



WISCONSIN PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

What is Gerrymandering? Why YOU Should Care!

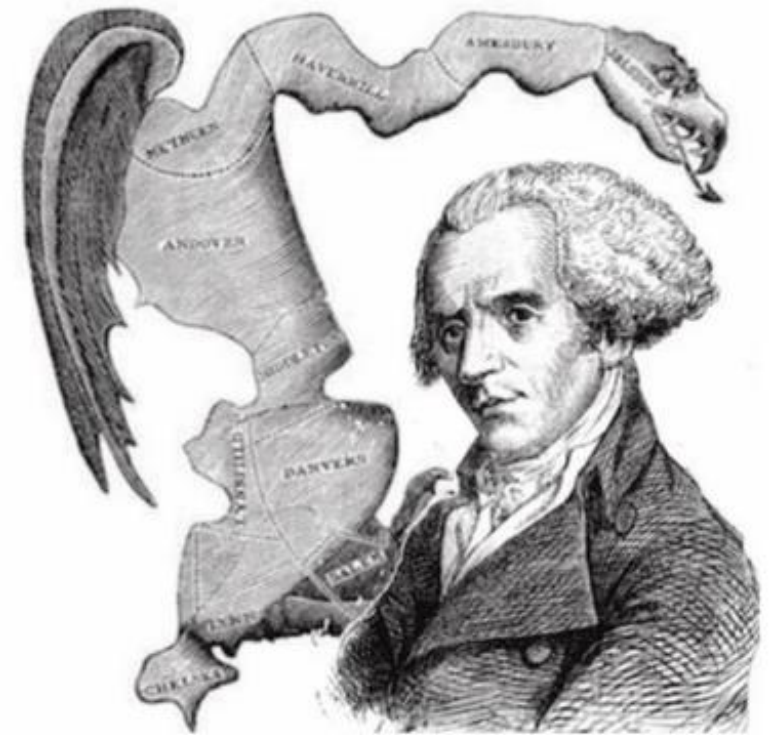
*In a democracy, voters choose their legislators;
legislators don't choose their voters!*

The Original Gerrymander

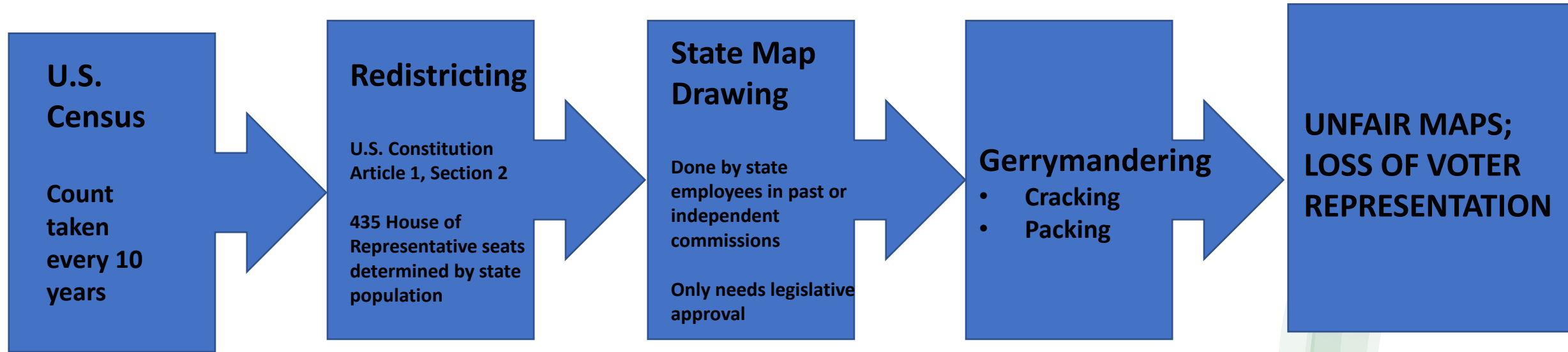
- In 1812, Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry backed a redistricting plan favoring his party, with one district so convoluted that it looked like a salamander.
- The practice of manipulating electoral maps for political gain/advantage has since been called gerrymandering.

BOTH MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES ARE EQUAL OFFENDERS!

