

## **Final Recommendations by the Redistricting Subcommittee for Establishment of a 2021 Redistricting Process**

In 2014, Dane County voters overwhelmingly supported impartial, nonpartisan redistricting as a result of an advisory referendum. In response, the Executive Committee of the Dane County Board of Supervisors approved a motion creating a Dane County Redistricting Subcommittee to make recommendations for the 2021 redistricting process. This committee began its work in the summer of 2015.

The subcommittee met eleven times, held one public hearing, and communicated with the public through the media, email, and the County Board website in order to solicit public input on this topic.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

#### **A. Establishing a Citizen Redistricting Commission**

The committee's draft recommendation is that the county establish an impartial redistricting commission consisting of 9 or 11 citizen members.

Such a commission should include the following in the composition of the citizen members: 1) Non-Madison cities and villages; 2) Towns; 3) City of Madison; 4) Gender diversity; 5) Racial and ethnic diversity; and 6) Geographic diversity.

The subcommittee's recommendations for eligibility criteria for citizen members are:

- a. Must be a Dane County resident
- b. Not a member of the Dane County Board or employed by Dane County, including consultants
- c. Not a registered lobbyist before Dane County
- d. Not in an official position with a partisan organization (nor have been for the past year)
- e. Not a participant in the State of Wisconsin 2011 partisan redistricting process
- f. Must be impartial, which includes refraining from engagement in any political party activity or supporting the election or defeat of any candidate or referendum during their tenure on the commission, and that they will not engage in supporting the election or defeat of any county candidate in the spring primary and general election immediately following redistricting.
- g. Have a basic familiarity with maps
- h. Potential conflicts of interest, including any financial interest coming from Dane County, must be disclosed.

The subcommittee's recommendations for selection of the citizen members of a redistricting commission are as follows:

- 1) The City of Madison, Dane County Towns Association, and Dane County Cities and Villages Association will each submit to the Dane County Board Chair a list of no more and no less than three (3) candidates that meet the eligibility criteria for membership on an impartial citizen redistricting commission. The Dane County Board Chair will select one (1) candidate from each of the submitted lists to serve as a member on an impartial

citizen redistricting commission. The Dane County Board Chair will set a deadline by which the parties must submit their lists of candidates. If the City of Madison, the Dane County Towns Association, or the Dane County Cities and Villages Association does not submit its list of three (3) candidates by the deadline, it will forfeit its opportunity to submit candidates for selection to the commission.

- 2) The Dane County Board Chair will make three (3) or four (4) additional citizen appointments and the Dane County Clerk will also make three (3) or four (4) additional citizen appointments to an impartial citizen redistricting commission after the opportunity to serve has been communicated through a recruitment process which is structured to contact broad and diverse sections of the Dane County electorate. The interested persons shall apply. Applications shall be screened initially by County Board staff to remove any applicants that do not meet the eligibility criteria. The Dane County Board Chair and Dane County Clerk will then make the final appointments of members to an impartial citizen redistricting commission.
- 3) The commission should not include ex-officio county board supervisors. Supervisors will be allowed to participate and provide input to the same extent as input is taken from the public.

In addition its recommendation to establish a citizen redistricting body, the subcommittee has developed recommendations for two sets of possible criteria to be used during redistricting: one set for the *process* of making decisions about redistricting; and another set to be considered when *drawing* the maps.

#### **B. Criteria for Mapping Process**

- i. Independent
- ii. Impartial
- iii. Fair
- iv. Accountable
- v. Transparent
- vi. Timeliness with respect to state statutory process\*
- vii. Public engagement, to include opportunity for public to submit maps, which will be considered by the commission
- viii. Early and ongoing communication with municipal clerks for input throughout the process

#### **C. Criteria for Map Content** \* Required by state or federal law

The commission shall develop a map that divides the county into the number of districts determined by the county board. In the preparation of its plan for dividing the county into districts for the election of county board supervisors, the commission shall apply applicable state and federal law, which shall control in the event of any conflict with the ordinance. The commission shall also apply the criteria set forth in the following paragraphs to the maximum extent practicable and without regard to incumbency. The following criteria shall all be considered, but they shall be given priority in the paragraph order in which they are listed.

- i. Equal population\*
- ii. Contiguity\*
- iii. Compactness\*
- iv. Political boundaries such as cities, villages, towns, school districts, or districts thereof
- v. Racial, ethnic, or language minority representation\* and communities of interest\*
- vi. Geography and natural boundaries, such as rivers, lakes, etc.
- vii. Neighborhoods

**D. Additional Recommendations of the Subcommittee**

- a. The Redistricting Commission should adopt a map drawing process that includes direction on staff chain of command, and that indicates direction to staff should not come from County Board members or any parties not on the redistricting commission.
- b. The issue of core retention of districts should be considered as a potential criterion for map content *after* the 2021 redistricting process is completed, but before the subsequent redistricting process begins.
- c. The Dane County Clerk should develop a schedule for the redistricting process and a suggested timeline and process for public engagement to be adopted and used by the redistricting commission.
- d. The Redistricting Commission should submit at least one but no more than three maps to the Dane County Board for final approval. If none of the maps have enough votes for adoption, the maps should be re-referred to the Redistricting Commission, which should then have the opportunity to amend the maps and resubmit them to the board.
- e. Include, for reference of the commission in relation to public engagement in the map drawing process, materials on the Ohio redistricting competition. (see attachment to these recommendations)