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Madison, WI 53703

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June 2, 2021

To: Assembly Committee on State Affairs
Re: Statement for public hearing on AB 369

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin believes voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. Participating in our democracy by voting should be safe, accessible and a positive experience for all eligible Wisconsin residents. Every vote should count and using maps that have been drawn purposely on partisan grounds should not be allowed. To that end, we have the following comments on AB 369 under consideration in the June 2, 2021 hearing of the Assembly Committee on State Affairs:

We oppose **AB 369**, which would make substantial changes to the current law regulating the timeline for local districting in Wisconsin. While we recognize that the delay in 2020 Census information may slow the process for local districting, we believe that the proposed timeline is not an accurate representation of when new maps can be accepted locally to inform the state maps. Around the State, County Boards, Municipalities and other legal jurisdictions know their boundaries and can begin now to draw maps for consideration and adjust these maps once the 2020 Census apportionment data is available.

Therefore, we do not support the statutory changes recommended in this Bill to purposefully delay the application of new statewide maps until elections in 2023.

Additionally, the hasty nature of the introduction of this bill and hearing announcement are vigorously opposed. Proper government is open and transparent, representative of the will of the people. Over 70% of Wisconsinites, Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike, all support a fair districting process. This bill does nothing to move us in the direction of fair maps.

We urge you to reject all of this bill, AB 369, which does nothing to improve elections and will only disenfranchise qualified citizens by having them voting in districts known to be unfairly drawn.



FAIR MAPS COALITION

5027 W. North St
Milwaukee, WI 53208
www.fairmsdwi.com

June 2, 2021

To: Assembly Committee on State Affairs
Re: Fair Maps Coalition statement in opposition to AB369

The Fair Maps Coalition favors a nonpartisan, transparent and open process for creating voting maps. This bill does nothing to support that.

This committee has a choice. Do you want to draw maps in the open, in a transparent and fair way, or do you want to slip a rigged map through the back door and delay complying with the constitution.

This is unnecessary legislation being proposed under false pretenses.

The Wisconsin State Legislature has a simple and honest path forward. Pass a law that says municipalities must use the August 16th Census data quickly to draw new ward lines and districts at the municipal level. Then school boards and counties can do their job. Both can be done before December 1.

Then the Legislature can gather input from around the state, already offered through the People's Maps Commission, and quickly draw legislative maps.

There's no need for protracted litigation. That's a choice.

All the legislature has to do is work with the Governor, and come to a fair outcome.

The parties got together and did it back in 1971. They can do it again now. All it requires is a commitment to a fair, open, honest process.

Republicans can and will continue to win majorities, when they respond to the will of the people. They shouldn't draw in permanent majorities - for either party.

A fair map. That's all we want.

This bill does nothing to get us there.

Municipal Reporting Units (by polling location)	Registered Voters	Absentee Ballots	Regular Ballots	Total Ballots	HC	Color
V. DeForest Wds. 1, 3-6, 15 (37)	3000	3000	1200	4215	10	white
V. DeForest Wds. 2, 21 (42)	398	400	160	575	19	green
V. DeForest Wds. 14, 16-18 (79)	2	10	10	35	3	blue
V. DeForest Wds. 7-10, 12 (37)	2459	2460	990	3455	10	white
V. DeForest Wds. 11, 20 (42)	543	550	210	765	19	green
V. DeForest Wds. 13, 19, 22 (79)	15	20	10	35	3	blue
V. Mount Horeb Wds. 1-4 (80)	2433	2430	970	3415	9	white
V. Mount Horeb Wds. 5-9 (80)	2481	2480	1000	3485	9	white

Stromme, Denise

From: Coffin2, Kylie
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Stromme, Denise
Subject: FW: AB369 - Oppose

From: Rep.Sinicki <Rep.Sinicki@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 1:57 PM
To: Coffin2, Kylie <Kylie.Coffin2@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: FW: AB369 - Oppose

From: Kelly Michaels <michaels@ci.brookfield.wi.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2021 1:02 PM
To: Rep.Vorpapel <Rep.Vorpapel@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Kuglitsch <Rep.Kuglitsch@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Tauchen <Rep.Tauchen@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Spiros <Rep.Spiros@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Summerfield <Rep.Summerfield@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Knodl <Rep.Knodl@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Rob.Brooks <Rep.Rob.Brooks@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Schraa <Rep.Schraa@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Sinicki <Rep.Sinicki@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Pope <Rep.Pope@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Ohnstad <Rep.Ohnstad@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.McGuire <Rep.McGuire@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: AB369 - Oppose