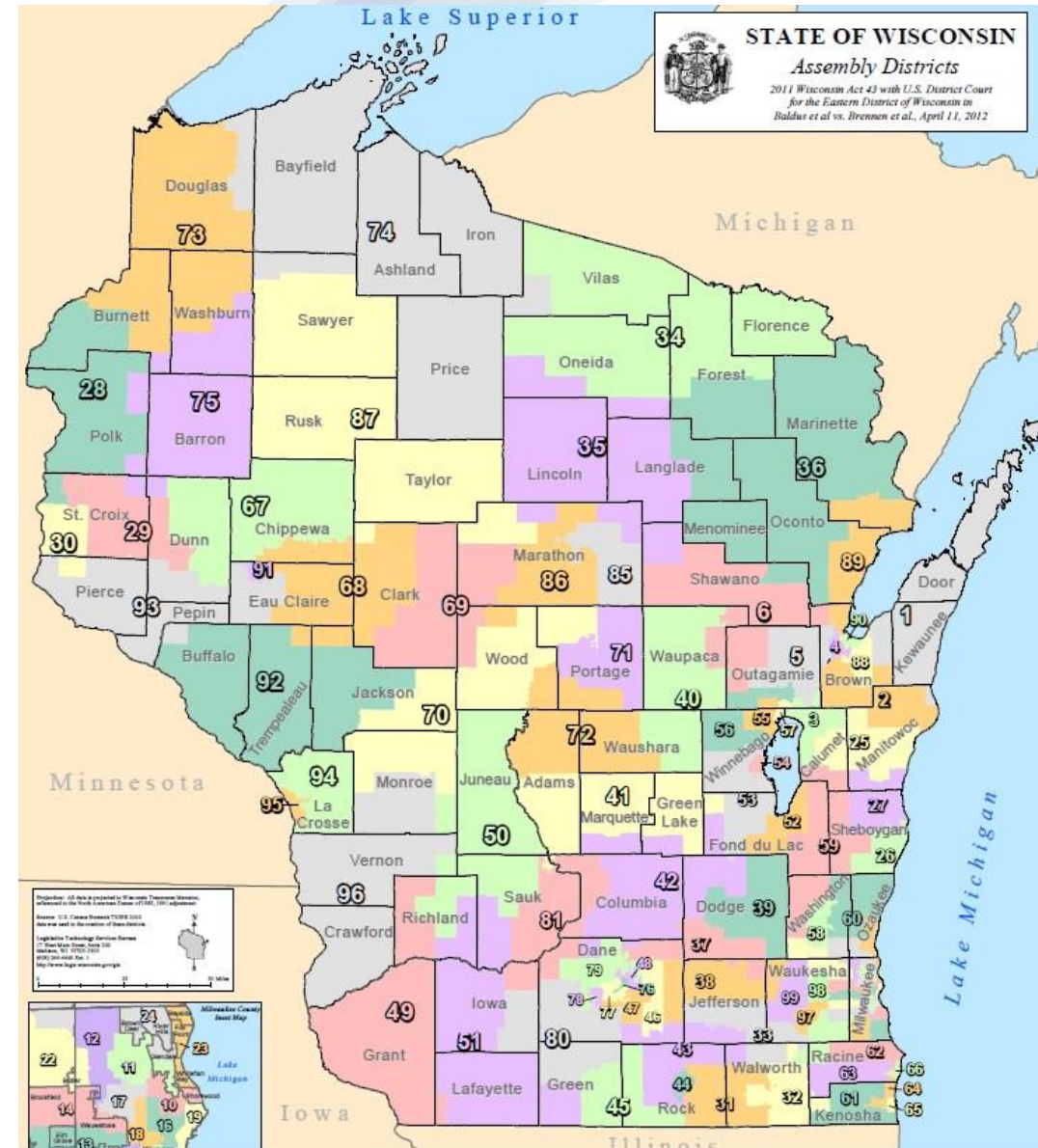
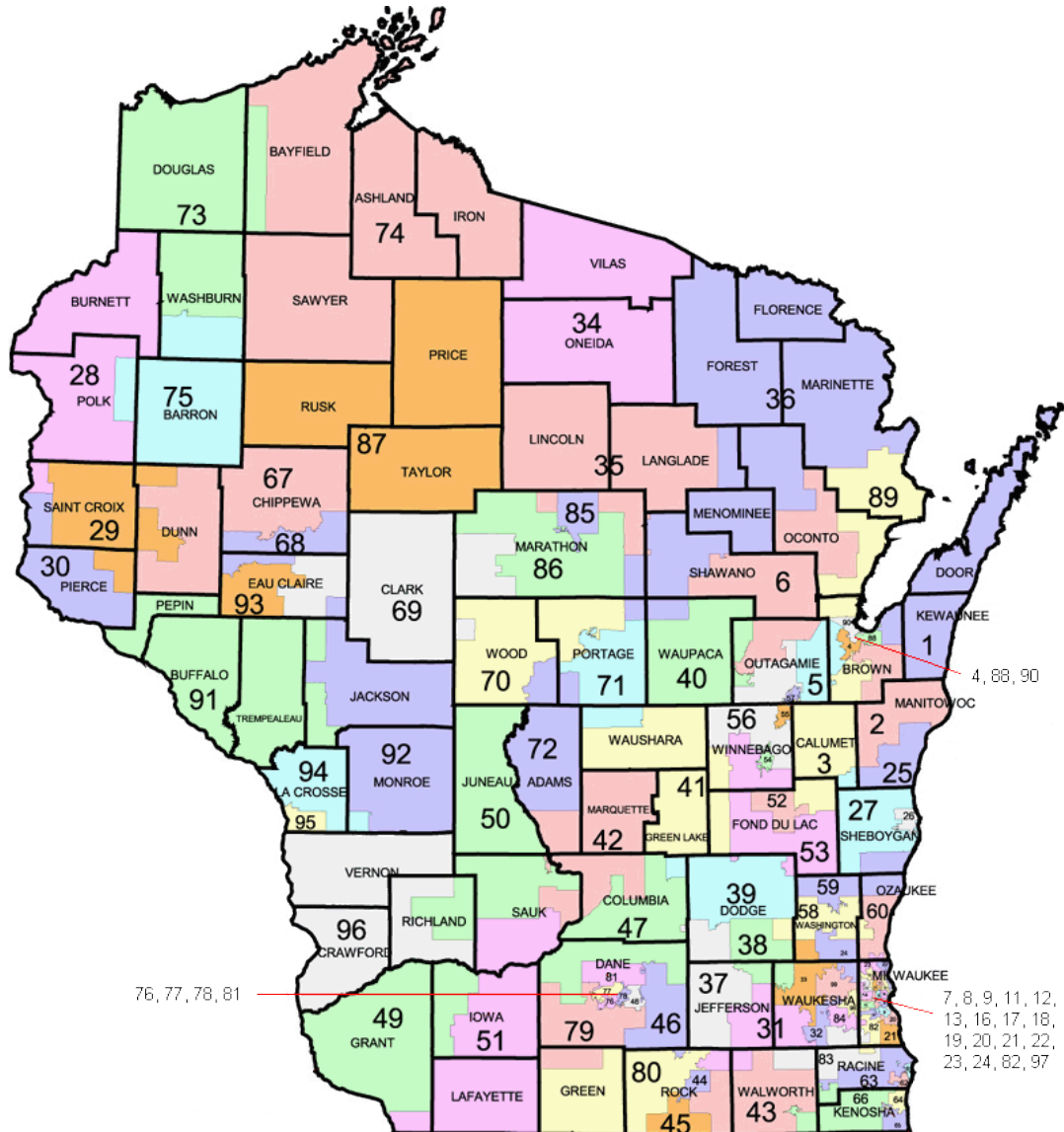
THIS IS A NONPARTISAN ISSUE!



