Democrat could never win a State Assembly or Senate seat.

We formed a Fair Maps Task Force with members of our Indivisible group - 8 faithful members who meet every month. That Task Force got the Door County Board of Supervisors to agree to put a Fair Maps referendum on the November 3 ballot. We have the full Indivisible Door County members behind this effort! Last week we reached out for volunteers to hand write postcards to voters to VOTE YES on the Fair Map county referendum. Over 4000 postcards were distributed to 76 volunteers in just four days and with donations for postage from many members we will be mailing them out the end of September after ballots are mailed on Sept. 17.

Additionally, as a group we are writing letters to the editor every week about Fair Maps and about some of our candidates, calling our elected representatives to hold their feet to the fire, and doing some meet candidates' Zoom calls, and fundraising for candidates who support nonpartisan redistricting.

With hope for a successful fall election and a new future for our country,

Mike and Judy Brodd

## Vote By Mail/USPS

We are less than two months away from the Nov. 3 election, and so much is at stake. Not only for the presidency, but in 11 Wisconsin counties there will be a Fair Maps referendum on the ballot—Adams, Bayfield, Brown, Crawford, Door, Dunn, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Rusk, and Waushara, as well as the cities of Barron and Racine.

To ensure you're voting in the safest way possible with COVID, [check your registration and ballot status today \(myvote.wi.gov\)](https://myvote.wi.gov).

Wisconsin will begin to mail absentee ballots as early as September 17!

You can find the full list of registration and absentee ballot request deadlines [here](#).



## 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**—Wed., September 16, at 5:30pm

**2nd CD Steering Committee**—Fri., September 4, at 2:30pm

**Iowa County Fair Maps Team**—Weekly on Thurs. at 9:00am

**Lafayette County Fair Maps Team**—Tues., September 8, at 6:00pm

**3rd CD Fair Maps Team**—Thurs., September 10, at 6:30pm

**Jefferson County Fair Maps Team**—Wed., September 9, at 6:30pm

**Midstate Fair Maps Team**—Thurs., September 17, at 4:00pm

**Columbia County/Lodi Fair Maps Team**—Tues., September 8, at 4:00pm

**Ozaukee/Washington County Fair Maps Team**—Wed., September 9, at 3:00pm

**Waukesha County Fair Maps Team**—Tues., September 8, at 1:00pm

**7th CD East/Central Fair Maps Team**—Tues., September 15, at 7:00pm

**7th CD West Fair Maps Team**—Thurs., September 10, at 4:00pm

**Western WI for Nonpartisan Voting Districts**—Tues., September 8, at 9:00am

**8th CD Fair Maps Team** – Tues., September 15, at 6:00pm

## Dismantle Structural Racism

Gerrymandering affects all of us, and it especially affects our Black and Brown neighbors. It is crucial now more than ever to put an end to gerrymandering once and for all in Wisconsin if we are to ever move forward in dismantling structural racism, and move towards a future of true equality for Black and Brown folks.

“Unfair maps are a major form of structural racism hiding in plain sight. In recent redistricting plans, Republicans have “packed” and “cracked” Black communities to secure their advantage. By rigging the system to reduce Democratic representation and keep incumbents in office, gerrymandered maps dilute the voting power of people of color and their neighbors. Those voters have little recourse when lawmakers pass or refuse to overturn state-level policies that hurt people of color.

