To: Senate Committee on Judiciary, Utilities, Commerce, and Government Relations
Assembly Committee on Homeland Security and State Affairs

From: Dan Thompson, Executive Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities
Mark O'Connell, Executive Director, Wisconsin Counties Association

Date: July 13, 2011

Re: SB 150, Modifying the Local Redistricting Process

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities and the Wisconsin Counties Association offer the following comments on SB 150 for information purposes only. Our member counties and municipalities have been working together on the local redistricting process since early spring. We are concerned about the speed in which SB 150 is advancing through the legislative process. We are also concerned about SB 150 retroactively changing the timing and reversing the order of the redistricting process after local governments have already spent much time, resources, and money on establishing municipal wards and using those wards to form election districts. Passage of SB 150 will result in much of that work being wasted.

SB 150 requires municipal ward plans, and the aldermanic and supervisory districts upon which they are based, to reflect municipal boundaries on April 1 of the year of each federal decennial census. Under current law, ward plans must reflect municipal boundaries on August 1 of the year following the year of the decennial census. This change would apply retroactively to ward plans and aldermanic and supervisory districts created or in the process of being created in response to the 2010 census.

The bill also amends the laws governing municipal ward division to ensure that if municipal wards do not accommodate a congressional or legislative redistricting plan on its date of enactment, the municipalities must change their wards.

Redistricting has been a bottom up process with local governments finishing their maps first and then state and federal district boundaries drawn to keep wards intact. One important reason for this order of events is that wards must be compact and observe the community of interest of existing neighborhoods. Wards must also take into account the county supervisory district plan. Only municipalities and counties working together can construct wards meeting those and other standards spelled out in state law.

We urge the Legislature to proceed cautiously and slowly with regard to SB 150. Take time to gain a better understanding of the bill's full ramifications for local governments and voters, and make adjustments to the bill where advisable.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN EDUCATION FUND

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Madison, WI 53703
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Phone: (608) 256-0827
lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org

July 13, 2011

To: Assembly Committee on Homeland Security and State Affairs
Senate Committee on Judiciary, Utilities, Commerce and Government Operations

From: Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund

Re: Opposition to SB148, SB149 and SB150

Each decade the new census data are used to draw up new voting districts to equitably distribute political representation as our population changes. In Wisconsin this task is delegated to the state legislature, which time and again has proven it is unable to complete the task at a reasonable cost and free from private interest and partisan manipulation. Ever concerned with equal representation and electoral integrity, the League of Women Voters regularly devotes much attention to reapportionment and redistricting. As a nonpartisan citizen organization, the League represents no special interest but the general well-being and political representation of the people of the State of Wisconsin.

As in decades past, state and local League activities in Wisconsin in the past 18 months have included monitoring the redistricting process, testifying before local redistricting bodies, supporting reform legislation, sponsoring public forums around the state, and working with other groups to shine a light on the redistricting process. There are League members serving on county redistricting committees, and two League members recently filed a petition in Brown County Circuit Court with a plan to maintain the county's supervisory districts at 26 rather than increase that number by 3 districts.

At the state level, the League has advocated since 1981 to have a nonpartisan or bipartisan entity draw new congressional and legislative district maps, starting with proposals crafted by local governments.

What is being proposed in the bills before us today is not simply a matter of flouting some of the technicalities in our laws and traditions. Rather, these proposals turn our state's process of governing into a charade and weaken its foundation. The strength of our form of government stems from the people believing that their elected representatives have the public's interest at heart, not personal interests. These proposals defy that principle.

More specifically, we offer the following comments about the proposals addressed in today's hearing:

1. The process and timing outlined in these bills show no respect for the local government officials and citizens who have been working for weeks to develop local redistricting plans. Traditionally, and by law, they are allowed to develop local district maps before the state legislature weighs in. Yet SB148 and SB149 propose specific district maps and simply state that if the local district lines are not consistent with those of the state, the local governments will have to adapt at their own expense. These bills change the rules midstream and are an affront to the people who know their communities the best.
2. The League does not believe for a minute that it is a coincidence that these maps were released on the Friday afternoon before the first of a series of recall elections. As if it is not bad enough that voters and local officials had to adapt in a few short weeks to a restrictive new election law, now the sponsors of

these bills are turning the traditionally grassroots redistricting process upside-down with a top-down, big-government proposal in the midst of the recall elections. The shameful result – and we believe the purpose – is to further confuse voters and suppress participation in the elections.

3. Wisconsin's elections over the past 15 years have shown our state to be evenly divided politically. Most Wisconsinites are independent voters. Any redistricting map should reflect the *tenor* of the state, not the *tenure* of current elected officials. The goal should be to provide the best possible representation for citizens, who by the way are tired of elected officials who are so polarized they cannot work together without spurring multiple recall elections.
4. We urge you not to rush this once-a-decade process for the sake of partisan gain. Properly noticed public hearings at all levels around the state, open meetings and full transparency are essential so that citizens can participate and have faith in the outcome. In addition, citizens should have time to consider alternative maps, developed by nonpartisan groups, which offer legitimately drawn districts that preserve compactness, contiguity, communities of interest, substantial equality of population and, last but not least, greater competitiveness.

Lest you think that the League of Women Voters is criticizing the proposed plan because of partisan preference, I assure you that for decades we have advocated to place the redistricting process in the hands of a nonpartisan entity. We have in our office a 1989 letter from then Assembly Majority Leader Dave Travis who assailed the League for being "pro-Republican." At least in the past, redistricting has been carried out with a divided legislature, which resulted in a modicum of balance. The fact is that while control of the legislature has changed, our position has not.

The need for nonpartisan redistricting is only made more obvious by the poorly-timed introduction of the clearly gerrymandered districts in SB148 and SB149. We urge you to reject these proposals and make this year's redistricting process one you can be proud to tell your grandchildren about in the future.

Thank you.

CITY OF MILWAUKEE

TOM BARRETT
Mayor

WILLIE L. HINES, JR.
15th District Alderman
Common Council President

ASHANTI HAMILTON
1st District Alderman

JOE DAVIS, SR.
2nd District Alderman

NIK KOVAC
3rd District Alderman

ROBERT J. BAUMAN
4th District Alderman

JAMES A. BOHL, JR.
5th District Alderman

MILELE A. COGGS
6th District Alderwoman

WILLIE C. WADE
7th District Alderman

ROBERT G. DONOVAN
8th District Alderman

ROBERT W. PUENTE
9th District Alderman

MICHAEL J. MURPHY
10th District Alderman

JOSEPH A. DUDZIK
11th District Alderman

JAMES N. WITKOWIAK
12th District Alderman

TERRY L. WITKOWSKI
13th District Alderman

TONY ZIELINSKI
14th District Alderman

July 13, 2011

Assembly Committee on Homeland Security & State Affairs
Senate Committee on Judiciary, Utilities, Commerce & State Operations
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Members:

Due to the short notice of this public hearing, we were unable to change previous commitments and appear before you in person. That being stated, we believe that Senate Bill 150 has profound and negative impacts on local governments and the redistricting process we have followed since 1971.

We oppose the proposed changes to the current state law.

As prescribed by state statute since 1971, the City of Milwaukee began its redistricting process in February, 2011 **and completed that process Friday, July 8, 2011.** During that process the city held four public hearings, participated in three public listening sessions, held two full-day public workshops for citizens to produce their own maps, and conducted countless informal briefings to individuals and interested citizen groups. The city cost of the dedicated labor hours and administrative expense total over $40,000. Passage of Senate Bill 150 would cost the city an additional $10,000 or more to make the retroactive changes mandated after the process by the state negating local authority to establish its boundaries.

Senate Bill 150 negates months of work, outright dismisses our open and transparent public hearing process, and wastes our taxpayer dollars. While the city has had little time for an in-depth analysis of the state's legislative district lines and the impacts it will have on communities of interests and our neighborhoods, we have identified widespread ward splitting that will force the Common Council and Mayor to initiate a second redistricting process – only a few short weeks after we completed a legal and comprehensive ward and aldermanic district mapping process.

