

# Fair Redistricting Maps Town Hall Tips & Suggestions

Most Wisconsin citizens support fairness in our government and democratic institutions. Gerrymandering is destroying fairness in our election process, by creating an *UNFAIR ADVANTAGE* for one political party over the others.

**PURPOSE:** While creating an open and non-partisan process to draw Wisconsin's new voting districts is the goal of the Fair Maps initiative, organizers need to determine the purpose or purposes of the town hall.

- Educating the community
- A resolution by your County Board of Supervisors
- An advisory referendum on a ballot supported and put forth by your County Board of Supervisors
- A resolution by your City Council, Town or Village Trustees
- An advisory referendum on a ballot supported and put forth by your City Council or Town or Village Trustees.

**DATE:** Choose a few dates as you are working to secure a venue and speaker(s) then lock it in.

**TIME:** Consider your audience -- in most communities, weekday evenings work best. In winter months, Saturdays may also work.

**VENUE:** Selecting a venue where all citizens will feel welcome, safe and comfortable must be considered.

- Consider the number of citizens you hope to attend and the building's accessibility and safety (parking, wheelchair accessible, appropriate lighting, etc):
  - Library Meeting Rooms
  - Town Halls where available
  - Churches
  - Senior Centers
- Is WiFi available?
- Is a projector and screen available?
- Is a podium and microphone available? A second microphone from which the audience can ask questions should also be considered.

## **SPEAKER OR SPEAKERS**

- Consider inviting a [Fair Maps speaker](#) along with a speaker to address another timely issue. This may increase your draw. *Healthcare, Infrastructure, Environment, Water Quality, Farming Issues, Money and Influence in Politics*
- Be sure to request speaker bios to promote the Town Hall (media invitations) and to be prepared for their introduction at the event
- Plan for a podium and microphone and head table and chairs if more than one speaker. Ask if your speaker requires Wifi and audiovisual equipment (projector/screen).

## INVITING ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Send an email invitation to:
  - all County Board Supervisors
  - all Mayor and Village Presidents
  - all City Alders, Town and Village Trustees
  - your State Senator
  - all State Assembly representatives for your county
- At the Town Hall be sure to ask if there are any elected officials in attendance and ask that they stand. Thank them for attending.
- Create a list of all Elected Officials that have been invited and display it on a table. Announce that all elected officials have been invited. Point out where the invitation list is located for attendees to review. If an elected official responds that they were unable to attend, announce that as well.

## INVITE THE MEDIA

### CO-SPONSERS

- Invite other grassroots organizations co-sponsor and promote your Town Hall with email blasts and on social media.
- Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, Fair Elections Project, Common Cause are always willing to co-sponsor and provide speakers, as well as suggest local co-sponsors.
- Here are two sources with lists of local action networks interested in political reforms: [Wisconsin Grassroots Network](#) and [Indivisible local groups](#)

### YARD SIGNS & POSTCARDS

- Contact [Wisconsin Fair Elections Project](#) to get information on obtaining Fair Maps [lawn signs](#). Yard signs are ordered in bundles only (minimum 25 for \$100); postcards are free. **They are available for pickup in Milwaukee.** In some cases, volunteers can work with you to get them to you.

## ASSIGN MEMBERS OF YOUR GROUP TO BRING REFRESHMENTS & MAKE A FEW LEGIBLE SIGNS TO DIRECT ATTENDEES

- Cookies and water are simple and go over big!

### DAY OF THE EVENT

- Set up clearly marked sign-in & refreshment tables
- Assign a few members of your group to greet and direct attendees to the room
- Sign-in table should ask for Name, Address, Phone & Email
- Ask if they will **sign the petition**: “[End Gerrymandering—Wisconsin Deserves Fair Voting Maps!](#)” (Download a pdf [here](#).)
- Assign a member of your group to open the Town Hall and introduce your speakers.
  - After the speakers have completed their presentation have a member of your group present the “**ASK.**” (There is an example of an “ASK” in the [Toolkit](#).)
  - You will want to include instructions on how attendees can reach their County Board Supervisor, City Council Members or Village Trustees depending on your goal.