Good Afternoon Assembly Committee on State of Affairs Members:

I represent Wisconsin's Municipal Clerks as the Chairman of the WMCA Legislative Communications and Advocacy Committee. I am unable to attend today's public hearing on AB-369 but wanted to provide our Association's opposition to AB-369. This bill aims to delay the implementation of redistricting, however what is most troubling is that the effective date for the municipal boundaries would be different from the effective date for the county supervisory boundaries. We are less concerned with the timeline of redistricting as Clerks will get it done, whatever the timeline is. However the bill's differing implementation timelines for the municipality versus the county causes an excessive workload that doesn't make sense. I've been told the reason is that County elected Officials have no elections in 2023 but Municipalities do. This is exactly the same scenario that happens with the 2021 timeline. Elected Officials who are redistricted out of their districts serve until the next election whereby they run in their new district. This doesn't happen very often as Clerks are aware of where their elected official live and make a conscious effort to maintain those seats if possible. It already works that way so why create havoc with different effective dates? I'd like to explain the impact of having the different dates for municipal clerks.

Every address in WisVote is assigned to a district combo which consists of the boundary areas of local, county, state, school and various other districts. When you redistrict, you are assigning new boundaries to a district combo that are distinct from other district combos. These district combos drive the ballot style (ie., who all is on the ballot) that covers the elected boundaries where the voter lives. These district combos tell WisVote which addresses fall into which combination of elected body boundaries and which ballot they receive. Normally, the phases of each governmental body culminate into one implementation effective date. If this legislation passes and implementation for the municipal boundaries occur in 2023 but the county boundaries occur in 2024, then we will be doing the district combo creation and assignment work twice. To implement for Spring 2023 for municipalities means we will be doing the work after the General Election in 2022 and before the February 2023 Election to create district combos for boundaries in effect at that time. Then when the Counties effective date for their redistricted supervisory lines occur, we will re-do all the work over again in Fall of 2023 for implementation of the February 2024 Elections. If you have more than one district combo,

then you have to look at all of your addresses to see which combo the address fits into. (For example: In Brookfield, we currently have 27 different district combos and over 30 thousand voters to assign to the correct district combo based on the elective boundaries within the address).

It is significant work to do twice. The dates chosen, whatever they may be, should coincide with each other as it always has.

Kelly Michaels, MMC, WCPC

Certified Professional Clerk

City of Brookfield

2000 N Calhoun Rd, Brookfield WI 53005

Phone: (262) 796-6653

ABSENTEE VOTING INFORMATION: <http://www.ci.brookfield.wi.us/510/Absentee-Voting>

2010 Census Population: 37,920

Final estimate of January 1, 2020 population is 40,044

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Testimony of Matt Rothschild,
Executive Director,
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign,
To the Assembly Committee on State Affairs
In opposition to AB 369
June 2, 2021

Chair Swearingen and other distinguished members of the committee, I'm Matt Rothschild, the executive director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

Since 1995, the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign has tracked and exposed big and dark money in our politics, and we've advocated for a full range of pro-democracy reforms so that we can have a democracy where everyone has an equal voice.

One of the pro-democracy reforms that we've worked the longest and hardest on is banning gerrymandering.

And that's why I'm here today opposing AB 369.

On Nov. 21, 2016, a panel of federal judges ruled that the maps that the Republican-dominated legislature drew in 2011 under Act 43 were among the worst gerrymanders in modern American history and that those maps violated the First Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment rights of the Democratic plaintiffs.

On January 27, 2017, that court ordered the Legislature to redraw the maps, stating that "the people of Wisconsin already have endured several elections under an unconstitutional reapportionment scheme." The citizens of Wisconsin, the court said, must "be spared another such event."

That was four and a half years ago, and we've had one election after another where we, the citizens of Wisconsin, were not spared from having to vote under the rigged maps of 2011.

Comes now this bill, which would make us endure the consequences of these maps, at the city and county level, at least through 2022. That is intolerable.