The proposed legislative districts fail to incorporate the city's ward lines and therefore split 17% of all City of Milwaukee wards [55 wards] and mandate the

City of Milwaukee to redraw the boundaries of nine aldermanic districts. Please see attached map.

By excluding local governments and ignoring natural boundaries and local factors that bind communities of interest, you have arrogantly mandated artificial ward lines without regard to local concerns. You have intentionally done this in order to gain extreme partisan advantage at the expense of equal and fair representation.

Current law properly ensures that local governments – the unit of government that is closest to its electors - have a strong voice in the redistricting process. The very fact that you need to pass a new state law that allows you to circumvent a process that has been in place since 1971 displays your raw intentions to grab more partisan advantage at the expense of local input.

Furthermore, voters in up to six Milwaukee County Assembly seats will significantly lose their influence in choosing who represents them to voters outside of Milwaukee County. For the largest county in Wisconsin and, the economic engine for the entire state, that is a significant loss of representation.

Senate Bill 150 is a power grab that allows this to occur without the proper public disclosure, debate and discourse that was followed in the City of Milwaukee.

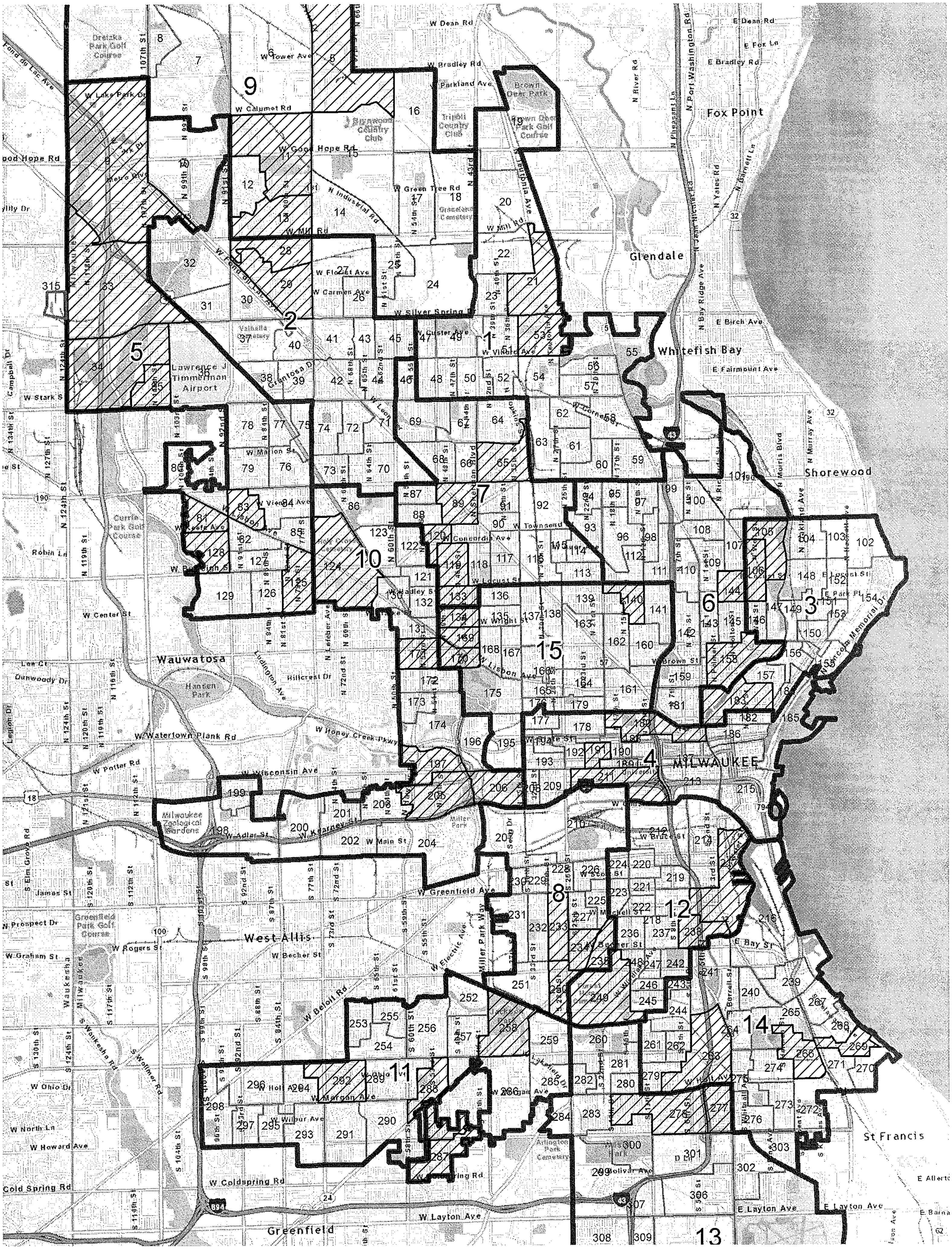
The people of Wisconsin do not want a strong, central, State Government. Yet, that is what the Senate and Assembly leadership are forcing on the residents of our great State.

Today we call on you to slow this process down. You must hold more public hearings, allow more citizen participation and provide opportunities for the submission of alternative maps that will be seriously considered. And, you must respect the work being done by local units of government. No legislative vote should be taken until these provisions are fulfilled.

Respectfully,

Tom Barrett
Mayor

Ashanti Hamilton
Chair, Judiciary and Legislation Committee



Fox Point
Glendale
Whitefish Bay
Shorewood
Wauwatosa
MILWAUKEE
West Allis
St Francis
Greenfield
Brown Deer Park
Lawrence J Timmerman Airport
Milwaukee Zoological Gardens
Miller Park
Hansen Park
Currie Park Golf Course
Greenfield Park Golf Course
Arlington Park Cemetery
W Dean Rd
W Tower Ave
W Bradley Rd
W Calumet Rd
W Good Hope Rd
W Mill Rd
W Silver Spring Dr
W Center St
W Wisconsin Ave
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W Lincoln Ave
W Oklahoma Ave
W Layton Ave
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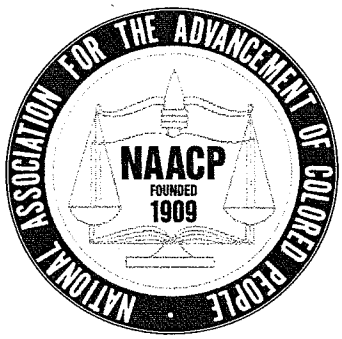


STATEMENT OF WENDELL HARRIS ON BEHALF OF MILWAUKEE BRANCH OF THE NAACP AND THE NAACP STATE CONFERENCE OF BRANCHES
Wednesday, July 13, 2011
Before the Senate Judiciary Committee and
the Assembly Homeland Security Committee

Good morning. My name is Wendell Harris, and I am a long-standing member and former Vice President of the Milwaukee Branch NAACP. I am the current chairperson of the Education Committee for the Wisconsin NAACP State Conference of Branches. I have been asked to speak today on behalf of the Milwaukee Branch and the State Conference, Presidents James Hall and Thomas White, respectively.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's longest-standing civil rights organization. The NAACP was instrumental in the struggle to outlaw legal segregation in the United States. Our stated mission is to ensure the political, educational, social, economic equality and rights of all persons, and to eliminate racial hatred and discrimination. Perhaps our most important focus has been to ensure the right to vote for African-American citizens -- including the right to make our votes count in a meaningful manner.

The NAACP helped secure the passage of the historic Voting Rights Act of 1965, and its extensions in '70, '75, '82, and most recently in 2007. The NAACP and its branches have

litigated hundreds of voting rights cases under the U.S. Constitution and later, the Voting Rights Act to guarantee those rights for all African Americans. We fought to outlaw electoral devices and schemes which deny, abridge, suppress, or dilute the rights to vote. Our State's NAACP Branches have likewise fought to ensure meaningful representation of the votes of all African-Americans in the State of Wisconsin.

