

**FAIR MAPS COALITION
NEWSLETTER**

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NO. 1**



#FAIRMAPSWI



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Fair Maps Coalition Mission Statement

The mission of the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition is to advocate for and enact, in law and practice, an independent and nonpartisan redistricting method in Wisconsin, and to educate and engage the public in the process of adopting and implementing nonpartisan maps.

Fair Maps Coalition Shared Values

- Transparency
- Respect for Communities of Interest
- Inclusivity
- Public participation
- Fairness
- Independence
- Nonpartisanship
- Democracy
- Equal Representation
- Racial equity

Meet Tom Poppe



My interest with Fair Maps began with my involvement in the Tuesday Action and Resistance (TAR) group of Indivisible Madison. This group is made up of local activists in the Madison area. Our close proximity to the Capitol makes it easy for us to go to the offices of Legislators. We have done this on many issues. Our group began attending Fair Maps presentations at town halls in the surrounding communities. These town halls were organized by Kris Lennon and Elena Calhoun of the Fair Maps Election project. Presenters included Senators Tim Cullen, Dale Schultz and Matt Rothschild of the WI Democracy Campaign. Attending these town halls allowed me to hear from constituents on how gerrymandered districts had affected their efforts to work with their legislators. With no real worry about being re-elected, many legislators simply do not meet with people on issues that are important to constituents.

Continue reading on next page

Continue reading 'Meet Tom Poppe'

This realization of the unfairness of elections motivated TAR and its members to approach every legislator in the State Capitol. We provided them information on county boards that had passed resolutions and also information on legislation at the Capitol proposing to use a non-partisan redistricting plan similar to what is used in Iowa. We also followed the Assembly and Senate committees on Elections at the Capitol and were very dismayed to see that the legislation never was brought to the floor for discussion in either house. Even though a majority of Wisconsin voters want maps that reflect their communities, the legislators chose to not allow the public input on this matter. The current Republican leadership in the Assembly and Senate had decided that this bill would be buried and it was never allowed out of either committee. In the past, Democrats had a chance to pass a non-partisan bill on redistricting, but they also buried it in committee.

TAR also tabled at the Dane County Farmers Market where we discussed this matter with Republican, Democrat, and Independent Voters. The discussions we had were extremely valuable and pointed out how the redistricting done in 2011 had really disenfranchised voters. We also provided information and yard signs to people at the market.

It is my hope that this year, after we receive the census data, that there will be a change in the state Senate and Assembly districts and the elections in 2022 will be more competitive and that communities of interest will be kept together. Please go to the Peoples Map Commission website at <https://govstatus.egov.com/peoplesmaps>. On this site, you can listen to the hearings that are currently being held throughout the state.

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

Four More People's Maps Commission Hearings

The People's Maps Commission (PMC) began its work in October of 2020, learning from redistricting experts and gathering input from Wisconsin residents through written comments and oral testimony. Thus far, hearings have focused on the 8th, 5th, 3rd and 4th Congressional Districts (CDs) and prioritized public testimony from those districts. In addition, the PMC and the viewing public have learned from experts about many of the issues that must be considered in the redistricting process, including the census, historical precedent, what happened in Wisconsin in 2011, mathematical algorithms to consider communities of interest and help identify gerrymandered maps, and the Voting Rights Act. Past PMC hearings can be viewed by visiting the [PMC website](#) and clicking on 'Watch the Public Hearing'.

It's not too late to participate. Four more PMC hearings remain in the 7th, 1st, 6th and 2nd CDs. To help prepare for the hearings, the Fair Maps Coalition continues to provide Testimony Training and host a Panel Discussion in the two weeks prior to each PMC hearing.