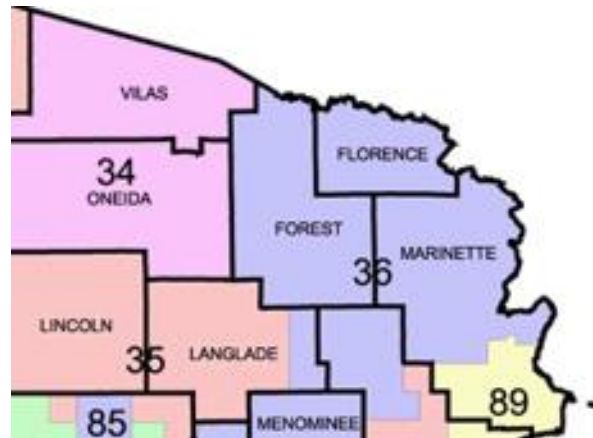
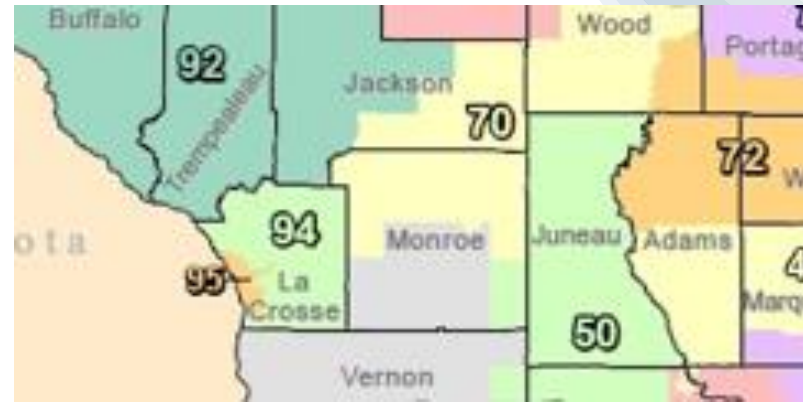
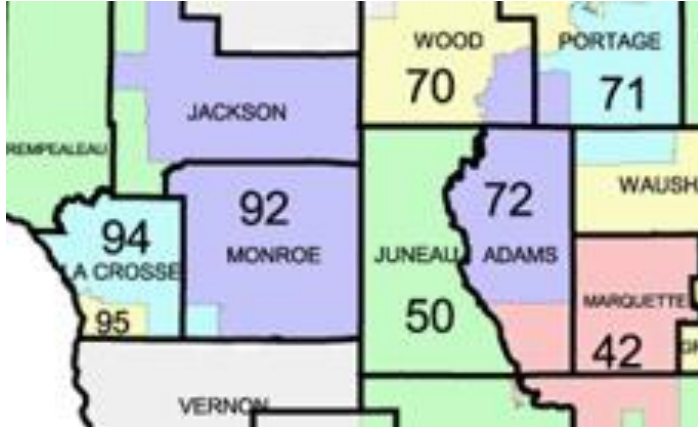
The Connection Between the Census, Redistricting, and Gerrymandering



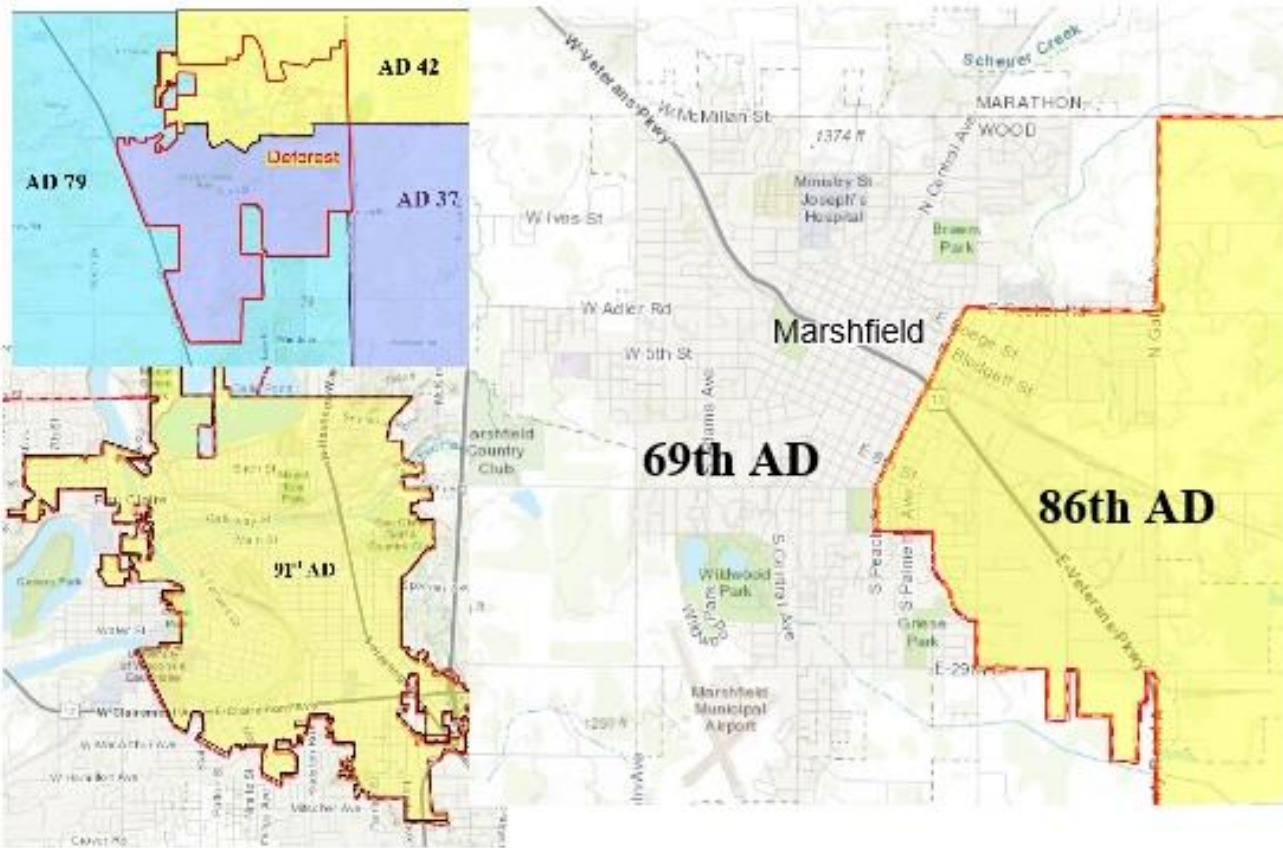
Recent History of Redistricting in Wisconsin