As African-American voters, when it comes to drawing electoral districts, we see our right to vote in two ways. First, we fight to ensure that in districts that include large concentrations of African Americans, the lines are drawn which permit us to elect the candidates that best represent our issues and concerns. As such, we have the right to have electoral districts that do not dilute our vote. Second, in those electoral districts and geographic areas where we do not constitute the majority, we also have the right to INFLUENCE the election of candidates who acknowledge that our issues and concerns matter and will be included in the decision making processes.. It is in this situation – the right to influence the outcome of elections -- that the Republican redistricting plan disenfranchises thousands of African American voters, primarily in Southeastern Wisconsin.

The Republican redistricting plan does this by packing all African-American voters into single districts-- for the sole purpose of removing influential African-American voters from otherwise white-majority districts in which we could have an influence on the outcome of the election. As you know, the Republican redistricting plan

- Removes African-American voters residing in District 8 – currently represented by Sen. Darling – and packs us into the largely African-American district currently represented by Sen. Taylor.

- It also removes African-American voters currently represented by Sen. Vukmir in District 5, and packs those voters into the largely African-American district currently represented by Sen. Coggs in District 6.
- Equally pernicious is the packing of all African-American voters living in Racine and Kenosha – currently represented by Senators Wangaard and Wirch – into a single senate district, eliminating the ability of those African-American voters to have an influence over the two Senate districts.

Under the Republican redistricting plan, African-American voters have now lost the ability to influence the outcome in 3 Senate districts in southeastern Wisconsin.

A final point regarding process: The drawing of such lines requires the collective input of many groups and individuals. Like millions of other Wisconsin voters, we in the NAACP did not learn until this week exactly how this proposed Republican redistricting plan would impact voters. We are appalled that Republican leadership intended to fast-track this process right past the local redistricting planning processes that are currently underway in our cities and counties, even to the point that this redistricting plan will even run roughshod over existing ward lines.

By carving up numerous wards into multiple legislative districts, the legislature will make the administration of our elections confusing and potentially an administrative nightmare. This affront to the democratic process – both on the state and local level -- must be changed so that all citizens are afforded a meaningful opportunity to examine, debate, and provide input on how our legislative district lines will eventually be drawn. Thank you.

HISPANICS FOR LEADERSHIP

Good Morning,

My name is Zeus Rodriguez, I live in Milwaukee County. I am here as a liaison for a coalition of individual Hispanic business owners, educators and community advocates. We do not speak on behalf of the entire Hispanic community, but our group of Wisconsin residents are both politically active and concerned with the governing process.

I personally wish that there was more time given to this process. In my efforts to engage the Hispanic Community, it was difficult to educate so many people in such a short period of time. As a result, we are only going to speak and endorse the new state map as it pertains to the 3rd Senate district and only the 3rd Senate district. As you know that this district is at the heart of the Latino community in Wisconsin and it is imperative that proper political representation is achieved there.

That being said, despite the quick nature of this process, the lines that were drawn in the 3rd district seems to have been done with the careful intention of giving the Hispanic community of Milwaukee full political representation and we support the 2nd Amendment to the plan. 60% HVAP in District 8 and a 54% HVAP in District 9, as well as the original proposal of a 40% HVAP for the 3rd Senate District.
UNLESS THE LATTER STATISTIC CAN BE IMPROVED.
– A HIGHER HVAP IN THE 3rd SENATE DISTRICT.

HISPANICS FOR LEADERSHIP

The following is a bipartisan list of individual Hispanic Business owners, Educators and Community Advocates who are in support of a 60% HVAP 8th District and 54% HVAP 9th District as well as the 40% HVAP currently proposed for the 3rd Senate District.

Teresa C. Mercado, Executive Director, Mexican Fiesta
Daisy Cubias, City of Milwaukee - Retired
Ernesto Villareal, El Rey Food Stores- Founder/Owner
Ramon Cruz, St. Anthony School - Principal
Victor Huyke, El Conquistador - Owner/Publisher
Raul Huertas, Hispanic Entrepreneurs of Wisconsin - President
Julio Maldonado, Hispanic Entrepreneurs of Wisconsin - Vice President
Gregorio Montoto, Mexican Fiesta - Vice President
Martha Manske, Hispanic Entrepreneurs of Wisconsin
Anselmo Villarreal, La Casa de Esperanza - President/CEO
Zeus Rodriguez, Hispanics for School Choice - President
Juan M. Carrasquillo, Director - Administrative Services We Energies
Jose Delgado, American Transmission Company, LLC Chairman - President/CEO - Retired
Aaron Rodriguez, El Conquistador - Columnist
Ivan Gamboa, Tri-City National Bank - Vice President
Karla Huerta, representing LULAC Council 322, Milwaukee
Jose Zarate, Owner of La Fuente Restaurant
Bill Sandoval, Vice President of the Wisconsin Soccer Association
Luis Barboza, Architect, Milwaukee
Ernesto Baca, UMOS
Abel Ortiz, SER (Service employment redevelopment)
Ruben Burgos, Lieutenant, MPD and president of LPOA (Latino Police Officers Association)
Valdemar Escobar, Owner of Fiesta Garibaldi restaurants
Dr. Artudo Martinez, Associate Dean MATC representing LULAC Council 319 Milwaukee

Other Wisconsin residents who have supported our efforts but have not had a chance to consider the new 3rd Senate District and haven't endorsed it at this time.

Agustin A. Ramirez, HUSCO International - Chairman/CEO
Dagoberto Ibarra, Latinos United for Political Action - President
Francisco Sanchez, Hispanic Entrepreneurs of Wisconsin
Philipe Castro, Hispanic Entrepreneurs of Wisconsin
Professor Javier Tapia, UWM Professor - Hispanic Studies
Robert Serrano, Martial Arts America - President
Dr. Gerardo Caballero MD, General Surgeon - Milwaukee
Rev. Javier Bustos, Sacred Heart School of Theology, MA Program, Director
Ricardo Trinidad, Telecom & Data Inc. - CEO

wisconsin DEMOCRACY campaign

210 N. Bassett St., Suite 215 / Madison, WI 53703 / 608 255-4260 / www.wisdc.org

Testimony of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign

Joint Public Hearing on Redistricting
Assembly Committee on Homeland Security and State Affairs
Senate Committee on Judiciary, Utilities, Commerce and Government Operations

July 13, 2011

In a democracy voters are supposed to choose their representatives, not the other way around. The redistricting plans that are the subject of this hearing are a disgusting affront to this bedrock principle of democracy. The plans for new congressional and state legislative districts that were drawn at great expense to taxpayers but yet kept secret until last Friday afternoon are a Republican gerrymander, pure and simple.

The mere fact that we are here today instead of weeks or even months from now as would have been customary – caused by the majority's decision to jump the gun on state legislative redistricting – is a disgusting affront to local control.

The Wisconsin legislature is, by law, barred from drawing legislative district lines until after local governments have drawn lines for aldermanic and county board districts. There is a reason for this law. It ensures that legislative districts are respectful of local boundaries. That way, communities are not sliced up for partisan purposes and citizens with shared history and shared needs living in close proximity to one another can be grouped in districts designed to make sure their interests are represented.

The redistricting plan you are considering ignores longstanding practice and changes the law to accommodate early state redistricting. There is only one conceivable reason for doing so, and that is to complete legislative redistricting before recall elections in the coming weeks that could shift control of the senate to the Democrats. This politically inspired maneuver is unprecedented in our state's history. Hundreds of hours of work already done by local government officials around the state will have been a waste of time, as they will be forced to start their work over. This will end up costing local taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is not lost on anyone that this waste of taxpayer money to advance purely partisan political aims comes at a time when Wisconsinites have been told repeatedly that the state is broke.

Yesterday we put forward citizen-designed maps of new state assembly and senate districts in response to the gerrymandered redistricting plan you are considering. Our plan creates a large number of toss-up districts that could be won by either Republicans or Democrats. Based on how Wisconsin voters cast

their ballots in 2008 – a strong Democratic year – and 2010 – a strong Republican year, 80 of the 132 assembly and senate districts under our plan have partisan splits of 10 percentage points or less.

