



FAIR MAPS WISCONSIN NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020: VOL. 1, #13

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Thanks for Raising a Glass for Fair Maps

Thank you to everyone who came out last weekend for kickoff events at Captain Pabst Pilot House in Milwaukee, Delta Beer Labs in Madison, McFleshman's Brewing Company in Appleton, Zymurgy and Brewing Nønic in Menominee and Hop & Barrel in Hudson with the Fair Maps Coalition for Fair Maps Beer Week.



Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday, Sept. 29, 7:00 p.m.:** Matt Rothschild Zoom with the United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay, “Why We Need Independent, Nonpartisan Redistricting in Wisconsin.” [Contact the church](#) for registration information.
- **Wednesday, Sept. 30, 7:00 p.m.:** League of Women Voters of Wisconsin in a statewide forum on "A Bipartisan Case to End Gerrymandering: Every Vote Must Count." The forum will include retired State Senators Tim Cullen (D-Janesville) and Dale Schultz (R-Richland Center). No need to register—on Sept. 30 just use this link to connect: www.bit.ly/FairMapsForum.
- **Saturday, October 3, 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m.:** *Mobilize the Vote! - End Gerrymandering Car Parade in Pierce County.* See last page for more information.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 6, 6:00-7:30 p.m.:** Retired State Senators Tim Cullen (D) & Dale Schultz (R) and John Scott at UW Parkside as part of the [Election Experience Series](#).
- **Monday, Oct. 12,** Carlene Bechen at Watertown Rotary, In-person at a park (time and park TBD)
- **Thurs, Oct. 15, 6:30 p.m.:** Matt Rothschild Zoom with the League of Women Voters of Ripon. “Why We Need to Ban Gerrymandering in Wisconsin.” [Contact the League](#) for registration information.
- **Sun, Oct. 18, 10:00 a.m.:** Matt Rothschild Zoom with the [Free Thinkers of Sauk County](#) on “Why We Need to Ban Gerrymandering in Wisconsin.”
- **Wed, Oct. 21, 7:00 p.m.:** Matt Rothschild Zoom with [Shawano County Dems](#), “How to Talk to Our Fellow Citizens”

To arrange for a speaker, please use this link to the Speakers' Bureau Request Form: <https://forms.gle/>

Meet Patti Hermann

Patti Herman is retired from a career that focused on improving the wellbeing of children and families. She escapes from the news of the day by being outdoors or losing herself in a good book. She lives in Lodi with her husband, Bill, and is part of the Columbia County Fair Maps Team.



My father was a strong advocate for social justice throughout his short life. I credit him for helping me develop many of my beliefs, including my belief in the importance of each person's vote. This issue became even more important to me after the 2016 presidential election. I became a Chief Election Inspector in 2019 so I could support the process of voting in my community. I also worked with a few others to carry out voter registration education in our local high school and organized voter registration activities at our local library. Small steps, but they were things I could do to support people's ability to be heard through their vote.

In fall of 2019, I attended the Fair Maps for Wisconsin Summit. I was inspired by the speakers, especially Katie Fahey and the story of what people were able to accomplish in Michigan through a grassroots effort. Following the summit, a few of us started meeting in Columbia County to identify what actions we could take to promote nonpartisan redistricting. We connected with Carlene Bechen and the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition, which helped us strategize and provided access to resources to strengthen our efforts.

Our group has continued to meet on a regular basis. We tried to get a referendum on nonpartisan redistricting on the November ballot in Columbia County, but the County Board Executive Committee refused to let the County Board consider our resolution. Though disappointed in this outcome, we used their actions to publicize the issue of fair maps through the local media. Our main focus right now is to write letters to the editor to hold candidates who are on the ballot in November accountable for their stand on nonpartisan redistricting.

Sometimes it feels like we're not making any progress toward achieving nonpartisan redistricting. But then I read about the many actions being carried out by people across the state in support of fair maps, and I'm able to see our local efforts as one small piece of a much larger picture. And, since doing nothing in the face of injustice is not an option for me, I'll stay engaged with this amazing group of people and do what I can to move us toward a state where each vote counts.

Candidates must support fair maps

~ Debra Byars, Columbia County, Sep 18, 2020

Has political gerrymandering taken away your voice in our democracy? Studies by prominent political scientists at Harvard and Stanford have shown Wisconsin to be one of the most politically gerrymandered in the USA. When the lines were drawn in 2011, political demographic data were used to draw the lines so that Republican candidates were guaranteed to win a majority in the State Legislature and in Congress.