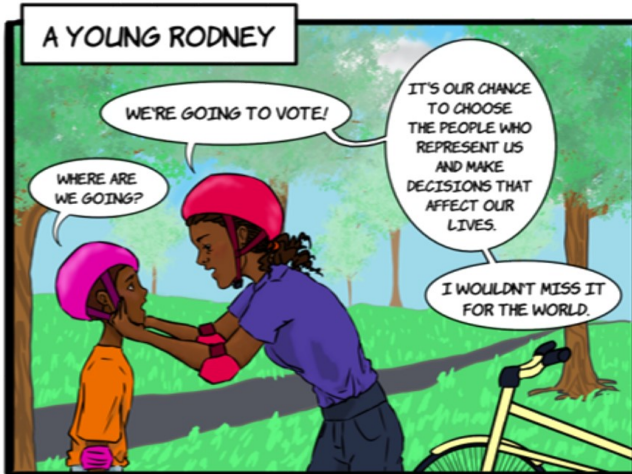
The U.S. Supreme Court has prohibited explicit racial gerrymanders but has declined to ban gerrymanders that effectively achieve the same outcome. For decades, loud racist campaign rhetoric and behind-the-scenes gerrymandering plans have worked hand-in-glove: stump speeches about “law and order” or “immigrants stealing jobs” get a candidate elected; gerrymandering

incentivizes appealing to the most polarized voters and all but guarantees an incumbent will stay in office; the incumbent’s presence in the legislature allows the state to enact increasingly extreme legislation on issues ranging from guns to healthcare to climate change to prisons to policing – and, of course, voting.

There’s no confusing the motive behind this cycle of rhetoric, gerrymandering, disenfranchisement and policy. Some of today’s most entrenched gerrymanders were originally spearheaded by Lee Atwater, a Republican operative who infamously described the trajectory of Republican messaging on race by saying that by 1968 they couldn’t use the N-word anymore because it “backfired”, so instead “you say stuff like forced busing, states’ rights and all that stuff’.” Read more in *The Guardian*: [Want to dismantle structural racism in the US? Help fight gerrymandering.](#)

# RODNEY IN GERRYMANDER-LAND

E NAHKALA + MAUREEN ASH



© Western Wisconsin for Nonpartisan Voting Districts. Visit [piercecountygro.org](http://piercecountygro.org) to learn more about us, and contact [hello@piercecountygro.org](mailto:hello@piercecountygro.org) to get involved in ending gerrymandering in our state!

## New Social Media

We're on social media! 'Like' us on Facebook / @WIFairMapsCoalition, and 'follow' us on Twitter & Instagram! @WIFairMapsCo



## Fair Maps Beer Week: September 19 & 20 Kickoffs

Delta Beer Labs in Madison, Captain Pabst Pilot House in Milwaukee, McFleshman's Brewing Company in Appleton, Zy-murgy and Brewing Nonic in Menominee and others are partnering with the Fair Maps Coalition for Fair Maps Beer Week. There will be outdoor kickoff events on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. If you love a good brew and care about this issue, come out and raise a (socially distanced) glass in support of nonpartisan redistricting.

It's time for FAIR MAPS in Wisconsin!







For Immediate Release  
Sept. 8, 2020

Contact: Matt Rothschild, (608) 695-7368  
Carlene Bechen, (608) 513-7655

## **11 Wisconsin Counties Have a Redistricting Referendum on Nov. 3 Ballot**

MADISON—On Nov. 3, Wisconsin voters in 11 counties, as well as the city of Racine, will have the opportunity to voice their opinion in an advisory referendum on whether the Legislature should ban gerrymandering and adopt a process of independent, nonpartisan redistricting.

The counties that are holding these referendums are: Adams, Bayfield, Brown, Crawford, Door, Dunn, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Rusk, and Waushara. To date, 17 counties and more than a dozen municipalities have already passed such non-binding referendums, and by overwhelming margins each time.

In addition, 53 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. These counties represent more than 75% of Wisconsin's citizens.

"We urge voters in these 11 counties to vote 'yes' on these referendums," said Matt Rothschild, the executive director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. "We need to let our elected officials know we're fed up with map-rigging by whichever party is in power. We need fair maps for fair elections."

"There is a huge groundswell of support for banning gerrymandering in Wisconsin," says Carlene Bechen, the fair maps organizer for Wisconsin Voices and the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition. "Activists in every corner of the state and of all different political affiliations have been working hard to get this issue on the ballot. They just want a level playing field, and they're sick and tired of having their voting districts chopped up to favor one party or another."