That is impressive considering that over the last decade, the largest number of competitive legislative elections Wisconsin has seen is 29, and there have been as few as 10 races decided by 10 percentage points or less. When districts are drawn to account for population changes without deliberately trying to create Democratic or Republican districts, the result will be greater electoral competition and more leverage for voters, yielding improved representation.

The maps we've drawn provide an inkling of what would happen if redistricting were turned over to a nonpartisan authority as proposed in Assembly Bill 198.

One telltale sign that the redistricting plan under consideration today was drawn to gain political advantage for Republicans who control both houses is the fact that several Democratic candidates running in the senate recall elections this summer are drawn out of the districts they may be elected to represent. It is not necessary to draw candidates like Fred Clark, Nancy Nusbaum and Bob Wirch out of their districts. Districts can easily be drawn that account for population changes without pulling such stunts.

The plan you are considering also unnecessarily splits communities like the city of Sheboygan, while our plan does not. You need to have a really good reason to divide a community. Sometimes it's unavoidable. In Sheboygan's case, it was not difficult to draw districts that kept the city intact. The only reason for splitting it is a crassly political one.

Another example can be found in the southeastern corner of the state. Our plan keeps separate senate districts for Racine and Kenosha counties, while the plan you have before you gerrymanders the region for political purposes, merging the cities of Kenosha and Racine into one district and the outlying areas of Racine and Kenosha counties into another.

This not only gains Republicans some political advantage in that area of the state, but even more importantly it disadvantages voters by greatly diminishing electoral competitiveness there. The way you have drawn the lines, we won't see a district anymore like the one once represented by Republican George Petak, who was defeated by Democrat Kim Plache, who voters then replaced with Republican Cathy Stepp, who in turn was succeeded by Democrat John Lehman who eventually was defeated by Republican Van Wanggaard.

These are just a few illustrations of the blatantly political nature of your redistricting plan that stuck out like sore thumbs. Many others were readily apparent to us. And if members of the public were given sufficient time to carefully review your proposed plan, many more such examples undoubtedly would be found.

What you are fixing to do is nothing but a power grab and one that will dishonor Wisconsin. Holding hearings without any intention of listening disgraces our state too. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Wisconsin Democracy Campaign
Alternative Wisconsin Senate Redistricting Map

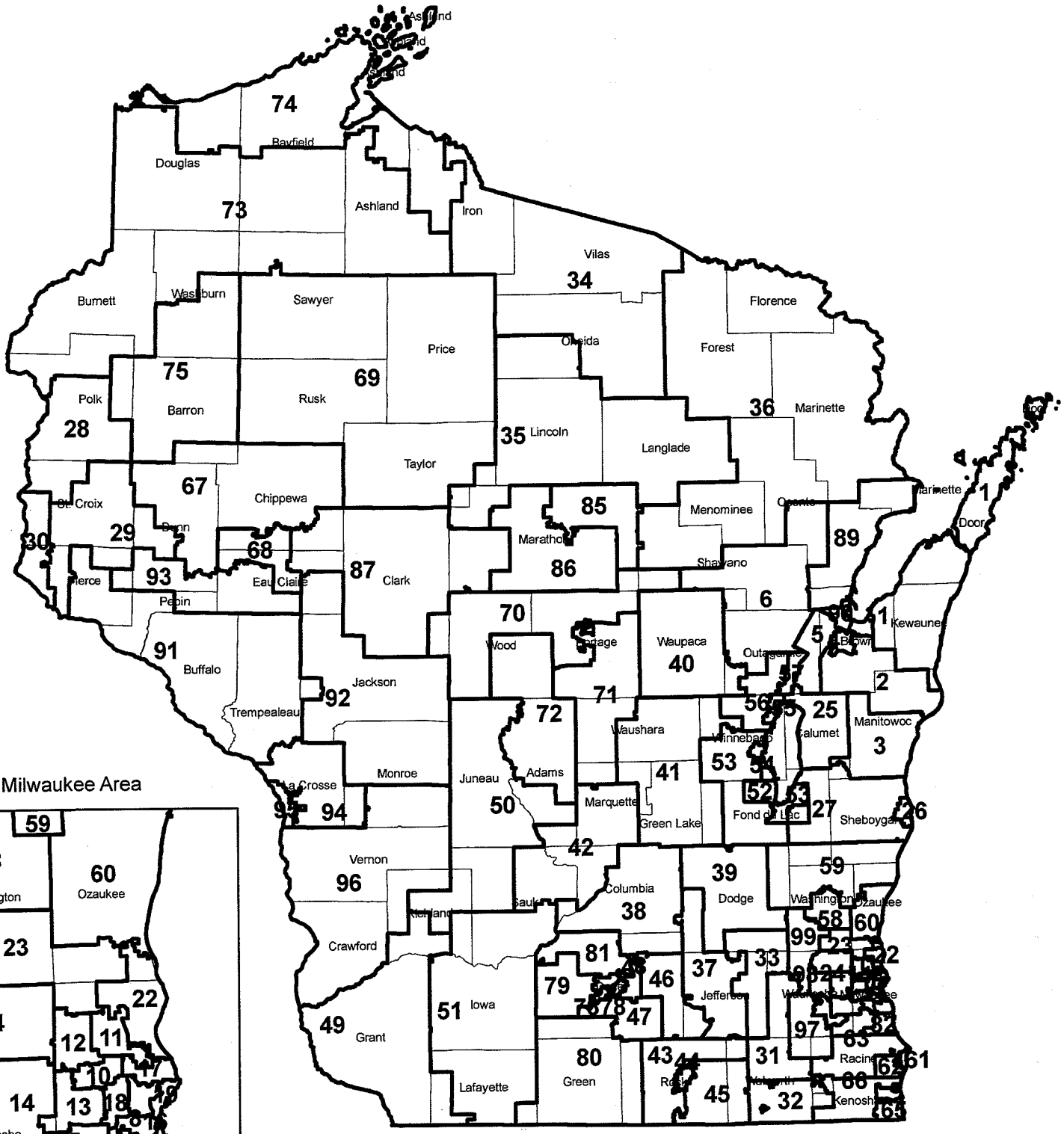
Douglas
Bayfield
Ashland
Iron
25
Vilas
Burnett
Washburn
Sawyer
Price
Oneida
Forest
Florence
23
Rusk
12
Polk
Barron
Marinette
Lincoln
Langlade
Taylor
10
St. Croix
Chippewa
Menominee
Oconto
Marinette
1
Door
Dunn
Marathon
29
Clark
Shawano
30
Pierce
Eau Claire
Pepin
2
Kewaunee
Wood
Portage
Waupaca
Brown
31
Outagamie
Buffalo
Jackson
24
19
1
Trempealeau
Waushara
Winnebago
Calumet
Manitowoc
14
Monroe
Juneau
Adams
La Crosse
18
Marquette
9
Fond du Lac
Green Lake
Sheboygan
Vernon
32
20
Columbia
Dodge
Washington
Ozaukee
Richland
Sauk
13
Crawford
17
8
26
Dane
34
16
Jefferson
Waukesha
Milwaukee
Iowa
28
37
Grant
11
33
27
Racine
Lafayette
Green
Rock
Walworth
21
Kenosha
15
22

Milwaukee Area

20
Washington
Ozaukee
33
8
4
6
33
5
Waukesha
Milwaukee
3
28
7
33
21
Racine

wisconsin DEMOCRACY campaign

Wisconsin Democracy Campaign
Alternative Wisconsin Assembly Redistricting Map



wisconsin DEMOCRACY campaign

Doug Mering
Group Representing – Individual Voter
1605 Kieth Street
Baraboo, WI 54913
Ph 1-608-434-7968

July 13, 2011

Subject: Testimony on redistricting LRB 2265/2, 2266/1 and 2296/1

I am Doug Mering from Baraboo and I am representing myself and hopefully many other moderate voters of this state who are feeling more and more disenfranchised by the political atmosphere in the state of Wisconsin. I am just as competitive as the next person but Wisconsin's designation as the most polarized political state in the United States is not something that I and many other Wisconsinites are proud of.