Schedule

Thursday, January 28, 2021: 7th CD PMC Hearing

- Saturday, Jan. 23rd, 3:00PM: Testimony Training
- Monday, Jan. 25th, 7:00PM: 7th CD Panel Discussion

Thursday, February 11, 2021: 1st CD PMC Hearing

- Monday, Feb. 1st, 7:00PM: 1st CD Panel Discussion
- Saturday, Feb. 6th, 3:00PM: Testimony Training

Thursday, February 25, 2021: 6th CD PMC Hearing

- Monday, Feb. 15th, 7:00PM: 6th CD Panel Discussion
- Saturday, Feb. 20th, 3:00PM: Testimony Training

Thursday, March 11, 2021: 2nd CD PMC Hearing

- Monday, Mar. 1st, 7:00PM: 2nd CD Panel Discussion
- Saturday, Mar. 6th, 3:00PM: Testimony Training



Wisconsin Supreme Court Public Hearing: Redistricting Rule Petition

January 14, 9:30 am

Fair Maps Supporters Show Up

Shout out to Fair Maps Team members who showed up and shared their thoughts with the Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court regarding the WILL/Jensen Rules Change Petition 20-03 that would give the Supreme Court original jurisdiction in redistricting litigation. Read testimony of [Tess Carr](#) and [David Faust](#) from the Columbia County Fair Maps Team, [Lena Eng](#) and Beth Furumo from the Waukesha County Fair Maps Team, [Deborah Patel](#) and [Beth Bauer](#) from Grassroots Northshore Fair Maps Work Group, and [Janet Brandt](#) from the Iowa County Fair Maps Team!



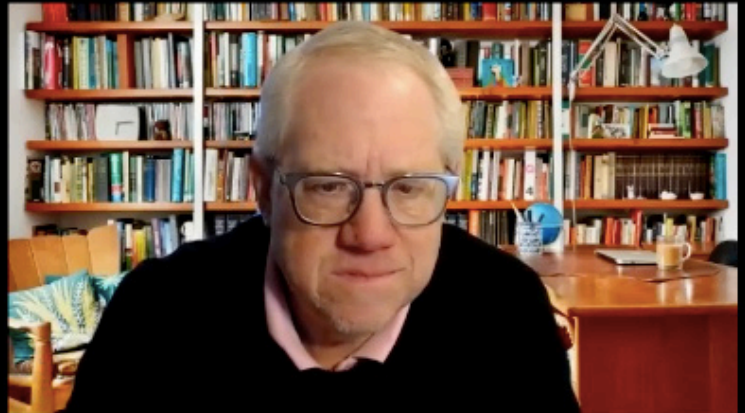
“Wisconsinites of all political persuasions are sick of partisanship driving redistricting.”

— [Carlene Bechen](#), Fair Maps Organizer
RE: Rules Petition 20-03



Law Forward "Instant Analysis" of today's WI Supreme Court Hearing on Redistricting

LAW FORWARD INSTANT ANALYSIS... See More



Redistricting Rule Petition – Public Hearing 1/14/21

Law Forward / Mel Barnes, Staff Attorney

Many of you have been following a proposed rule change at the Wisconsin Supreme Court that would impact lawsuits involving redistricting. You'll remember that in June, former Assembly Speaker Scott Jensen and the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) [asked the Court](#) to adopt new rules—right before this decade's maps will be drawn. The proposed rule would fast-track disputes straight to the Supreme Court, bypassing the normal—and essential—procedures for taking and weighing evidence, and appellate review. After taking written public comments in November (and receiving nearly 2,000 comments) the Court held a public hearing on January 14th to hear from those wishing to speak. If you need a refresher on the contents of the proposal, and how redistricting works in Wisconsin, the AP [published a primer ahead](#) of the hearing.

Law Forward worked with individuals and legal scholars to make sure the Court heard the opposition to this last-minute rule change at the January hearing. You can [watch the full hearing](#) on WisconsinEye or see Law Forward's [post-hearing "Instant Analysis"](#) for a quick recap. [Our live Twitter commentary](#) has a play-by-play, including some great quotes from speakers!

Overall, the justices were engaged, asking questions of several citizens, lawyers and professors testifying. Questions included how the Court should manage redistricting litigation, if commenters preferred federal courts deal with this issue, and what the Court should do instead of adopting the proposal. Several justices, including Chief Justice Roggensack, appeared skeptical about adopting a redistricting-specific rule.

