

Resolution No. 18 - 06/17

Supporting Creation of a Nonpartisan Procedure for the Preparation of Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Plans

1 Moved/Sponsored by: Executive Committee

2
3 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3 of the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin
4 Legislature is directed to redistrict state legislative districts “according to the number of inhabitants”
5 at its next session following the decennial federal census. The legislature also reapportions
6 congressional districts at the same interval pursuant to federal law; and,
7

8 **WHEREAS**, because state and federal legislative redistricting is controlled by the majority party at
9 the time of the redistricting, legislative and congressional plans in Wisconsin have been subject to
10 partisan influence that puts the desires of politicians ahead of the electoral prerogative of the people.
11 Redistricting to achieve partisan gains is improper, whether it is done by Republicans or Democrats;
12 and,
13

14 **WHEREAS**, a panel of federal district court judges has ruled that the redistricting done in
15 Wisconsin in 2011 was unconstitutional. Legal costs in defense of the 2011 redistricting has
16 already cost taxpayers in excess of \$2.1 million with the litigation still ongoing; and,
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the state and congressional districts belong to the citizens of Wisconsin and not to any
19 legislator, interest group or political party. The redistricting process should not be a tool used by
20 those in power to protect and bolster their power, but should be designed with the best interest of
21 Wisconsin’s democracy and its citizens; and,
22

23 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s historical practice of redistricting by the majority party in each
24 legislative chamber is an outdated practice that stifles political competition, discourages
25 compromise, ensures continued control by the party in power, and lacks the transparency necessary
26 to reinforce citizens’ faith in the democratic process; and,
27

28 **WHEREAS**, there is a critical need at this time to restore trust, compromise and fair competition in
29 Wisconsin politics.
30

31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors
32 hereby urges the State Legislature, before the start of the next redistricting process following the
33 2020 federal census, to pass legislation that creates a fair, nonpartisan procedure for the preparation
34 of legislative and congressional redistricting plans that promotes more accountability and
35 transparency, prohibits the consideration of voting patterns, party information and incumbents’
36 residence information or demographic information in drawing the maps, except as necessary to
37 ensure minority participation as required by the U.S. Constitution.
38

39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors advocates for an
40 amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution giving the responsibility of legislative redistricting to a
41 nonpartisan commission.
42

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this
2 resolution to Governor Scott Walker, Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Towns
3 Association, and Wisconsin League of Municipalities as well as assembly members and senators
4 representing Walworth County.

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9 Nancy Russell
10 County Board Chair

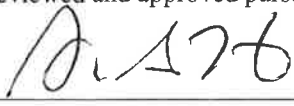



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12 Kimberly S. Bushey
13 County Clerk

14 County Board Meeting Date: June 13, 2017

Action Required: Majority Vote X Two-thirds Vote _____ Other _____

Policy and Fiscal Note is attached.
Reviewed and approved pursuant to Section 2-91 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances:

 5/17/17
Date
David A. Bretl
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

 5/17/17
Date
Nicole Andersen
Deputy County Administrator - Finance

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.

This Resolution/Ordinance was:

Adopted: Roll Call/U.C./Voice

Rejected/Referred/Laid Over

Ayes: Noes: Absent:

Date June 13, 2017