

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CREATION OF A NON-PARTISAN PROCEDURE FOR THE
PREPARATION OF LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLANS**

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

WHEREAS, the legislature also reapportions congressional districts at the same interval pursuant to federal law; and

WHEREAS, legislative and congressional redistricting plans enacted pursuant to this procedure are used to elect members of the legislature and Congress in the fall of the second year following the year of the census; and

WHEREAS, because state and federal legislative redistricting is controlled by the majority party at the time of 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, redistricting to achieve partisan gains is improper, whether it is done by Republicans or Democrats; and

WHEREAS, a panel of federal district and appellate court judges from the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the redistricting done in Wisconsin in 2011 was unconstitutional; and

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

WHEREAS, the state and congressional districts belong to the citizens of Wisconsin and not to any legislator, interest group, or political party and therefore the redistricting process should not be a tool used by those in power to protect and bolster their power, but should be designed to promote the best interest of Wisconsin’s democracy and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s historical practice of redistricting by the majority party in each legislative chamber is an outdated practice that stifles political competition, discourages compromise, ensures continued control by the party in power, and lacks the transparency necessary to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; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need at this time to restore trust, compromise and fair competition to Wisconsin politics.

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors does hereby call upon the State Legislature, 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 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 the United States Constitution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors advocates for an amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution giving the responsibility of legislative redistricting to a non-partisan commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, all members of the State Assembly and the State Senate, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Wisconsin League of Municipalities, and to the County Board Chair of each Wisconsin County.

Forwarded to the County Board by the Executive Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to Chippewa County by passage of this resolution.

History:
06/01/17 Executive Committee FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD

Approved as to Form:

James B. Sherman
James B. Sherman, Corporation Counsel 5/19/2017

Melissa J. Roach
Melissa J. Roach, Finance Director 5/19/2017

Frank R. Pascarella
Frank R. Pascarella, County Administrator 5/19/2017

1st Reading 6/13/17 2nd Reading N/A
Board Action - Vote Required 5/m
For 10 Absent 5
Against 0 Abstain 0
Clerk Signature: Jaclyn Stadler

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