Continue reading 'Redistricting Rule Petition'

The now-Chief Justice also opposed adopting a special procedure for redistricting litigation the last time the Court reviewed a proposal on the topic (around 2008). At Thursday's hearing, she reiterated concerns about the Court getting involved in the fight too early, before the Legislature and Governor have fully attempted to agree on new maps: "This rule makes the court proactive. That's just not how we operate."

What happens next?

There is no set timeline for the Court to decide to adopt or reject the proposed rule change. Our best guess is a decision will be announced in the next 2 months. The Court could decide to adopt the rule as proposed, adopt an amended version, ask for more input, or simply decline to make any changes. Even if the Court does not adopt this rule, it is still possible redistricting litigants will file in the State Supreme Court, or end up there eventually. In the meantime, Wisconsin is waiting for census data to begin drawing new maps.

[Follow @lawfwd on Twitter](#) and subscribe to our newsletter at lawforward.org for updates on legal issues affecting democracy, including redistricting. Thank you to everyone who took the time to testify at the hearing or submit comments in November!



Are You Registered to Vote?

Make your plan to vote in the February Primary and April Election! Register to vote, request your absentee ballot, and more at myvote.wi.gov.

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

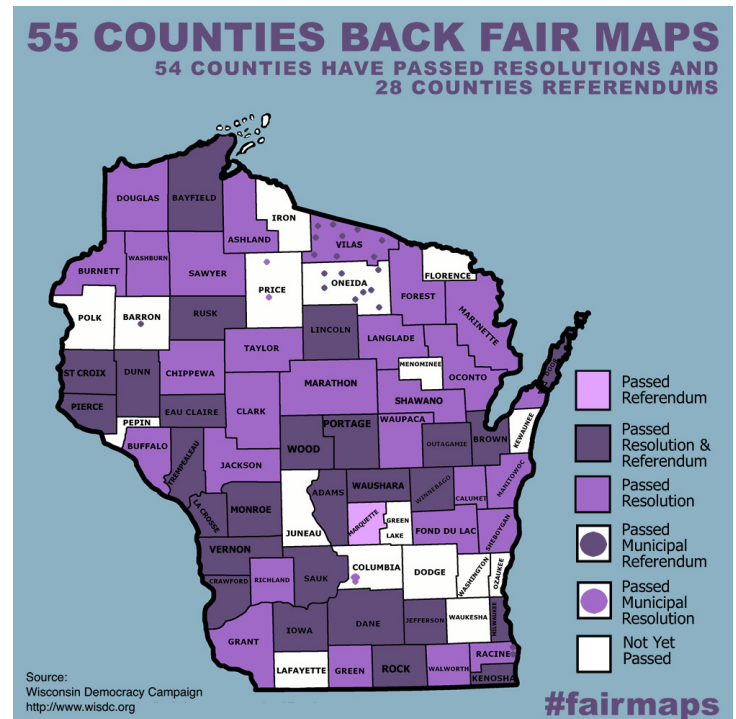
Wisconsin Voters Deserve a Nonpartisan Map-Drawing Process

END GERRYMANDERING EVERY VOTE MUST COUNT

We Demand Fair Maps!

From Bayfield to Kenosha, Wisconsinites know that when politicians draw their own maps, all voters lose. Across the state, there is broad support to end gerrymandering, with over 70 percent of Wisconsin voters across party lines calling for a non-partisan map drawing process.

[Join us by contacting your legislator today and demanding they show their support for Fair Maps!](#)



April Ballot Referendums

- City of Appleton
- Ashland County
- Polk County
- Richland County



BECOME A FAIR MAPS AMPLIFIER!

Be a Volunteer Social Media Amplifier!

What does an Amplifier do? What you're probably doing already! Like, comment, and share content posted by the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition on whatever social media platform you use most. When you share our content, you put information about Fair Maps in front of people we might not otherwise reach online. Even just liking and commenting on posts makes the online algorithms show our content to more people and gets the word out on Fair Maps. It only takes a few clicks, and a few seconds of your time. Email carlene@wisconsinvotes.org today to sign up to become a Fair Maps Social Media Amplifier!

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

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