The lines will be redrawn in 2021. Gerrymandering will happen again—and will continue until 2031—unless the process used to draw the lines is open to public scrutiny and prohibits the use of political de-

mographic data. Gerrymandering is wrong, regardless of the political party in power. It takes away your voice in our democracy.

Candidates for political office in Wisconsin this November should be asked to clearly state whether they support drawing Fair Maps or whether they will stand idly by while the maps are gerrymandered. There is no middle ground. Ask the candidates in your area to sign the [Fair Maps Pledge](#) on the Fair Maps Wisconsin website. Please lend your support and vote only for candidates willing to sign the Fair Maps pledge.

WISCONSIN DESERVES FAIR MAPS
TAKE THE STATE CANDIDATE &
LEGISLATOR PLEDGE

bit.ly/CandidatePledge



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RBG: A Visionary on Banning Gerrymandering

~ Matt Rothschild

We in the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition deeply mourn the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She was a towering figure in the fight for equality and justice in America. And she was also a visionary on the issue of banning gerrymander.



In 2015, Justice Ginsburg wrote the majority opinion in a case called *Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission*. The case revolved around the constitutionality of Proposition 106, the statewide binding referendum that passed in Arizona in 2000 and was aimed at “ending the practice of gerrymandering and improving voter and candidate participation in elections.” It took the redistricting authority away from the legislators and handed it over to the Arizona Independent Redistricting Committee. The Arizona State Legislature argued that this was unconstitutional, claiming that it violated the Election Clause of the Constitution -- which states “the Times, Places, and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof” – forbids independent commissions from carrying out redistricting.

Ginsburg sided with the people of Arizona, underscoring that all power in our democracy derives from the consent of the governed. “The people of Arizona turned to the initiative to curb the practice of gerrymandering and, thereby, to ensure that Members of Congress would have ‘an habitual recollection of their dependence on the people,’ ” she wrote, quoting James Madison in the *Federalist Papers*. She went on: “In so acting, Arizona voters sought to restore ‘the core principle of republican government,’ namely, that the voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around.”

She cut to the heart of the problem, writing: “Partisan gerrymanders are incompatible with democratic principles.” She understood that gerrymandering is a tool to “subordinate adherents of one political party and entrench a rival party in power.”

She said the initiative process was totally in keeping with our founding principles. “The Framers may not have imagined the modern initiative process in which the people of a State exercise legislative power coextensive with the authority of an institutional legislature,” she wrote. “But the invention of the initiative was in full harmony with the Constitution’s conception of the people as the font of governmental power.” And she said it was important to uphold this conception of “lawmaking by the people, particularly where such lawmaking is intended to check legislators’ ability to choose the district lines they run in.”

In a sentence that rings so true for those of us in Wisconsin, she noted: “The legislature’s responsiveness to the people its members represent is hardly heightened when the representative body can be confident that what it does will not be overturned or modified by the voters themselves.”

That’s what’s happened here in Wisconsin because of the grotesque gerrymandering in 2011: Members of the majority in the Legislature are brazenly unresponsive to the people on issue after issue because they are cozy in the knowledge that they’ve rigged their own districts so cleverly that it’ll be all but impossible for the voters themselves to hold them accountable.

Throughout her career, Justice Ginsburg spotlighted the many injustices that rip and tear at our democracy. It is no wonder that she shined a light on gerrymandering.

Rest in power, Justice Ginsburg. May your memory be a blessing.



Merch Store

Exciting swag to show your support for #FairMapsWI is 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 with any questions.



So much is at stake — please vote!

We are nearly at the one month mark before the Nov. 3 Election. The **State Elections Commission** asks that you act early and not wait until the respective deadlines to request your absentee ballot. Processing voter requests and mailing out ballots takes time. If you have an absentee ballot, make sure you fill it out correctly and submit it in time to be counted.

- 1) Line-up a witness. Though your absentee ballot is completed in private, it must be witnessed by an adult U.S. citizen who isn't an election candidate.
- 2) Read the instructions so you complete the ballot accurately. [Contact your municipal clerk's office](#) if you have questions.
- 3) Seal and fill out the voter certification section of your certificate envelope, then sign your name. Make sure your witness signs and adds their current address to the envelope.
- 4) Drop the prepaid completed envelope in the mail or in the nearest official drop box, or return it to your municipal clerk's office, or to your polling place on Election Day.

