

**From:** [Kristin Ford](#)  
**To:** [Elizabeth Bowen](#); [Standing, Brian](#); [Keith Bybee](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Evaluation tools for publicly-submitted redistricting maps  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 11:01:34 AM

---

CAUTION: External Email - Beware of unknown links and attachments. Contact Helpdesk at 266-4440 if unsure

I agree with your statements, Elizabeth.

*Kristin M. Ford*

Division Manager, Research and Legislation  
Idaho Legislative Services Office  
(208) 334-4859

---

**From:** Elizabeth Bowen <EBowen@lso.idaho.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:49 AM  
**To:** Standing, Brian <Standing@countyofdane.com>; Keith Bybee <kbybee@lso.idaho.gov>  
**Cc:** Kristin Ford <kford@lso.idaho.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Evaluation tools for publicly-submitted redistricting maps

Hi Brian!

Keith and Kristin might have more to contribute here than I do, since they've done this before. This is my first redistricting cycle, but I'll tell you what I can.

To my knowledge, Idaho doesn't have a formal grading/evaluation system for maps submitted by the public. (Kristin and Keith can correct me here if I'm wrong.) But my guess is that the Commission will consider and evaluate all publicly-submitted maps according to how well they conform to Idaho's required redistricting criteria, which you can review [here](#). Of those criteria, probably the most important one (besides population) is how effective the map is at avoiding county divisions, since our Supreme Court views county splits very unfavorably (unless they're absolutely necessary, which they are in a few of the more populous counties).

So I guess my best advice is to review any Wisconsin case law on redistricting, see if there are certain criteria that your courts *really* emphasize, and weight those criteria heavily in your evaluation process. ☺

Hope that helps, and good luck!

Elizabeth Bowen  
Principal Legislative Drafting Attorney  
Idaho Legislative Services Office

State Capitol, Rm. W141  
208.334.4851

---

**From:** Standing, Brian <[Standing@countyofdane.com](mailto:Standing@countyofdane.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:27 AM  
**To:** Elizabeth Bowen <[EBowen@lso.idaho.gov](mailto:EBowen@lso.idaho.gov)>; Keith Bybee <[kbybee@lso.idaho.gov](mailto:kbybee@lso.idaho.gov)>  
**Subject:** Evaluation tools for publicly-submitted redistricting maps

Hello,

I'm the lead staff for the [Dane County Redistricting Commission](#), a nonpartisan group appointed to develop supervisory district maps for the Dane County Board of Supervisors in Dane County, Wisconsin. I've been asked to find out how other nonpartisan districting efforts around the country evaluated, graded and ranked maps submitted by the general public. I understand that the Idaho Redistricting Commission will be reviewing publicly-submitted maps.

Does the Idaho Redistricting Commission have any advice, evaluator tools, or grading systems that you use in your review? If so, could you share them with me, so our Commission can review them?

Thanks in advance for any assistance you can provide. Feel free to contact me at this address if I can answer any questions. Feel free, also, to forward this note to anyone else who might be able to help.

Best wishes,

**NOTE: The Dane County Planning & Development Department office is currently closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.** Staff are working remotely and can be reached via email during regular business hours. This is the best way to communicate with our staff. We're also checking voicemail throughout the day, so please don't hesitate to call, and we'll get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

More information and updates can be found on our website: <https://danecountyplanning.com/>

Brian Standing  
Senior Planner  
Dane County Planning & Development  
Room 116, 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 267-4115