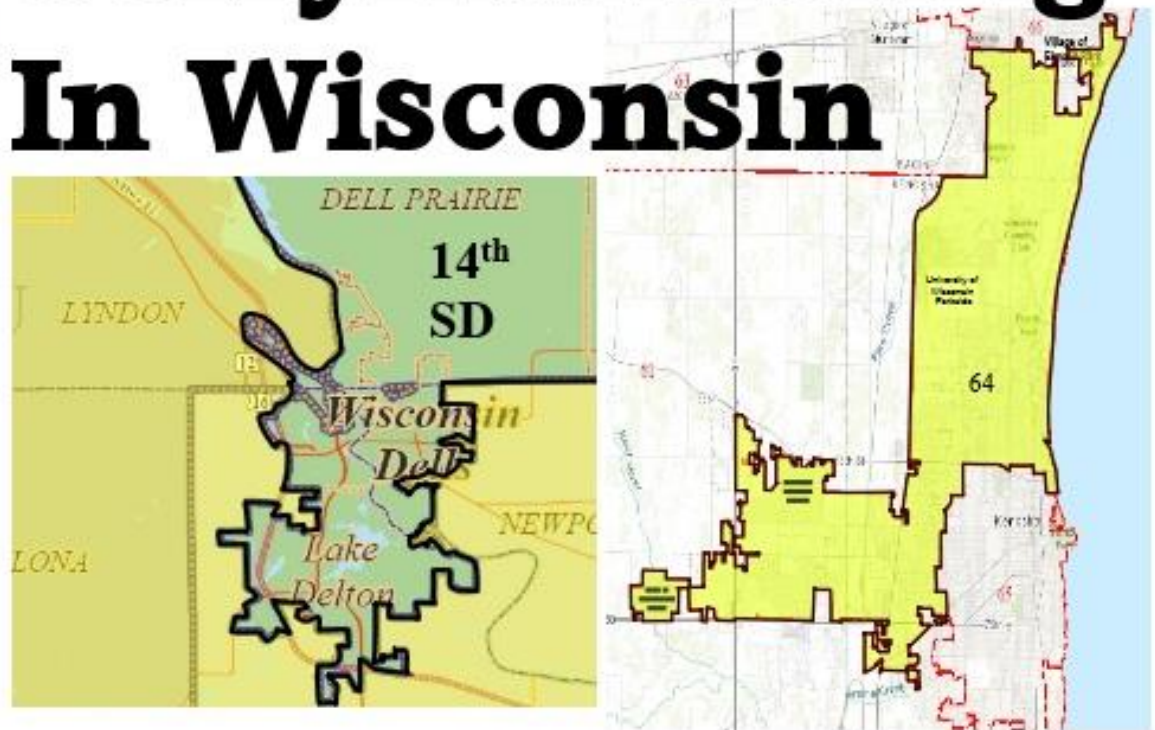
Cracking: Scattering opposition into districts where they have no chance in winning



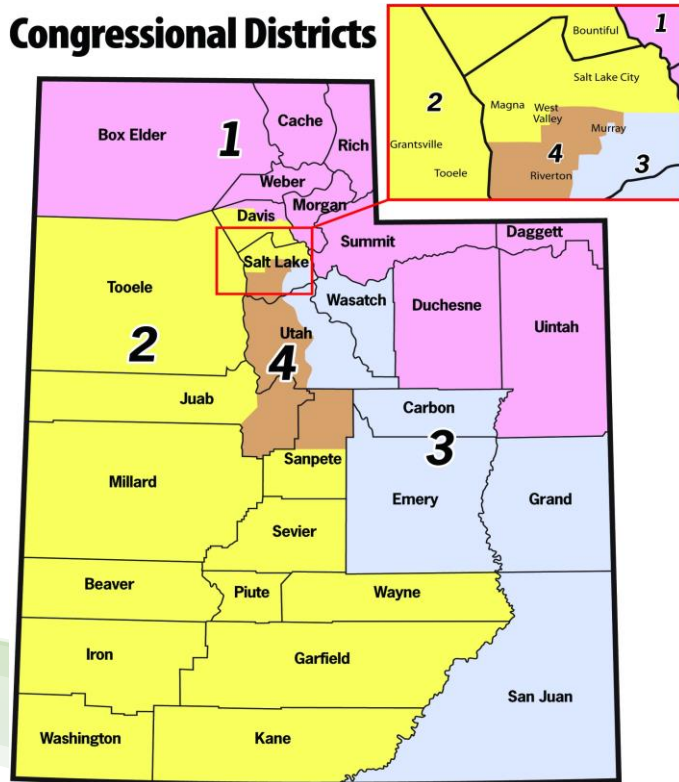
Packing: Putting as many of the opposing party's supporters into as few districts as possible so the opposing party will win those districts, but they can't win the majority



