



REP. HESSELBEIN PUSHES LEGISLATION TO FIX HIGHLY PARTISAN REDISTRICTING PROCESS

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Today State Representative Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton) and her newly-elected class of 2012 legislative colleagues announced new legislation that would remove the redistricting authority from politicians' hands assigning the duties to the non-partisan Legislative Reference Bureau.

"Wisconsin cannot afford the almost \$2 million we faced in the last redistricting debacle," states Hesselbein. "We are seven years away from the next remapping effort. Now's the time to make the change before leadership becomes too entrenched to make a move."

With over one-half of the members in the State Assembly elected in either 2012 or 2010, Hesselbein believes the conditions are perfect to look at the best way to protect the voters from predetermined, partisan boundaries. The proposed bill is based on the highly successful Iowa model that makes use of a legislative service agency to draw the maps according to constitutional population and boundary requirements, and then an appointed five-member advisory commission would usher the bill through the legislative process. The commission could not include individuals who hold partisan public or political party office and would be required to hold at least three statewide public hearings.

Hesselbein continues, "Iowa has successfully produced three decades of evenly-divided legislative and congressional districts in this manner. Wisconsin's last redistricting was the most egregious abuse of power that we have ever seen here."

"Let's stop the secrecy oaths and hammering of hard drives. That's not a tool in any party's toolbox. We must make sure this doesn't happen again. We can and should end this senseless cycle," concludes Hesselbein.

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