



EXECUTIVE ORDER #66

Relating to Creating the People's Maps Commission

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Constitution requires new legislative and congressional district maps to be drawn following the federal census. The Constitution further requires the maps to be presented to the Governor for approval or veto;

WHEREAS, partisan gerrymandering disenfranchises voters, disproportionately undermines minority populations, and ultimately weakens our democracy by making it difficult to hold elected officials accountable;

WHEREAS, the maps created by 2011 Wisconsin Act 43 are some of the most gerrymandered, extreme maps in the United States;

WHEREAS, it is inevitable that in every redistricting, some voters will be moved from one district to another, but as a result of the maps created by 2011 Wisconsin Act 43, approximately 50 times more voters were moved to new districts than was necessary;

WHEREAS, the maps created by 2011 Wisconsin Act 43 were drafted in secret by private attorneys at taxpayer expense, passed with almost no public input, and resulted in years of litigation, costing taxpayers millions of dollars in legal fees;

WHEREAS, the people of Wisconsin – from Democrats to Independents to Republicans, and people in between and beyond – overwhelmingly reject this approach to redistricting;

WHEREAS, according to a Marquette Law School poll, more than 70 percent of voters prefer redistricting done by a nonpartisan commission;

WHEREAS, 50 of Wisconsin's 72 counties, which contain approximately 78 percent of Wisconsin's population, have passed resolutions or referenda supporting nonpartisan redistricting;

WHEREAS, to prevent partisan gerrymandering, states across the country are looking to these types of committees to assist the state in drawing fair electoral maps;

WHEREAS, to ensure the integrity of the process and the fairness of the maps, Wisconsin must look to the people, not politicians, to assist in drawing maps that fairly and accurately represent our state and its diverse population; and

WHEREAS, for a nonpartisan redistricting commission to be successful, it must rely on nonpartisan experts for guidance and provide a transparent and participatory process.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONY EVERS, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State, specifically Section 14.019 of the Wisconsin Statutes, hereby order the following:

1. There is created the People's Maps Commission (Commission). Commission members may not be elected officials, public officials, lobbyists, or political party officials. Commission membership shall include: members from each of Wisconsin's eight congressional districts; members from communities of interest; and experts in nonpartisan redistricting.
2. The Commission shall hold at least one hearing in each of Wisconsin's eight congressional districts. The hearings shall provide information on the redistricting process and gather testimony and evidence from members of the public.
3. As soon as practicably possible after the 2020 Census data is made available to the State of Wisconsin, the Commission shall prepare proposed maps for the Legislature to consider. The proposed maps shall, whenever possible:
 - a. Be free from partisan bias and partisan advantage;
 - b. Avoid diluting or diminishing minority votes, including through the practices of "packing" or "cracking";
 - c. Be compact and contiguous;
 - d. Avoid splitting wards and municipalities;
 - e. Retain the core population in each district;
 - f. Maintain traditional communities of interest; and
 - g. Prevent voter disenfranchisement.
4. The Commission shall be attached to the Department of Administration.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twenty-seventh day of January in the year of two thousand twenty.



TONY EVERS
Governor

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State