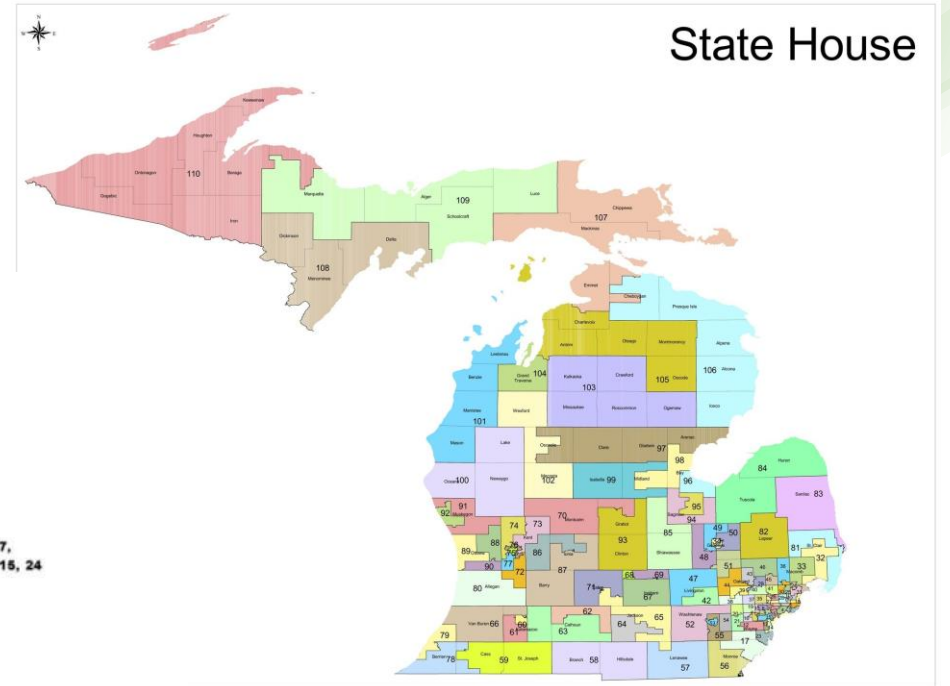
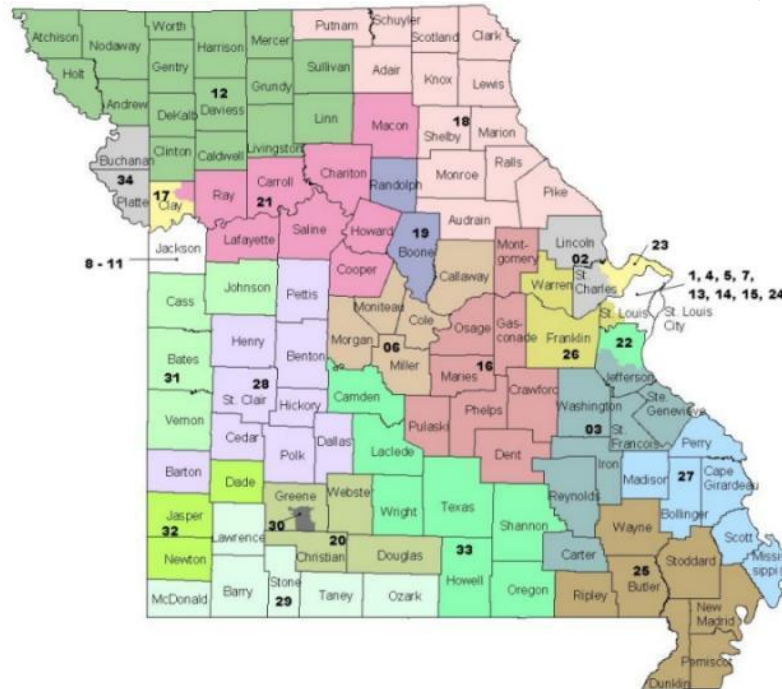
Gerrymandering In Wisconsin