For more information, download the state's official fact sheet on how to vote by absentee ballot on the Elections Commission's website [here](#), or go to myvote.wi.gov [here](#).

If you didn't get a mail-in absentee ballot, you can vote early. Contact your municipal clerk's office about when and where, in the two weeks prior to the election, you can vote in person. And you can always vote in person on Election Day. You can also register to vote at your polling place on Election Day – just bring proof of residency.

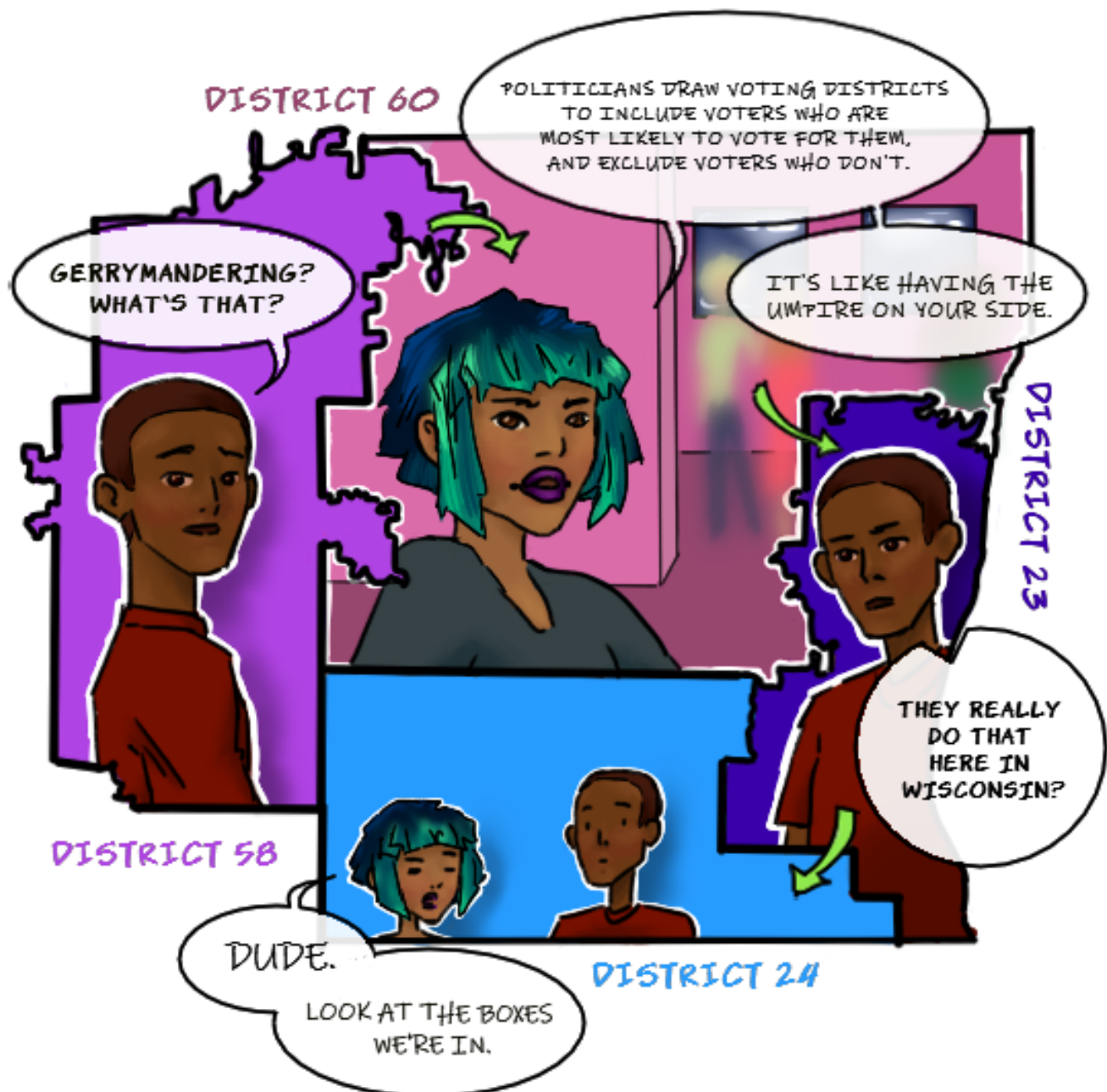


Help spread the word to voters in 11 Wisconsin counties about the importance of support for the Fair Maps referendum on the ballot—Adams, Bayfield, Brown, Crawford, Door, Dunn, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Rusk, and Waushara. Voters in the cities of Barron and Racine will also have a Fair Maps referendum on their November ballot.