In the past I have voted for both Democrats and Republicans and never have voted by just the party label but have always looked at who is the best person to advance and move Wisconsin Forward. It is unfortunate that this redistricting plan which is setup in a partisan fashion will further alienate the voters of this state. It is a disservice to the people of this state where districts such as the ones outlined in this plan create these Supersafe zones for both Democrats and Republicans alike. Because of these Supersafe zones we will have politicians who will unfortunately not be truly beholden to their constituents' needs but will do what they please because it will be next to impossible to be voted out of office.

Wisconsinites have elected you to represent the best interests of the state and in this case the voters of the state. That means doing something odd in Madison which is to reach across the aisle and work with the other party. We cannot keep getting beaten out by Iowa who has a great nonpartisan redistricting process and expect positive governance outcomes for its citizens. It is my hope that you as our legislative leaders will reject Senate Bills LRB 2265/2, 2266/1 and 2296/1 and adopt Assembly Bill 198 which is a nonpartisan process that is fair, makes sense and is in the best interest of the voters of Wisconsin.

CITY OF FITCHBURG

Office of the Mayor

5520 Lacy Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711-5318

Phone: (608) 270-4200 ■ Fax: (608) 270-4212

www.city.fitchburg.wi.us

TO: Wisconsin State Lawmakers
FROM: Mayor Shawn Pfaff
DATE: July 13, 2011
SUBJECT: LRB – 2296 Amendment

The City of Fitchburg, with a diverse population of 25,260 persons and located within three school districts, is requesting that the Legislature consider amending the proposed Redistricting Bill LRB-2296 to allow communities with multiple school districts to be able to create wards with a minimum population of 300.

The City, over the past two months, has been diligently reviewing different ward boundary scenarios that take into account minority representation (35% of the City population is minority), school district boundaries (Verona, Oregon, and Madison Metropolitan), similar neighborhood interests and future development areas. The example that the City Ad-Hoc Redistricting Committee presented to the Common Council last night takes into account all of these goals, in addition to creating two out of four Aldermanic Districts where minority representation would be the majority.

The proposed Legislative Boundary Map, which splits the City of Fitchburg into two State Senate and State Assembly districts, alters the City's proposed Ward Map drastically. The City will now be disadvantaged in trying to create wards that are split between the two county supervisory districts, three school districts and two legislative districts.

Proposed State Senate Boundary

Legend

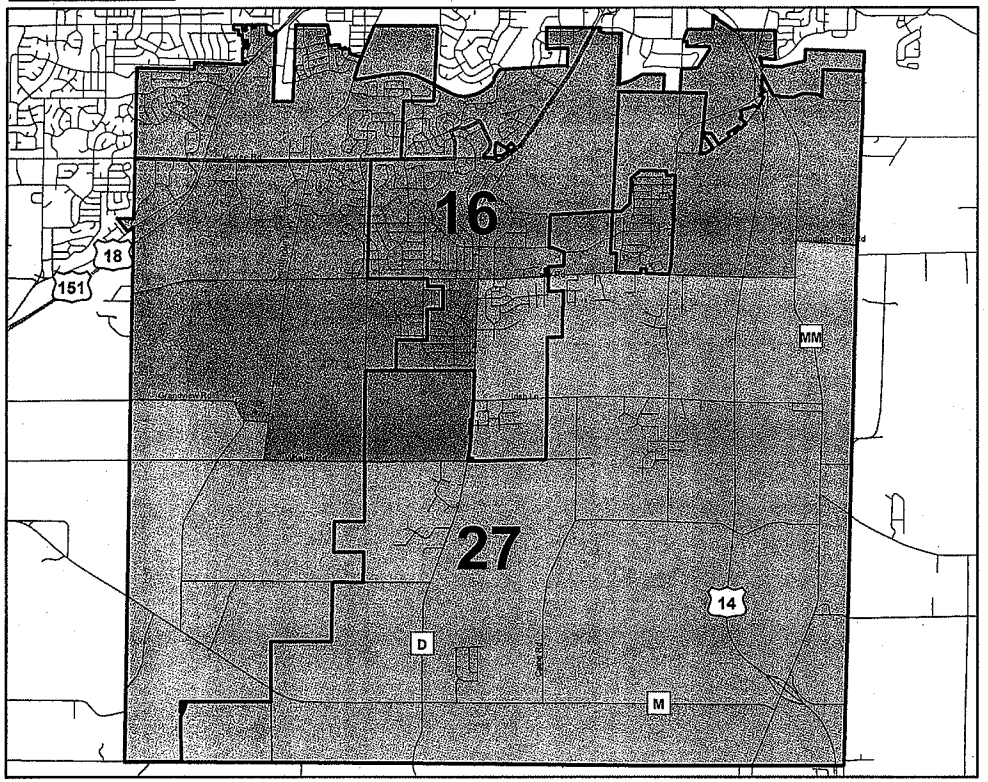
County Supervisory

School District Boundary

0 0.5 1 Miles

July 2011

Prepared by:
City of Fitchburg
Sources:
U.S. Census Bureau, 2010
City of Fitchburg



Proposed State Senate	Total Population	White	Minority Total Population	Breakdown of Minority							Over 18
				Black	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian	Pacific Island	Other	OtherMLT	
16	21,686	13,639	8,047	2,380	4,197	1,247	88	10	27	98	16,074
27	3,574	2,816	758	472	144	106	22	4	1	9	3,000
Total	25,260	16,455	8,805	2,852	4,341	1,353	110	14	28	107	19,074

Proposed State Assembly Boundary

Legend

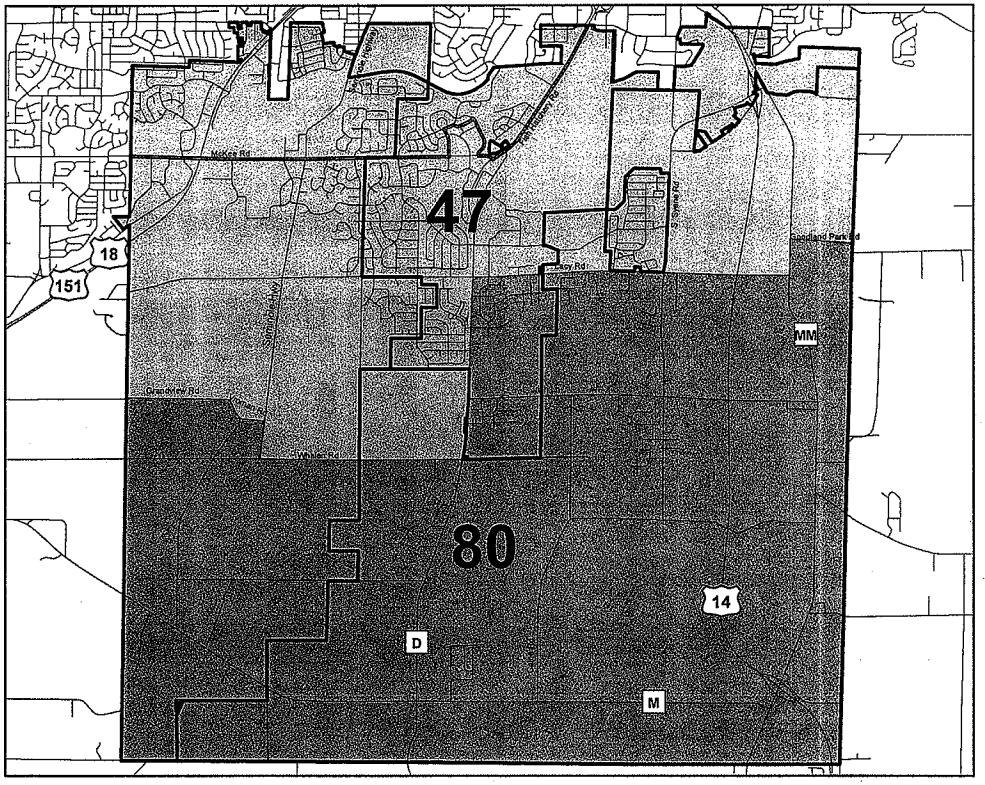
County Supervisory

School District Boundary

0 0.5 1 Miles

July 2011

Prepared by:
City of Fitchburg
Sources:
U.S. Census Bureau, 2010
City of Fitchburg