Also intolerable is the provision in this bill ordering municipalities, when they are redrawing their wards, to yield to the boundaries imposed by any Congressional or legislative redistricting.

This is a huge, top-down departure from Wisconsin's tradition prior to 2011, which vested in counties and municipalities the authority to draw their own lines first.

The departure from this tradition is an offense to local control and home rule.

And it forces local governments to swallow any new gerrymandering that might come down again from on high.

Now I understand that the delay in the delivery of the Census data has created some problems that require adjusting the schedules.

But a better solution than this bill would be to shorten the time period that counties and municipalities have to draw their maps once the Census data is delivered at the end of September.

Rather than giving counties until February 22, 2022, which is almost five months, to adopt tentative supervisory district plans, give them 30 days. I talked to a county clerk who told me this was very doable.

Then give every municipality 30 days to adopt new ward plans.

And then give the counties 30 days to finalize their district plans.

That would take you to the end of the year, and the Legislature should then draw the state maps building off these local maps.

This is a far preferable solution than forcing communities to endure the consequences of the 2011 rigged maps, and would sustain Wisconsin's tradition of honoring local maps and building up from there.

Thank you for considering our views, and I welcome any questions you might have.



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To: Assembly Committee on State Affairs
From: Curt Witynski, J.D., Deputy Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities
Toni Herkert, Government Affairs Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities
Date: June 2, 2021
Re: AB 369, Timeline for Local Redistricting following the 2020 federal census

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities supports AB 369, adjusting the statutory deadlines by which counties and municipalities must accomplish various steps in the local redistricting process following the 2020 federal decennial census. The bill is necessary because of delays in the census process resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. It is anticipated that Wisconsin will not receive census data based on the 2020 federal decennial census until as late as the end of September 2021. Ordinarily, the U.S. Census Bureau must deliver census data to the states no later than March 31, 2021.

While larger communities with adequate staff and resources may be able to complete the local redistricting process in a compressed time frame if the census data were received in August, many smaller communities would be hard pressed to do so. Moreover, it is not certain when the state will receive the 2020 census data. We believe it makes the most sense to adjust the deadlines for this cycle of local redistricting and provide local governments with certainty as to when the process must be completed.

We urge the committee to recommend passage of AB 369 as soon as possible. Thanks for considering our comments.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on State Affairs

FROM: Marcie Rainbolt, Government Affairs Associate

DATE: June 2, 2021

SUBJECT: Support Assembly Bill 369: Timeline for local redistricting

The U.S. Census Bureau (the “Bureau”) completed the 2020 census yet delayed the publication of the data due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Normally, data from the Bureau is received no later than March 31 in the year following the census however, this year the Bureau has moved the data release date several times, even to as late as the end of September. With the data still not received, Wisconsin counties will not be able to meet the statutory requirement to perform the required calculations regarding size of districts, hold the required public hearings, and adopt a tentative county supervisory district plan no later than July 1. The delay in adopting the tentative county supervisory district plan will cause delay in the municipal process as well since municipalities cannot adjust ward boundaries until they receive the county tentative plan.

Due to the delay by the Bureau, a solution is required to aid counties and municipalities in their ability to complete local redistricting in a manner that is transparent to the public, completed judiciously, and in a timeframe that actually works. Assembly Bill (AB) 369 will grant counties and municipalities the ability to accomplish these goals.

AB 369 will adjust the timeline for local redistricting and allow counties to adopt a tentative plan for county supervisory districts by February 22, 2022. Municipalities will then have until May 15, 2022 to adopt new wards. Finally, the counties will have 60 days thereafter to finalize their supervisory districts following the work of the municipalities.

Due to the delay in the ability of counties and municipalities to redistrict until 2022, the supervisory and ward maps effectiveness will also be delayed. New county supervisory district maps will not be in effect until the spring primary and election of 2024. The new municipal wards will also not be in effect until the spring primary and election of 2023.

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This is crucial because we cannot elect new supervisors in 2022 and then redistrict them out of their newly elected positions with new maps mid-term.

AB 369 is supported by the Wisconsin Counties Association, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, and the Wisconsin Towns Association.

The Wisconsin Counties Association, on behalf of its county members, respectfully requests your support of AB 369.