

## DRAFT – PROPOSED REDISTRICTING CRITERIA FOR PUBLIC INPUT

“Redistricting” is the process of redrawing voting maps that occurs once every ten years to reflect changes in population over time. Information from the U.S. Census is used to determine population, and Dane County is then responsible for drawing county board districts.

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. Members of the subcommittee include a member of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, an expert in impartial redistricting, a representative of the Dane County Towns Association, a representative of the Dane County Cities and Villages Association, a member from an action group that represents a minority community, and members of the County Board.

The subcommittee, which has met six times, has developed two sets of possible criteria: one set for the *process* of making decisions about redistricting; and another set to be considered when *drawing* the maps. The subcommittee desires to receive input from the public regarding these criteria, how important or unimportant they are to the public, and whether any additional criteria should be considered. The criteria are as follows:

### **A. Possible Criteria for Mapping Process**

- Independent
- Impartial
- Fair
- Accountable
- Transparent
- Timeliness with respect to state statutory process\*
- Public engagement
- Early and ongoing communication with municipal clerks for input throughout the process

### **B. Possible Criteria for Map Content**

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

\* Required by state or federal law

**Questions for public comment on possible 2021 redistricting criteria**

- 1) What do you think of “A. Possible Criteria for Mapping Process”? Do you agree with these criteria? Are there criteria that are missing?
- 2) What do you think of “B. Possible Criteria for Map Content”? Do you agree with these criteria? Are there criteria that are missing?
- 3) How would you prioritize these criteria? Are any of them more or less important to you?
- 4) Why is the manner in which the voting maps are drawn important to you?
- 5) Is there anything else you would like to tell us to consider as we prepare for the next redistricting process in 2021?

Please submit your comments on the criteria and responses to the above questions at the Dane County Board of Supervisors’ *Speak Up, Dane!* website:

<http://speakupdane.com/>.