Proposed State Assembly	Total Population	White	Minority Total Population	Breakdown of Minority							Over 18
				Black	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian	Pacific Island	Other	OtherMLT	
47	21,686	13,639	8,047	2,380	4,197	1,247	88	10	27	98	16,074
80	3,574	2,816	758	472	144	106	22	4	1	9	3,000
Total	25,260	16,455	8,805	2,852	4,341	1,353	110	14	28	107	19,074

City of Fitchburg 2010 Census Blocks Total Population with School Districts

City Population - 25,260

Legend

Fitchburg Census Blocks

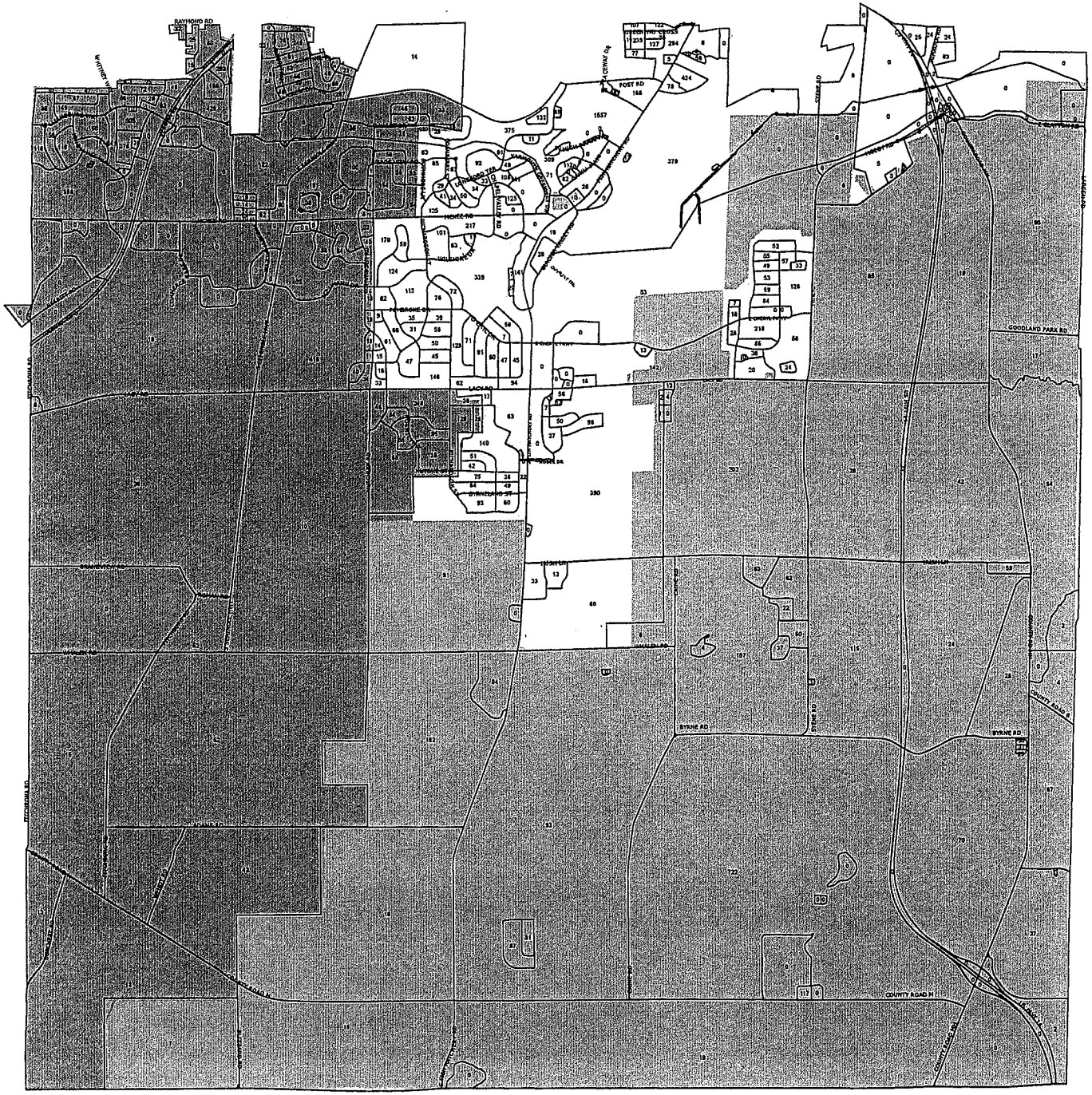
\# Total Population in each Census Block

School Districts

Madison Metro

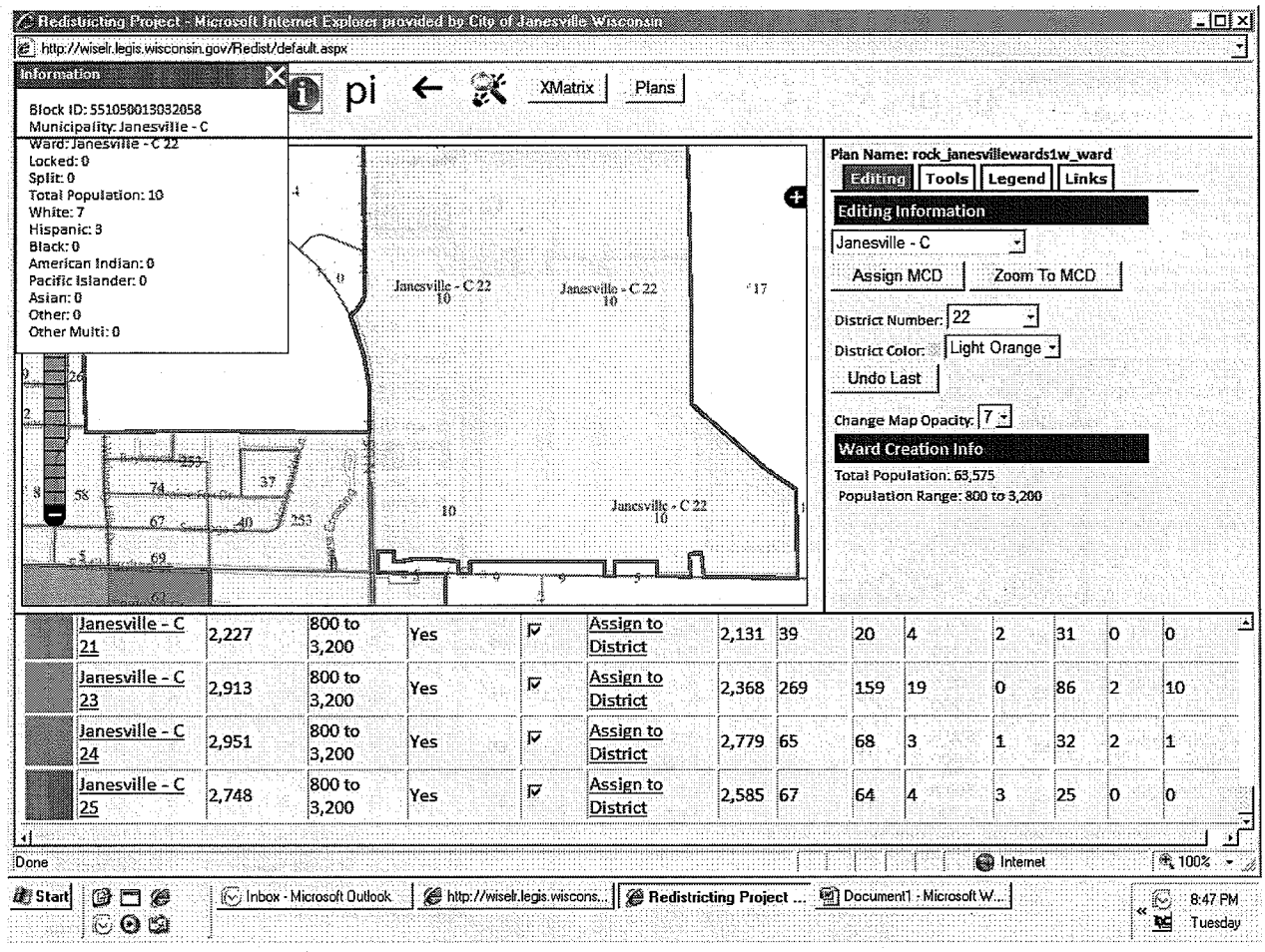
Oregon

Verona



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010
City of Fitchburg
Created: May 25, 2011

Add to Assembly District 44. Delete from Assembly District 31.