Congressional Districts

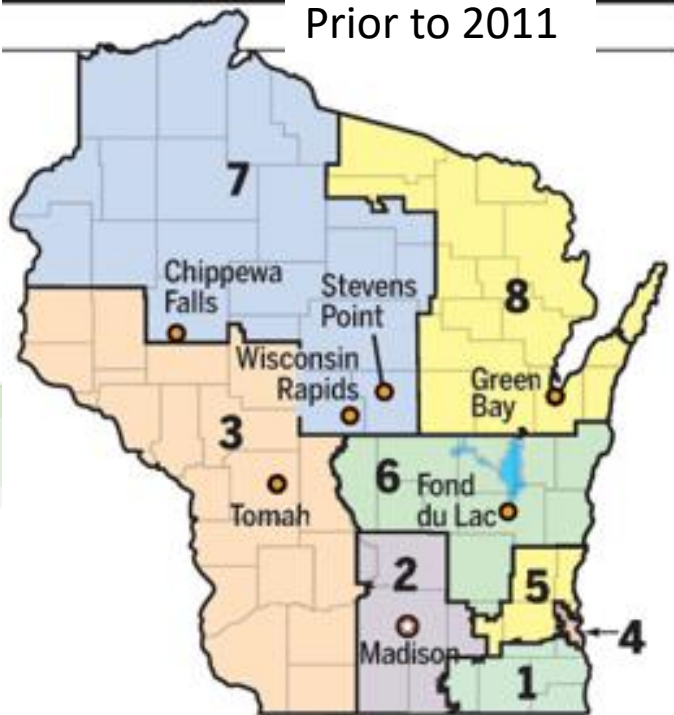


Creation of Fair Maps by NonPartisan Commissions in Other States

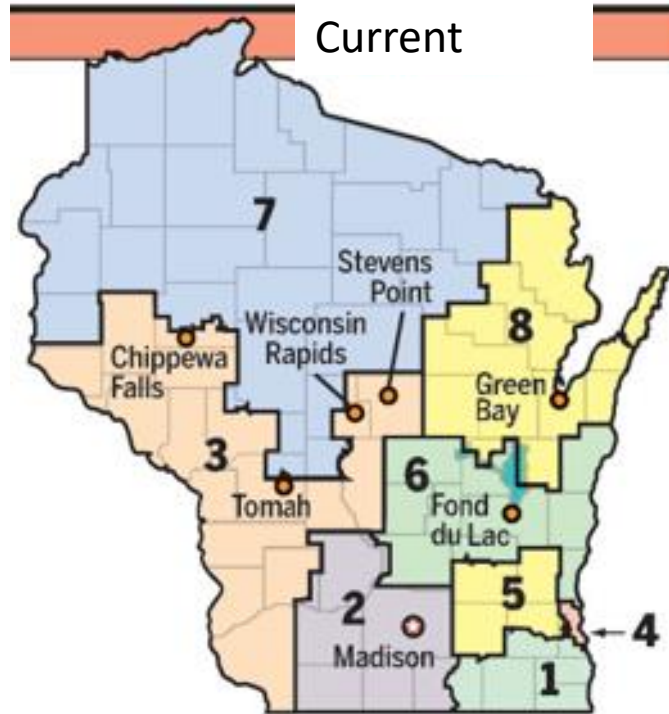


CHANGES IN WISCONSIN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

Prior to 2011



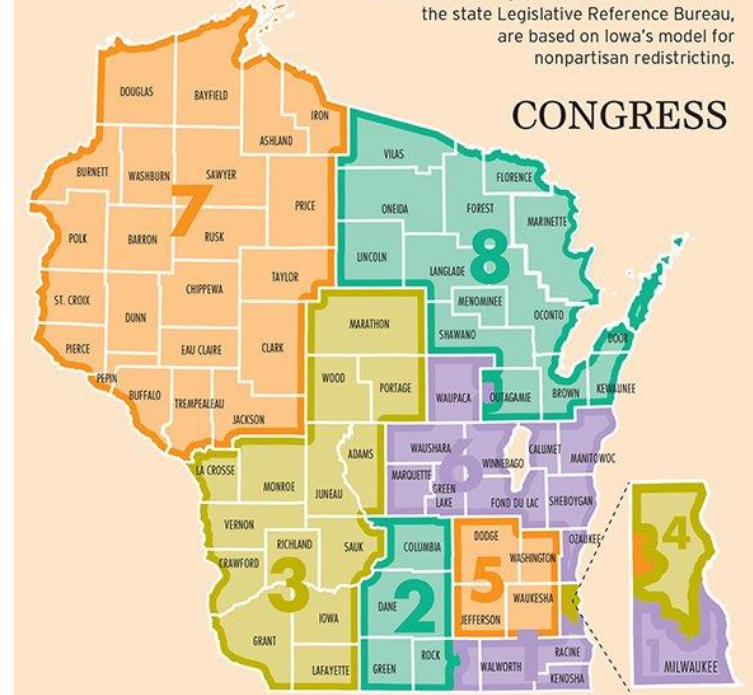
Current



Party-blind map design

These district maps, which draw on ones from the state Legislative Reference Bureau, are based on Iowa's model for nonpartisan redistricting.

CONGRESS

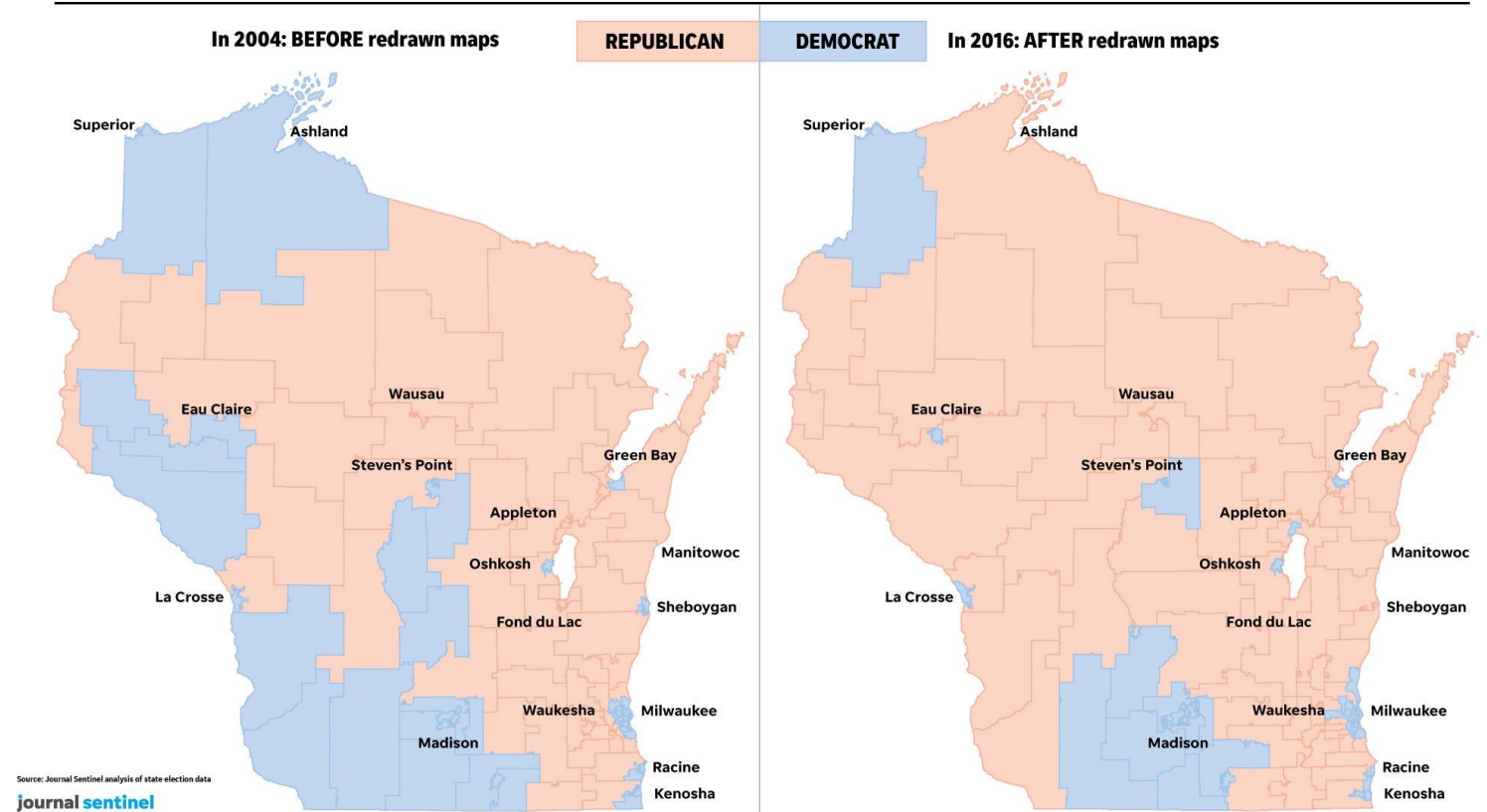


Impact of Gerrymandering in Wisconsin

How redistricting colored voting outcomes

These two maps show the presidential vote by Assembly district in 2004 and 2016, two races where the statewide vote for president was a virtual toss-up. But the GOP edge in districts was much bigger in 2016, due to both a gerrymandered map and a decline in rural strength for Democrats. In 2004, 56 of 99 districts had a Republican makeup based on presidential vote. In 2016, 63 of 99 did.

