

2 **RESOLUTION: Support the Creation of a Nonpartisan Procedure for the Preparation of**
3 **Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Plans**

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6 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

7 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, of the Wisconsin Constitution, the Legislature for the State of
8 Wisconsin is directed to redistrict state legislative districts “according to the number of inhabitants” at its next session
9 following the decennial federal census. The Wisconsin Legislature also reapportions congressional districts at the
10 same interval pursuant to Federal Law; and

11 **WHEREAS**, because state and federal legislative redistricting is controlled by the majority party at the time of
12 the redistricting, legislative and congressional plans in Wisconsin have been subject to partisan influence that places
13 the desires of politicians ahead of the electoral prerogative of the people. Redistricting to achieve partisan gains is
14 improper, whether it is done by a Republican-controlled or a Democratic-controlled legislature; and

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

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 those in power to
20 protect and bolster their power, but should be designed with the best interests of Wisconsin’s democracy and its
21 citizens; and

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23 is an outdated practice that stifles political competition, discourages compromise, ensures continued control by the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

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

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

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35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby advocates for
36 an amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution giving the responsibility of legislative redistricting to a nonpartisan
37 commission.

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39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby directs the
40 Winnebago County Clerk to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Office of
41 Governor Scott Walker, and all state senators and assembly members representing Winnebago County constituents.

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Respectfully submitted by:
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Committee Vote: **14-0**
Vote Required for Passage: **Three-Fourths of Those Present**

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2018.

Mark L Harris
Winnebago County Executive