To ensure you're voting in the safest way possible with COVID, [check your registration and ballot status today at myvote.wi.gov](#). You can find the full list of voter registration and absentee ballot deadlines [here](#).

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E NAHKALA + MAUREEN ASH



© Western Wisconsin for Nonpartisan Voting Districts. Visit piersecountygro.org to learn more about us, and contact hello@piersecountygro.org to get involved in ending gerrymandering in our state!

Wisconsin Candidate Fair Maps Pledge Update

Voters deserve to know where candidates stand on nonpartisan redistricting legislation. To that end, the Wisconsin Candidate Fair Maps Pledge is now available for candidates 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. Nonpartisan redistricting is NONPARTISAN.

Do you know a state legislative candidate not yet on the list? They can still take the pledge [here!](#)

Candidates who have taken the Fair Maps Pledge as of 9.28.20:

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.

State Assembly

1ST DISTRICT—KIM DELORIT JENSEN (D)
3RD DISTRICT—EMILY VOIGHT (D)
4TH DISTRICT—KATHY HINKFUSS (D)
6TH DISTRICT—RICHARD SARNWICK (D)
23RD DISTRICT—DEB ANDRACA (D)
24TH DISTRICT—EMILY SIEGRIST (D)
26TH DISTRICT—MARY LYNNE DONOHUE (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)
55TH DISTRICT—DANIEL SCHIERL (D)
56TH DISTRICT—DIANA LAWRENCE (D)
57TH DISTRICT—LEE SNODGRASS (D)
62ND DISTRICT—AUGUST SCHUTZ (D)
63RD DISTRICT—JOEL JACOBSEN (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)
75TH DISTRICT—JOHN ELLENSON (D)
81ST DISTRICT—DAVE CONSIDINE (D)*
82ND DISTRICT—JACOB MALINOWSKI (D)
87TH DISTRICT—RICHARD JOHN PULCHER (D)
88TH DISTRICT—KRISTIN LYERLY (D)
89TH DISTRICT—KARL JAEGER (D)
90TH DISTRICT—KRISTINA SHELTON (D)
91ST DISTRICT—JODI EMERSON (D)*
92ND DISTRICT—AMANDA WHITEEAGLE (D)
93RD DISTRICT—CHARLENE WARNER (D)
97TH DISTRICT—AARON PERRY (D)

State Senate

8TH DISTRICT—NEAL PLOTKIN (D)
10TH DISTRICT—PATTY SCHACHTNER (D)
12TH DISTRICT—ED VOCKE (D)
14TH DISTRICT—JONI ANDERSON (D)
18TH DISTRICT—AARON WOJCIECHOWSKI (D)
24TH DISTRICT—PAUL POITROWSKI (D)
26TH DISTRICT—KELDA ROYS (D)
28TH DISTRICT—ADAM MURPHY (D)
30TH DISTRICT—JONATHAN HANSEN (D)

***INDICATES INCUMBENT**

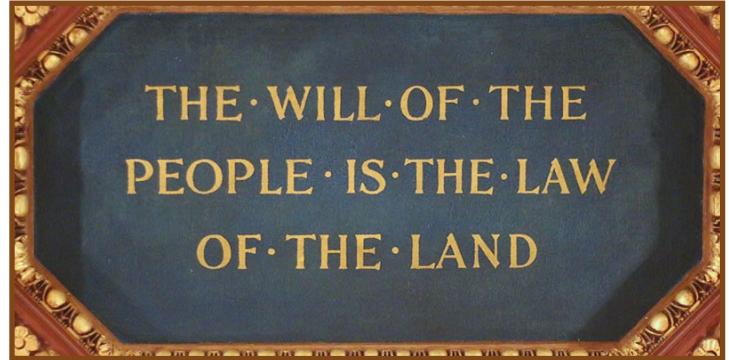
Fair Maps Coalition encourages participation in the People's Maps Commission



The [People's Maps Commission](#) will hold its first public hearing virtually this **Thursday, October 1, beginning at 5:30 p.m.** Each hearing will start with speakers who will provide context for the redistricting process. Redistricting 101 will be the topic for the first hearing.