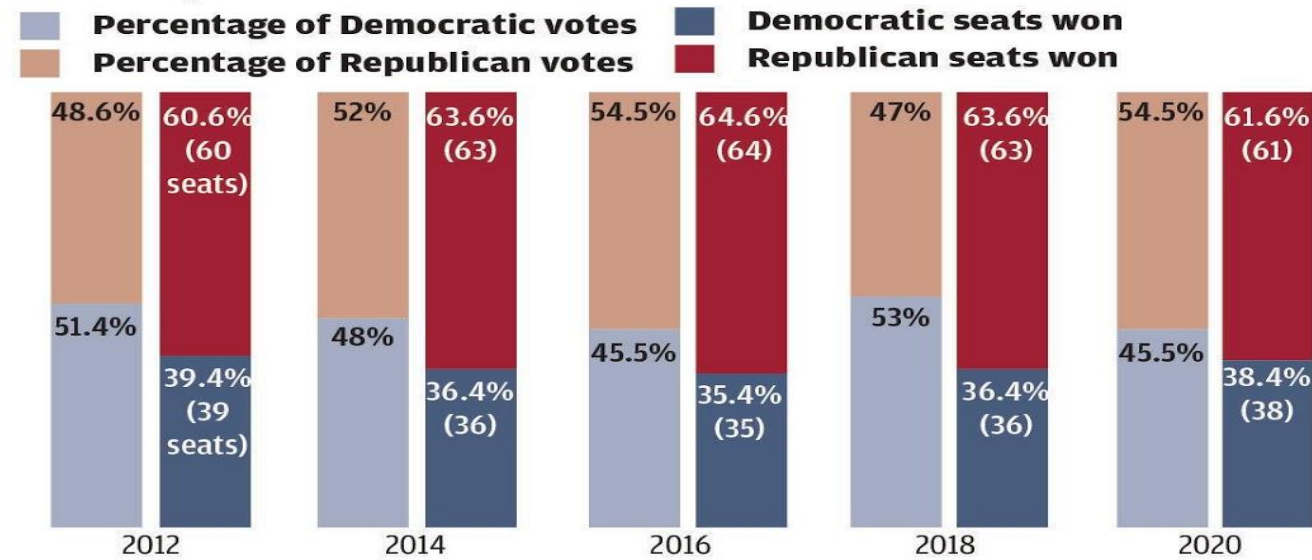
Partisan makeup of Wisconsin Assembly districts based on presidential vote



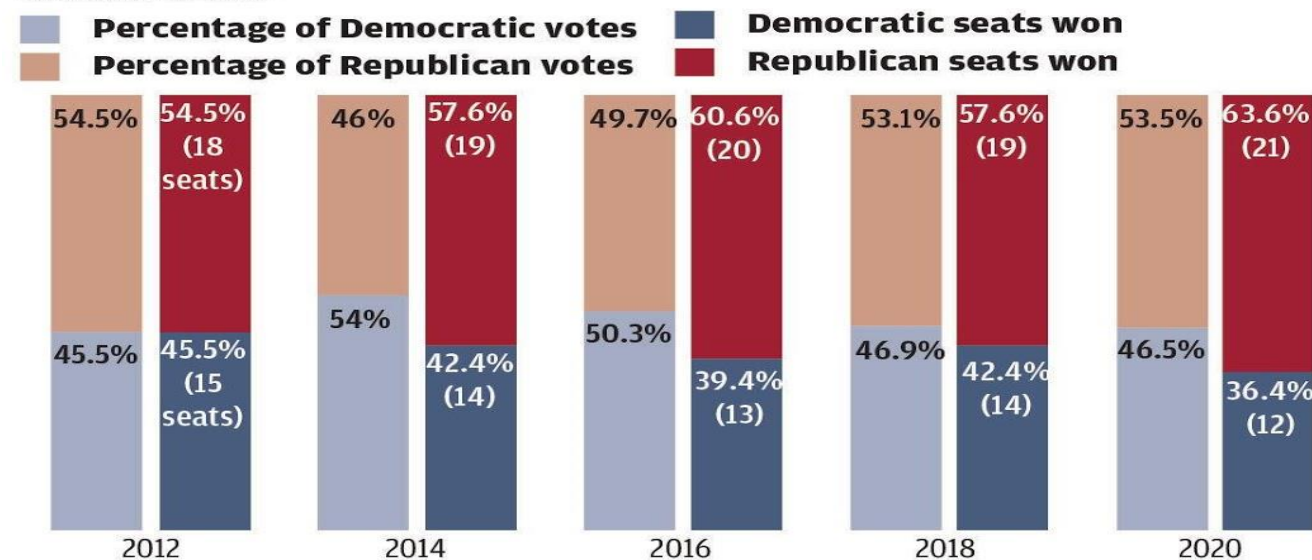
Democratic votes vs. seats

Since Republican redrew legislative maps in 2011, Democrats have been relegated to a minority of legislative seats, even when winning a majority of statewide votes.

Assembly Seats



Senate Seats



Source: Associated Press, Wisconsin Elections Commission, State Journal research

Lee Enterprises graphic

Gerrymandering Leads to Voter Suppression By:

- Decreasing competition- fewer individuals elect to run for office because they know they can't win
- Elected representatives are not unaccountable to their constituents as they do not worry about being re-elected; less constituent feedback as constituents lose confidence in their voice being heard and listened to
- Increasing depravement (corruption) of elected representatives as they do not worry about doing what is moral/right/good
- Decreasing engagement, collaboration, and sharing because districts are so divided
- Decisions made are not in best interest of communities or constituents, constituents are disempowered, and the desires of the people are misrepresented

