

RESOLUTION NO.: 14—2017-18

TO THE HONORABLE, THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MAJORITY

1 Pursuant to Article VI, Section 3 of the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin
2 Legislature is directed to redistrict legislative districts “according to the number of
3 inhabitants” at its next session following the decennial federal census. The legislature
4 also reapportions congressional districts pursuant to federal law.
5

6 State and federal legislative redistricting is controlled by the majority party at the time of
7 the redistricting, legislative and congressional plans in Wisconsin have been subject to
8 partisan influence that puts the desires of politicians ahead of the electoral prerogative of
9 the people. Redistricting to achieve partisan gains is improper, whether it is done by
10 Republicans or democrats.
11

12 A panel of federal district court judges has ruled that the redistricting done in Wisconsin
13 in 2011 was unconstitutional. Legal costs in defense of the 2011 redistricting has already
14 cost taxpayers in excess of \$2.1 million, with the litigation still ongoing.
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16 The state and congressional districts belong to the citizens of Wisconsin and not to any
17 legislator, interest group or political party. The redistricting process should not be a tool
18 used by those in power to protect and bolster their power, but should be designed with the
19 best interest of Wisconsin’s democracy and its citizens.
20

21 Wisconsin’s historical practice of redistricting by the majority party in each legislative
22 chamber is an outdated practice that stifles political competition, discourages
23 compromise, ensures continued control by the party in power, and lacks the transparency
24 necessary to reinforce citizen’s faith in the democratic process.
25

26 There is a critical need at this time to restore trust, compromise and fair competition to
27 Wisconsin politics.
28

29 NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the Legislative/Audit & Human Resources
30 Committee recommend adoption of the following resolution.

31 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors does call upon the State
32 Legislature, before the start of the next redistricting process following the 2020 federal census, to pass
33 legislation that creates a fair, nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional
34 redistricting plans, that promotes more accountability and transparency, prohibits the consideration of
35 voting patterns, party information, and incumbents’ residence information or demographic information

1 in drawing the maps, except as necessary to ensure minority participation as required by the U.S.
2 Constitution, and

3 BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors
4 advocates for an amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution giving the responsibility of legislative
5 redistricting to a nonpartisan commission, and

6 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Clerk be directed to forward a copy
7 of this resolution to the Outagamie County Executive, all Wisconsin counties, and the Outagamie
8 County Lobbyist for distribution to the Governor and the Legislature.

9 Dated this 23rd day of May 2017

10 Respectfully Submitted,

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13 LEGISLATIVE/AUDIT &
14 HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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16 Resolution No. 14—2017-18 – Legislative/Audit & Human Resources Committee. Call for the
17 creation of a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional
18 redistricting plans as noted in the resolution.
19

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23 Supervisor Grady moved, seconded by Supervisor Patience, for adoption.
24

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26 ROLL CALL: 33 aye, 1 nay, 2 absent. RESOLUTION NO. 14—2017-18 IS ADOPTED.
27

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30 Duly and officially adopted by the County Board on: _____

31
32 Signed: _____
33 Board Chairperson County Clerk

34
35 Approved: _____ Vetoed: _____

36
37 Signed: _____
38 County Executive