

# NOTICE OF REFERENDUM

## KENOSHA COUNTY

### NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the County of Kenosha, on November 3, 2020, the following proposed Resolution of the County Board, will be submitted to a vote of the people:

**A Resolution to Conduct a Countywide Advisory Referendum on the Creation of a Non-partisan Procedure for the Preparation of Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Plans and Maps**

**WHEREAS**, the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors on August 17, 2017 passed a resolution calling for nonpartisan legislative and congressional redistricting maps; and

**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. The legislature also reapportions U. S. congressional districts at the same interval pursuant to federal law; and

**WHEREAS**, recent polls indicate that as many as 72% of Wisconsin voters are concerned about the practice of partisan redistricting by whichever party holds the majority, because it may stifle political participation and competition, discourage collaboration and compromise, and lack the fairness necessary to our democratic process, by undermining the principle of one person one vote.

**WHEREAS**, the current procedure allows the legislature of the majority party to prepare redistricting plans and maps that may result in unfair partisan representation, allowing the legislature to choose its voters rather than the voters choosing their representatives, which is commonly called gerrymandering.

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Supreme Court has refused to rule on several high-profile state gerrymandering cases, including one in Wisconsin and, as a result, has left this issue to be determined by state legislatures and courts.

**WHEREAS**, 50 Wisconsin counties have passed resolutions in support of nonpartisan redistricting, including 8 counties that have also passed county wide referendums.

**WHEREAS**, Governor Evers in his most recent State of the State Address is moving forward with an executive order to address the problem of gerrymandering with a non-partisan commission in order to produce a “Peoples Map” that will be submitted to the legislature next year.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors, in legal session assembled does hereby approve that the following question be placed on the November 3rd, 2020 ballot as an advisory referendum question. Question: **Should the Wisconsin legislature create a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of all district maps at all levels of government: federal, state, county and municipal in the State of Wisconsin? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_;** and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Corporation Counsel prepare a Notice of Referendum to be published by the Kenosha County Clerk in accordance with statutory requirement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution and the referendum shall be filed with Kenosha County Clerk no later than 70 days prior to the November 3rd, 2020 election at which the question will appear on the ballot; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this ballot referendum be forwarded to Kenosha County’s legislative delegation, all other Wisconsin counties, the Wisconsin Counties Association and Governor Evers.

Respectfully submitted at Kenosha County, Wisconsin, this 3rd day of March 2020.

**The question will appear on the ballot as follows:**

“Should the Wisconsin legislature create a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of all district maps at all levels of government: federal, state, county and municipal in the State of Wisconsin?”

**EXPLANATION**

In Wisconsin, the State Legislature is solely responsible for drawing the maps creating voting districts for congressional (federal) and legislative (state) offices. The maps, once approved by the State Legislature, are subject to being signed or vetoed by the Governor. As they are created by individuals elected from political parties, the process is generally considered to be of a partisan nature, with the two primary parties frequently utilizing the process to maximize their own electoral advantage when they are creating the maps, often to the disadvantage of the other party. In situations where one party controls both houses of the Legislature and the Governor’s office, some have argued that there is no incentive to involve the party in the minority in the process of drawing maps. In situations where one party controls the Legislature and the other party controls the Governor’s office, the maps are often vetoed, resulting in the filing of lawsuits and maps that are ultimately created and approved by a judge or panel of judges.

County and municipal districts are drawn and approved by locally elected officials who run in non-partisan elections and do not hold those local offices as official representatives of any political party. As the local officials are not generally overtly partisan, there tends to be less concern about a partisan advantage to one party or the other existing as a result of this process. Some states have moved away from having elected officials direct the process of creating maps for voting districts. In such states there is often a commission made up of volunteer citizens which create the maps. Some argue that the process of creating voting district maps is inherently partisan and that it is only natural that whichever party has control at the time the maps are drawn will seek to act in its own interest. Others believe that by removing partisan elected officials from the process of drawing maps, there is less chance that the maps will unduly advantage one party over the other.

A YES vote means that you are advising the Wisconsin State Legislature to create a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of all districts maps at all levels of government.

A NO vote means that the you are advising the Wisconsin State Legislature NOT to create a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of all districts maps at all levels of government.

Done in the County of Kenosha,  
On October 6, 2020.



Regi Bachochin, Kenosha County Clerk