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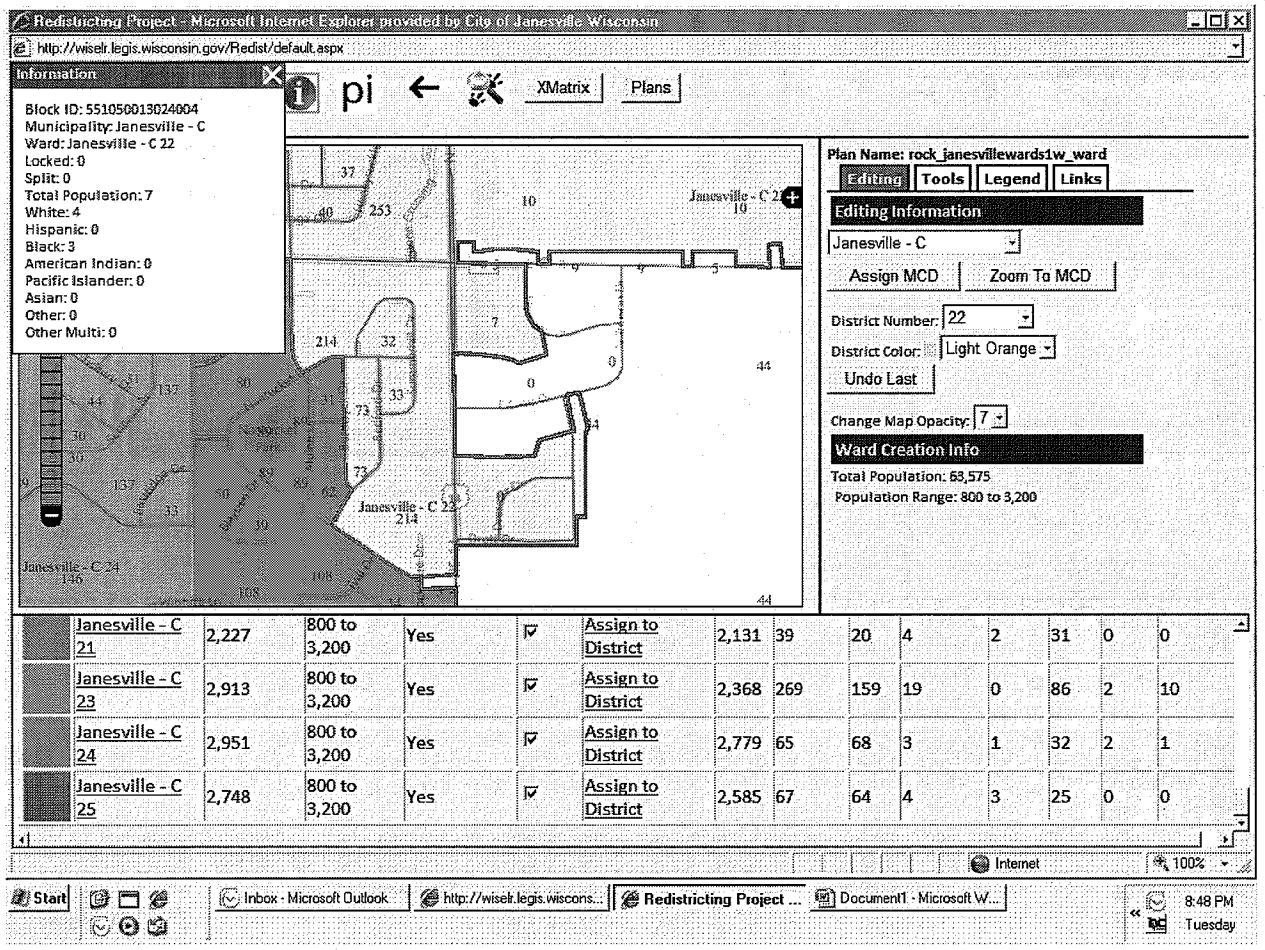

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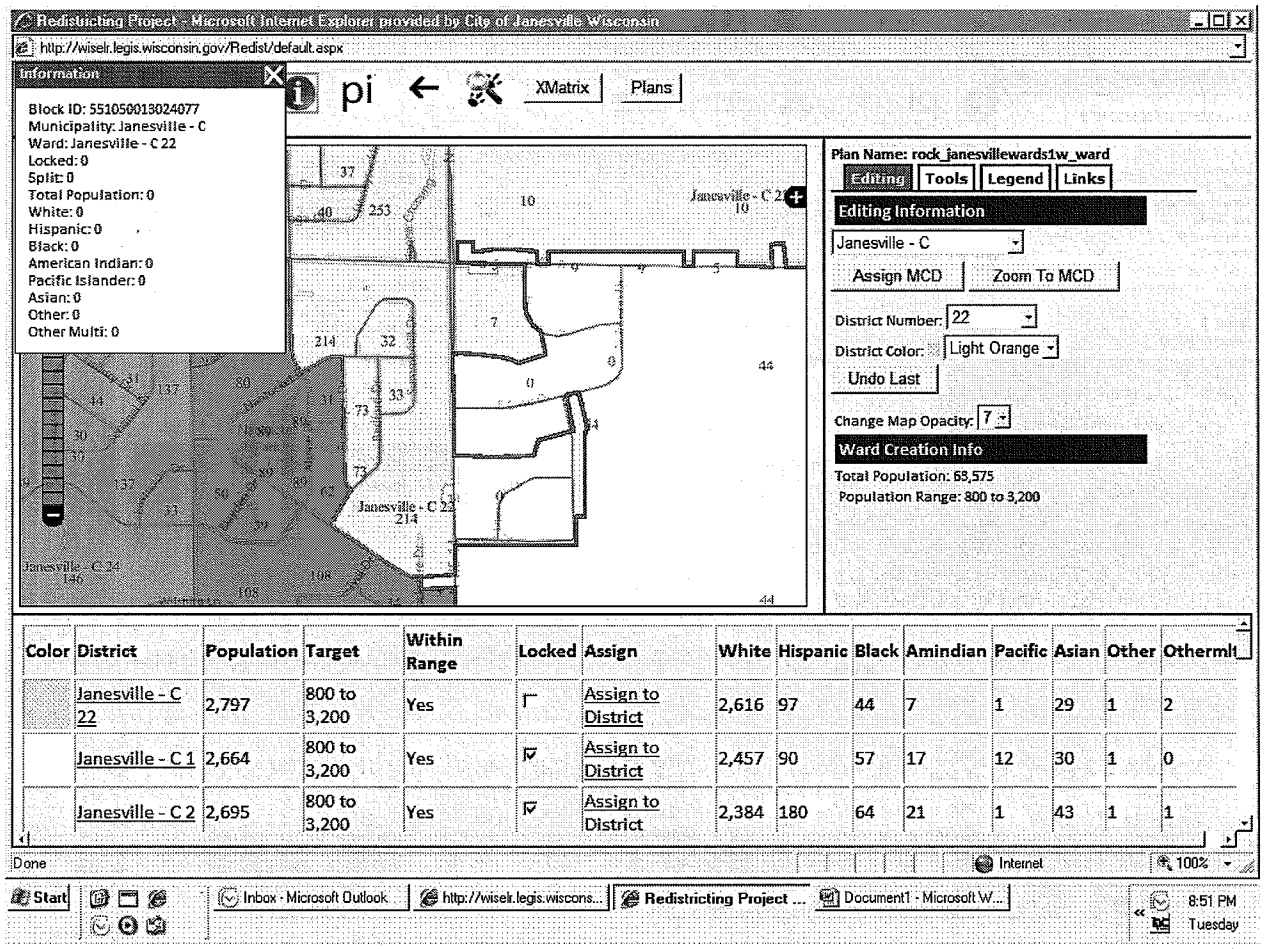

