COVER MEMO

TO: County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Patrick Thompson, County Administrator
DATE: May 2, 2017
AGENDA ITEM: Resolution to Create a Nonpartisan Procedure for the Preparation of Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Plans

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Currently under the state constitution the legislature is directed to redistrict legislative districts according to the number of inhabitants at its next session following the decennial federal census by the majority party; and at the same intervals, the legislature also reapportions congressional districts pursuant to federal law. Legislative and congressional redistricting plans enacted pursuant to this procedure are used to elect members of the legislature and members of Congress in the fall of the second year following the year of the census.
Resolution No. 20 (2017)
RESOLUTION TO CREATE A NONPARTISAN PROCEDURE FOR THE PREPARATION OF LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLANS

WHEREAS, currently under the state constitution, the legislature is directed to redistrict legislative districts according to the number of inhabitants at its next session following the decennial federal census by the majority party; and at the same intervals, the legislature also reapportions congressional districts pursuant to federal law; and

WHEREAS, legislative and congressional redistricting plans enacted pursuant to this procedure are used to elect members of the legislature and members of Congress in the fall of the second year following the year of the census; and

WHEREAS, historically legislative and congressional plans in Wisconsin have been subject to partisan influence that put the desires of politicians ahead of the electoral prerogative of the people; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 process to draw the maps and fight litigation contesting those maps cost taxpayers nearly $1.9 million; and

WHEREAS, a panel of federal district court judges has ruled that the redistricting that was done in Wisconsin in 2011 was unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, redistricting to achieve partisan gains is improper, whether it is done by Republicans or Democrats.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors insists upon the creation of a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional redistricting plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the process promotes more accountability and transparency and prohibits the consideration of voting patterns, party information, and incumbents' residence information or demographic information in drawing the maps, except as necessary to ensure minority participation as required by the U.S. Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Wisconsin League of Municipalities, all members of the state legislature, and to each Wisconsin County.
# Legal – Fiscal – Administrative Approvals:

**Legal Note:**

**Fiscal Impact:** Policy statement, no fiscal impact on St. Croix County.

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**Scott L. Cox, Corporation Counsel**  
4/14/2017  

**Robert Mittet, Finance Director**  
4/14/2017  

**Patrick Thompson, County Administrator**  
4/14/2017  

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**04/19/17 Administration Committee APPROVED**

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
MOVER: Roy Sjoberg, Chair  
SECONDER: Laurie Bergren, Supervisor  
AYES: Sjoberg, Bergren, Berke, Kiesler, Leibfried

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**Vote Confirmation.**

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**St. Croix County Board of Supervisors Action:**

Roll Call - Vote Requirement – Majority of Supervisors Present

RESULT: ADOPTED [14 TO 3]  
MOVER: Roy Sjoberg, Supervisor  
SECONDER: Scott Nelson, Supervisor  
AYES: Ring, Babbitt, Sjoberg, Nelson, Berke, Ostness, Larson, Hansen, Kiesler, Peterson, Anderson, Achterhof, Leibfried, Peavey  
NAYS: Ryan S. Sicard, Bob Long, Andy Brinkman  
ABSTAIN: Tom Coulter
ABSENT: Laurie Bergren

This Resolution was Adopted by the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors on May 2, 2017

Cindy Campbell, County Clerk