"People across Wisconsin are sick of partisan games instead of real solutions, and they want a Legislature that reflects the will of the people, not just Party bosses," said Sachin Chheda, director of the Fair Elections Project. "Fair district maps mean every voice is heard, not just the extreme right and left."

"These county referendum questions on non-partisan redistricting reform have proven to be highly effective in mobilizing bipartisan support in the Legislature for ending partisan gerrymandering," said Jay Heck, executive director of Common Cause in Wisconsin. "As more counties ask their voters to weigh in on this issue, support in the Legislature will only increase and that is the path to assuring a representative government."

Every 10 years, after the Census is completed, each state must set new district lines to reflect changes in where people live, and each district needs to have roughly the same number of people in it. The Census Bureau is planning on delivering the data from its 2020 Census to the states next year.

###

[Candidate Pledge Signer List](#)

**WISCONSIN DESERVES FAIR MAPS**  
**TAKE THE STATE CANDIDATE &**  
**LEGISLATOR PLEDGE**

**[bit.ly/CandidatePledge](https://bit.ly/CandidatePledge)**



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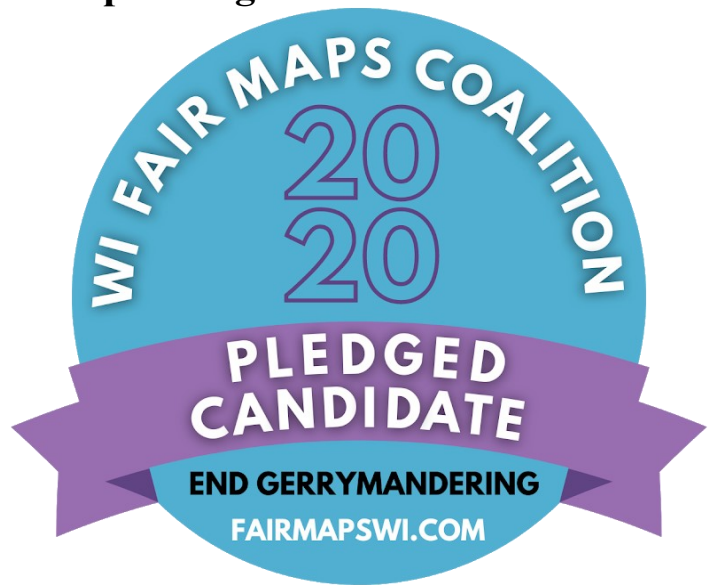
## Wisconsin Candidate and Legislator Fair Maps Pledge

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 9.3.20

#### State Assembly

3RD DISTRICT—EMILY VOIGHT (D)  
4TH DISTRICT—KATHY HINKFUSS (D)  
23RD DISTRICT—DEB ANDRACA (D)  
28TH DISTRICT—KIM BUTLER (D)  
29TH DISTRICT—JOHN CALABRESE (D)  
30TH DISTRICT—SARAH YACOUB (D)  
31ST DISTRICT—ELIZABETH LOCHNER-ABEL (D)  
33RD DISTRICT—MASON BECKER (D)  
34TH DISTRICT—KIRK BANGSTAD (D)  
35TH DISTRICT—TYLER E. RUPRECHT (D)  
37TH DISTRICT—ABIGAIL LOWERY (D)  
38TH DISTRICT—MELISSA WINKER (D)  
41ST DISTRICT—NATE ZIMDARS (D)  
42ND DISTRICT—MELISA ARNDT (D)  
44TH DISTRICT—SUE CONLEY (D)  
45TH DISTRICT—MARK SPREITZER (D)\*  
48TH DISTRICT—JORGE RAMIREZ-CENTENO (I)  
49TH DISTRICT—SHAUN MURPHY-LOPEZ (D)  
51ST DISTRICT—KRISS MARION (D)  
52ND DISTRICT—JULIE SCHROEDER (D)  
57TH DISTRICT—LEE SNODGRASS (D)  
62ND DISTRICT—AUGUST SCHUTZ (D)

