

RESOLUTION



Resolution No. R11-2017-1266

CREATING A NON-PARTISAN PROCEDURE FOR THE REPARATION OF STATE LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLANS

Executive Summary

Under the Wisconsin Constitution, the State Legislature is directed to reapportion legislative districts following the decennial federal census according to the number of inhabitants. The legislature also reapportions congressional districts at the same interval pursuant to federal law. Because state and federal legislative redistricting is controlled by the majority party at the time of the redistricting, legislative and congressional plans in Wisconsin have been subject to partisan influence that puts the desires of politicians ahead of the electoral prerogative of the people. This practice of redistricting by the majority party stifles political competition, discourages compromise, ensures continued control by the party in power, and lacks the transparency necessary to reinforce citizens' faith in the democratic process. This resolution asks the State Legislature to enact legislation before the start of the next redistricting process following the 2020 federal census to pass legislation that creates a fair, non-partisan procedure for the preparation of state legislative and congressional redistricting plans. The Ashland County Executive Committee met on October 25, 2017, and recommended forwarding this resolution to the full County Board for approval.

WHEREAS, the Executive Summary is hereby incorporated by reference into this resolution; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IV, Section 3 of the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Legislature is directed to reapportion state legislative districts according to the number of inhabitants at its next session following the decennial federal census; and

WHEREAS, because Wisconsin and federal legislative redistricting is controlled by the majority party at the time of the redistricting, legislative and congressional plans in Wisconsin have been subject to partisan influence that puts the desires of politicians ahead of the electoral prerogative of the people; and

WHEREAS, a panel of federal district court judges has ruled that the redistricting that was done in Wisconsin in 2011 was unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, legal costs in defense of the 2011 redistricting have already cost taxpayers in excess of \$2.1 million, with the litigation still ongoing; and

WHEREAS, redistricting to achieve partisan gains is improper by any political party.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ashland County Board of Supervisors requests the State Legislature, before the start of the next redistricting process following the 2020 federal census, to pass legislation that creates a fair, nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of state legislative and congressional redistricting plans, that promotes more accountability and transparency, prohibits the consideration of voting patterns, party information, and incumbents' residence information or demographic information in drawing the maps, except as necessary to ensure minority participation as required by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ashland County Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Governor Scott Walker, the Wisconsin Counties Association and Ashland County's Legislative Representatives.

Dated at the City of Ashland, Wisconsin this 14th day of November, 2017.

Signed:

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Kathy S. Schutte

Joe In Rose

Paul Koych

Dick Pufall

Martin J. [Signature]

Doug Kulas

George [Signature]

Fred [Signature]

Carl Kubley

Clarence Campbell

Danya [Signature]

[Signature]

CERTIFICATION
I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true, correct, and complete copy of a resolution duly and regularly passed by the Ashland County Board of Supervisors of the County of Ashland on the 14th day of November, 2017 and that said resolution has not been repealed or amended, and is now in full force and effect.
Dated this 15th day of November, 2017
[Signature]
Heather W Schutte, Ashland County Clerk