We the Irrelevant, Formerly Known as We the People

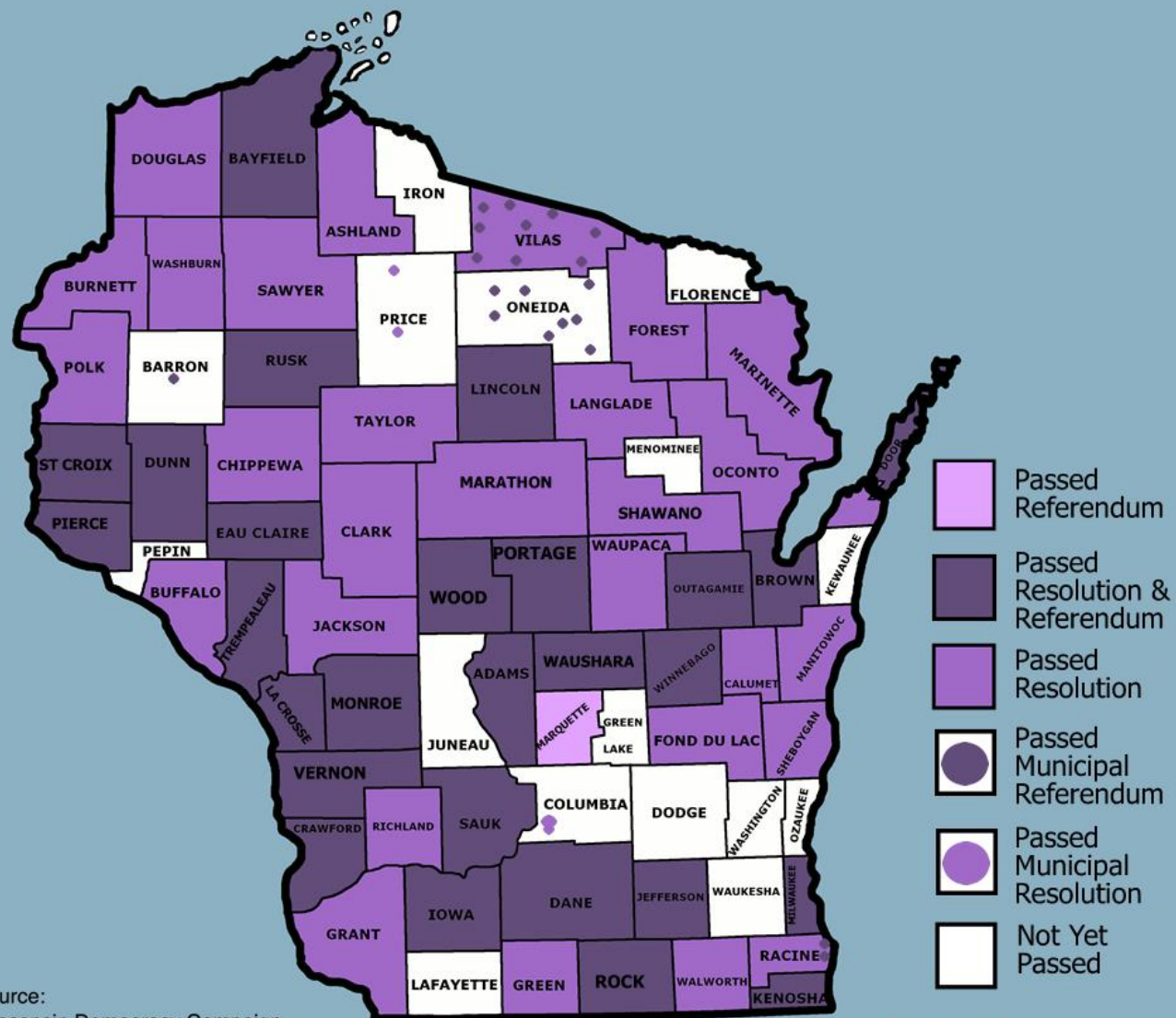
www.we-the-irrelevant.org

Results of Four Years of Open Record Requests Asking for Citizen Contacts with WI Legislators

Date of query	Who was queried?	Proposed and/or enacted legislation	Contacts opposed	% opposed	Contacts in favor	% in favor
Oct. & Nov. 2015	82 GOP legislators	Dismantle the GAB (Government Accountability Board)	3,875	94%	258	6%
Jan. 2016	82 GOP legislators	Change campaign finance laws	2,301	99%	35	1%
Oct. 2015 - Jan. 2016	82 GOP legislators	Incidental mentions of exempting only legislators from John Doe	424	94%	26	6%
Feb. 2016	82 GOP legislators	Defunding public education	1,023	98%	24	2%
Apr. 2016	82 GOP legislators	4 water bills	500,544	100%	81	0%
Jul-16	82 GOP & MKE area Dems	MPS Takeover plan from Darling/Kooyenga	1,612	100%	6	0%
Jul-16	82 GOP legislators & MKE area Dems	Specific mentions of support for public education	1,598	100%	6	0%
Jan. 2017	82 GOP legislators	Cut scientists from DNR staff	120,622	100%	0	0%
		Defund state parks	2,768	100%	9	0%
		Delete mention of climate change on DNR website	5,832	100%	2	0%
Dec. 2018	132 legislators	Lame duck session to limit powers of incoming Gov. & AG	47,094	98%	756	2%
May 2019	Joint Finance Committee	Changes to Gov. Evers budget re funding of public education	7,962	90%	933	10%
Nov. 2019	132 legislators & Gov. Evers	Special session called to debate two gun regulation bills	8,808	63%	5,179	37%
Totals			704,463	99%	7,315	1%
Sheila Plotkin, Founder plotkin5007@gmail.com						

56 COUNTIES BACK FAIR MAPS

55 COUNTIES HAVE PASSED RESOLUTIONS AND 28 COUNTIES REFERENDUMS



Source:
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign
<http://www.wisdc.org>

#fairmaps



www.fairmapswi.com



THE PEOPLE'S MAPS COMMISSION

*In a democracy, voters choose their legislators;
legislators don't choose their voters!*

govstatus.egov.com/peoplesmaps

What Can YOU Do?

Better Educate Yourself on the Issue of Fair Maps

- a. The People's Map Commission
- b. Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition
- c. We the Irrelevant (Sheila Plotkin)
- d. League of Women Voters of Wisconsin
- e. My Vote Wisconsin

Advocate for Fair Maps

- a. Talk about this issue with friends and family, share links on social media
- b. Contact your local legislators and insist they support fair maps
- c. Support passage any bills which will establish a model for independent redistricting
- d. Hold a community event to educate others on gerrymandering and the harmful impact on democracy; use the documentary *Can You Hear Us Now?*, along with the work of Sheila Plotkin as discussion tools

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