67TH DISTRICT—CHRIS KAPSNER (D)  
68TH DISTRICT—EMILY BERGE (D)  
69TH DISTRICT—BRIAN GILES (D)  
70TH DISTRICT—JOHN IVER BALDUS (D)  
71ST DISTRICT—KATRINA SHANKLAND (D)\*  
72ND DISTRICT—CRISTE GREENING (D)  
81ST DISTRICT—DAVE CONSIDINE (D)\*  
82ND DISTRICT—JACOB MALINOWSKI (D)  
88TH DISTRICT—KRISTIN LYERLY (D)  
89TH DISTRICT—KARL JAEGER (D)  
91ST DISTRICT—JODI EMERSON (D)\*  
92ND DISTRICT—AMANDA WHITEEAGLE (D)  
93RD DISTRICT—CHARLENE WARNER (D)  
97TH DISTRICT—AARON PERRY (D)

#### State Senate

14TH DISTRICT—JONI ANDERSON (D)  
26TH DISTRICT—KELDA ROYS (D)  
28TH DISTRICT—ADAM MURPHY (D)

\*INDICATES INCUMBENT

# The Costs of Gerrymandering

~ Maureen Ash, Michael Stearney

When legislative districts are drawn to advantage one party over the other, that's called gerrymandering. The intent of gerrymandering is straightforwardly to help political friends and hurt political enemies. Over the years, gerrymandering has been used by both parties to help win extra seats, protect an incumbent, or target particular incumbents. Most recently, we see evidence of gerrymandering in Wisconsin when we look at the lopsided numbers of voters who chose Democratic candidates in the 2018 election. Fifty-four percent of all votes cast for WI Assembly seats went to Democrats, and Democrats won the popular vote for all statewide races. Even so, because the districts have been carefully drawn to have just this effect, Republicans lost just one seat and held onto a two-thirds majority in Wisconsin's Assembly (63 of the 99 seats).

A three-judge federal court ruled in 2016 that Wisconsin maps were unconstitutional. However, in 2019, the US Supreme Court decided that a federal remedy would not be forthcoming, and that state legislatures should take responsibility for drawing fair maps.

Many of the lawmakers in our Assembly owe their seats to their gerrymandered districts (see above!), so Wisconsin residents have a difficult task ahead as we persuade our representatives to actually honor our wishes. Polls indicate that at least 72% of Wisconsinites want nonpartisan voting districts.

And for good reasons. Gerrymandering exacts costs on Wisconsin. Some of those costs are direct, some are indirect, some can be measured in dollars and cents, and some erode the very foundations of our representative democracy.

In 2011 between 3 and 4 million taxpayer dollars were spent defending our partisan gerrymandered maps in court.

Republican lawmakers removed a provision in the governor's 2020 budget that would have allowed our state to receive up to a billion dollars from the federal government for Medicaid expansion. Our state residents pay federal taxes toward this fund, but do not receive the benefit of it. Our money goes to fund better health care in other states.

Relaxed or unenforced regulations on industrial and agricultural effluent degrade our water and air, thus harming human and animal health. The environmental costs of gerrymandering will eventually become financial costs when this environmental harm must be confronted and mitigated.



Our state's tradition of local control, allowing residents to determine whether a confined-animal feeding operation, for example, is consistent with their values and their ordinances, has been damaged. More than 180 laws removing power from towns, counties, cities, and villages have been passed in recent years.

In order to function as intended, our representative democracy requires spirited public, civil debate, accountability to constituents, and opportunities for voters to engage meaningfully with their elected officials. When the party in power has an unfairly earned, overwhelming and completely secure majority, they are free to ignore these principles. The need for public debate, civility of discourse, and compromise is negated. When politicians are absolved of the need to truly represent their districts because the number of voters in one party so greatly outnumbers the numbers of voters in the other that their reelection is assured, they no longer need to be accountable to anyone but the big donors. They don't need to hold town hall meetings to hear the concerns of citizens in their districts. They don't need to answer calls, letters, emails with more than cursory form letters. And when residents resign themselves to this reality, they don't feel engaged or excited about the democratic process, they don't vote and they don't run for office, thus making it even easier for monied interests to achieve their legislative ends.