The 8th Congressional District (CD) will be the focus on Thursday. Participants who would like to give oral testimony must [register using the form linked here](#). Registrants from the 8th CD will be given priority. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. Testimony will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker. The registration window closes on Tuesday, September 29 at 5:00pm. Those selected to testify will receive information from the Commission about the format and how to log in. The entire hearing will be broadcast live on YouTube.

Last week, the Fair Maps Coalition hosted a local panel to talk about the impacts of redistricting in the 8th CD and two testimony trainings. **The panel discussion can be viewed on the Fair Maps Coalition Facebook page and on [YouTube](#).**



When testifying, some things to consider are:

What are the issues you care about? What issues that matter to you are not being addressed in the current polarized state legislature? Fairness is an important issue, but the stories that move people's hearts are more personal. *(One example is lack of debate in the state legislature about ways to prevent gun violence or legislation on this matter, which 80% of Wisconsinites support.)*

When talking about the issue you care about, expand it to the larger community. *(Using that same example, share concerns about shootings and expand to how children and parents are traumatized by the fear of gun violence in their schools.)*

Finally, connect the dots between the lack of responsiveness and accountability on the issue you care about and gerrymandered maps.

It is a good idea to write your testimony and practice it several times. Be sure to include your name and where you live.

The Fair Maps Coalition encourages all Wisconsinites to submit a written statement regarding your thoughts about redistricting to be considered by Commission. [Statements can be submitted using this link.](#)

TRIVIA
Quiz

Gerrymandering Trivia Quiz

Take the Fair Maps Trivia Quiz and test your knowledge of gerrymandering in Wisconsin and around the U.S.

[Gerrymandering Trivia Quiz \(handout\)](#)

[Gerrymandering Trivia Quiz \(key w/ links for reference\)](#)

Join us for our Voter Empowerment Event

Mobilize the Vote *End Gerrymandering* *Car Parade in Pierce County*

Saturday, October 3rd
10 am to 3 pm

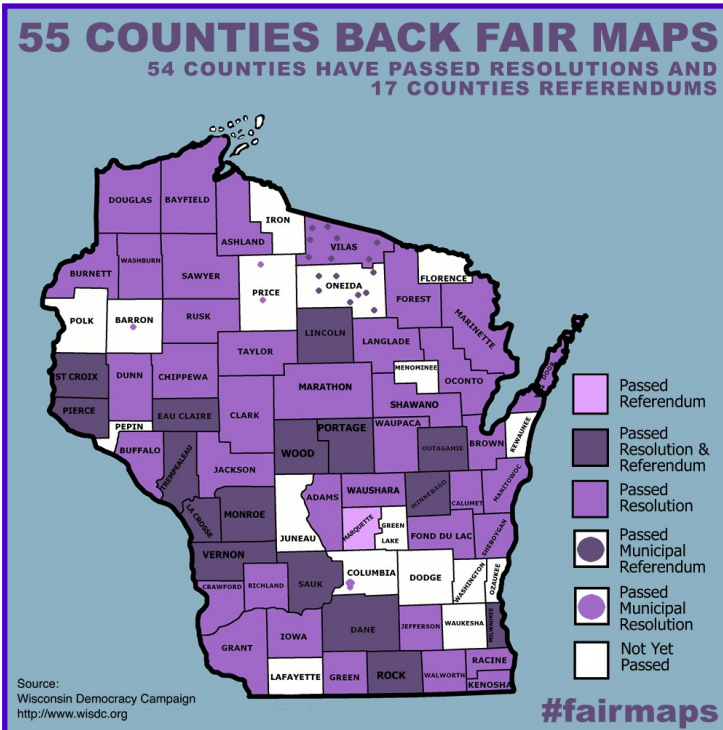
Join for part or all of the event:

Full Itinerary:

- 10 to 10:45 AM **Prescott**, Park and Ride on Pearl Street
- 11:05 to 11:50 AM **Ellsworth**, East End Park
- 12:10 to 12:30 PM **Plum City**, Main Street
- 12:50 to 1:00 PM **Elmwood**, Main Street
- 1:30 to 2:15 PM **Spring Valley**, Handy Andy Park
- 2:45 to 3:30 PM **River Falls**, Veterans Park



We will decorate cars, have music and enjoy local food while talking to folks about voting and ending gerrymandering.



Click on map to open linked image.