Nonpartisan maps are the route to restoring our democracy. Our first step is to vote only for candidates who sign a pledge that they will support nonpartisan redistricting in the 2021 map-drawing process. Next, we must hold them to that pledge.

Our path to a better Wisconsin relies on the long tradition of fairness and justice in our state. We all benefit when power is balanced in the people's hands, not lopsidedly wielded by one party or the other.

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*Maureen and Michael are part of Western Wisconsin for Nonpartisan Voting Districts, a group working to end gerrymandering in northwestern Wisconsin.*



## Merch Store

Exciting swag to show your support for #FairMapsWI coming soon! We are still working out the fine tuned details to get orders up and running. We will have

- NEW yard signs
- T-shirts
- Bumper stickers...and more!

Stay tuned on how to order! Contact [holly@fairelectionsproject.org](mailto:holly@fairelectionsproject.org) with any questions.

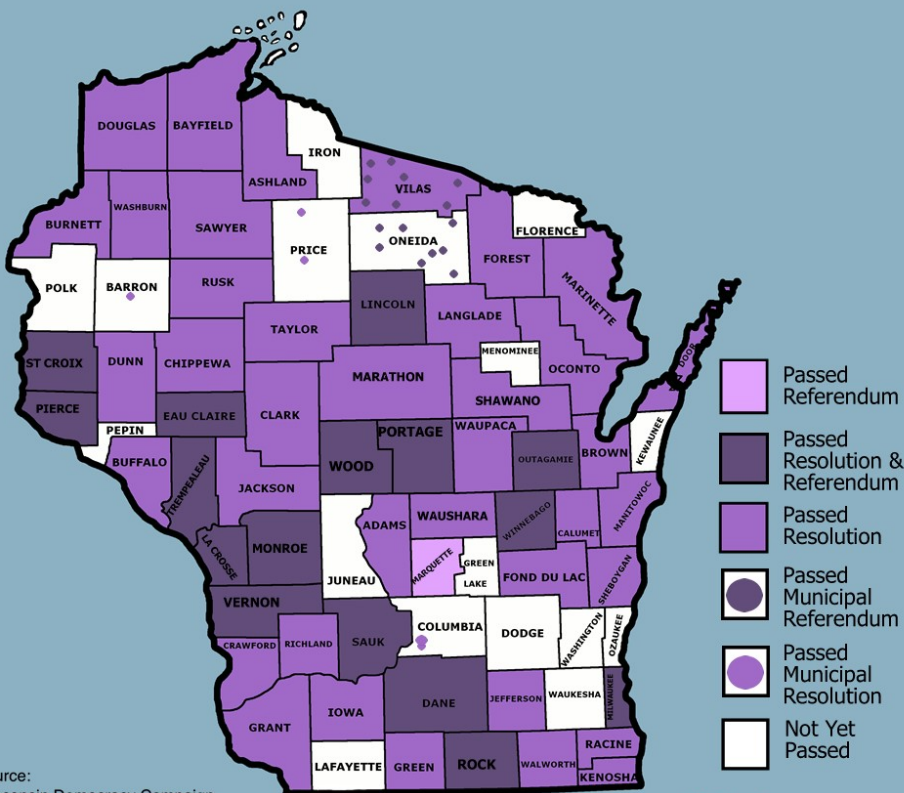


# END GERRYMANDERING

[www.FairMapsWI.com](http://www.FairMapsWI.com)

## 55 COUNTIES BACK FAIR MAPS

54 COUNTIES HAVE PASSED RESOLUTIONS AND  
17 COUNTIES REFERENDUMS



Source:  
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign  
<http://www.wisdc.org>

#fairmaps

This is the latest version of the coalition map of Fair Maps counties and municipalities. Click on map to open linked image.

You can also watch the latest animation of the map (8/26/20 Shawano County resolution) with the progression of counties demonstrating their support for ending gerrymandering and bringing fair voting maps to Wisconsin. Just click [here!](#)