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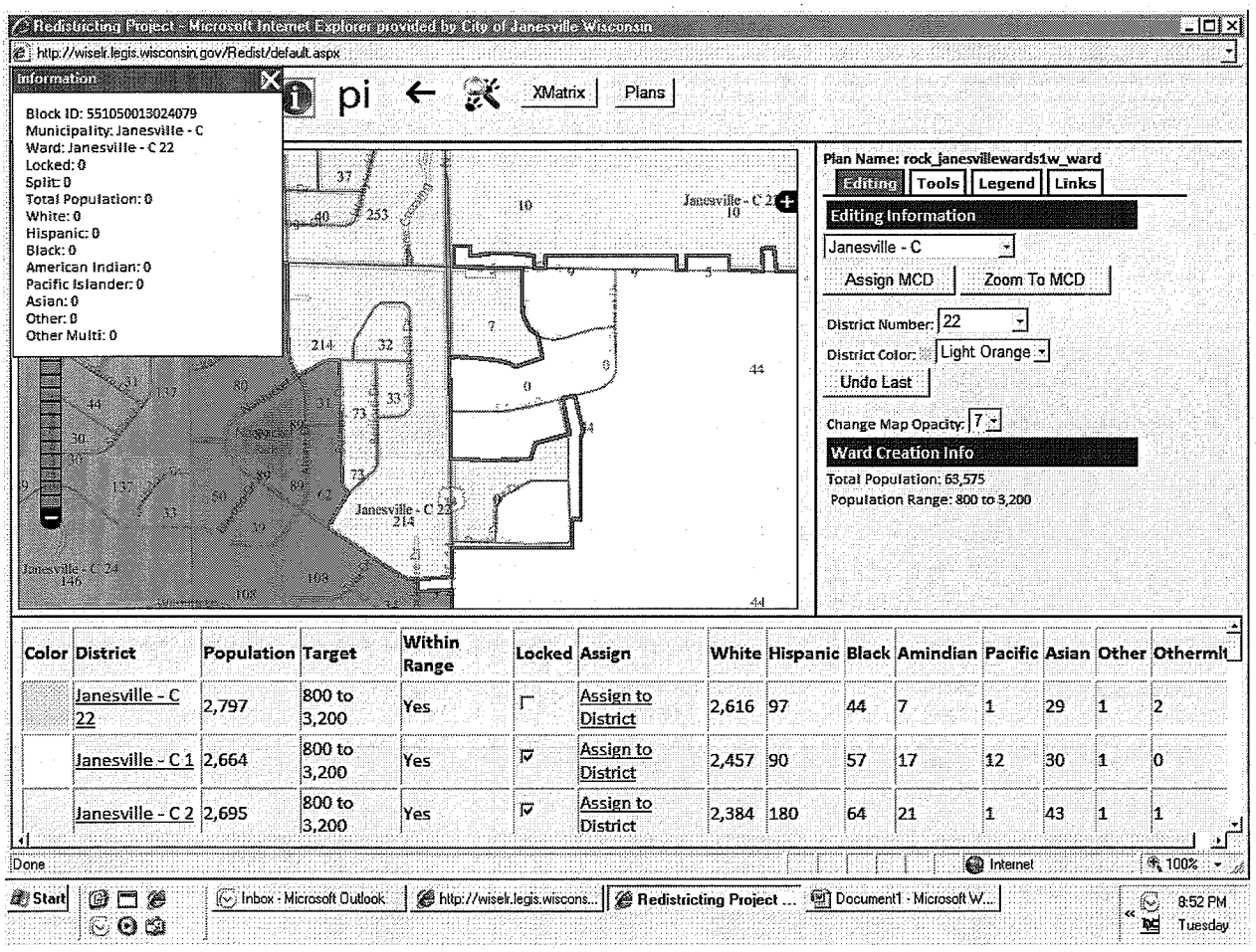

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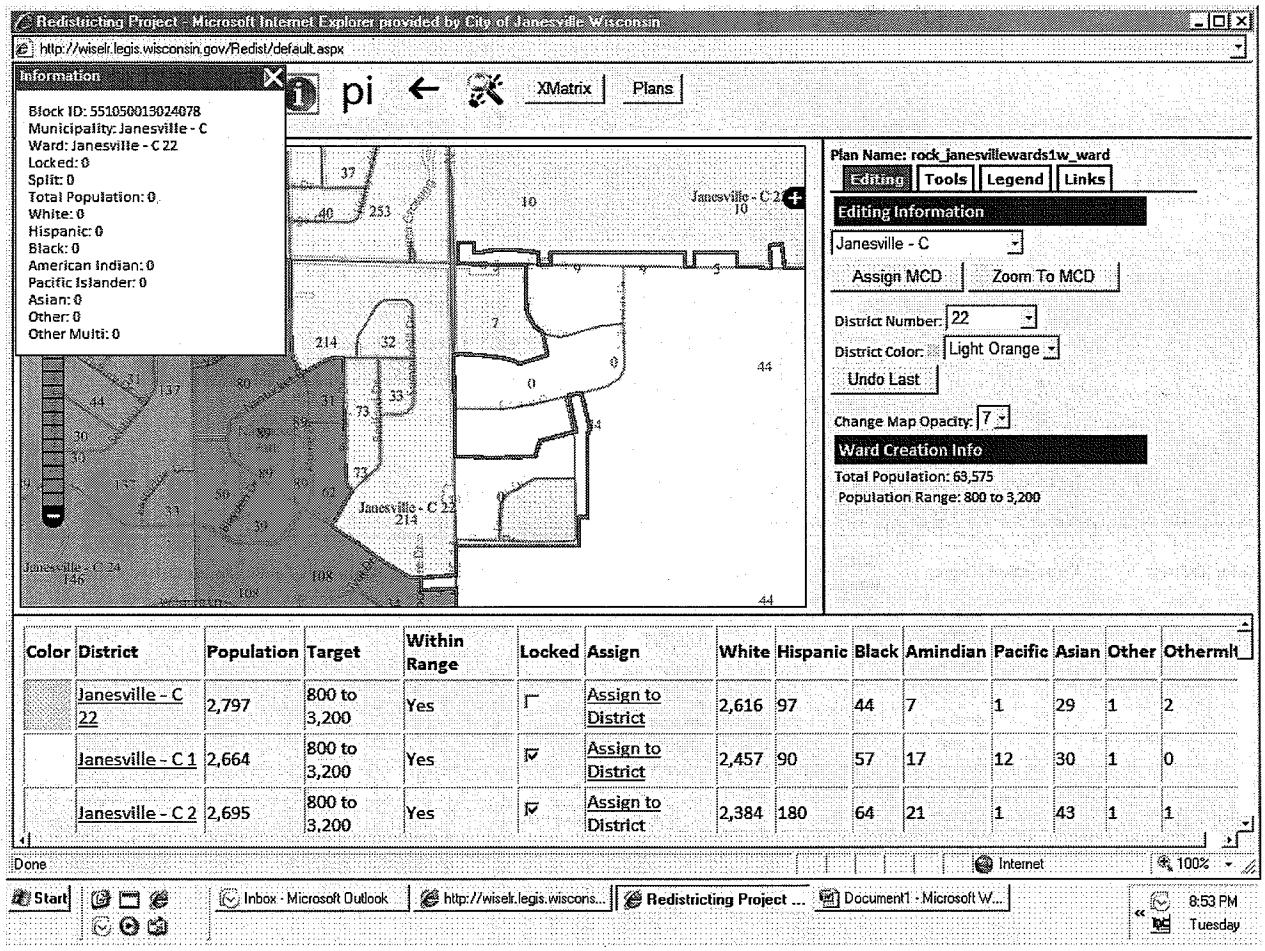

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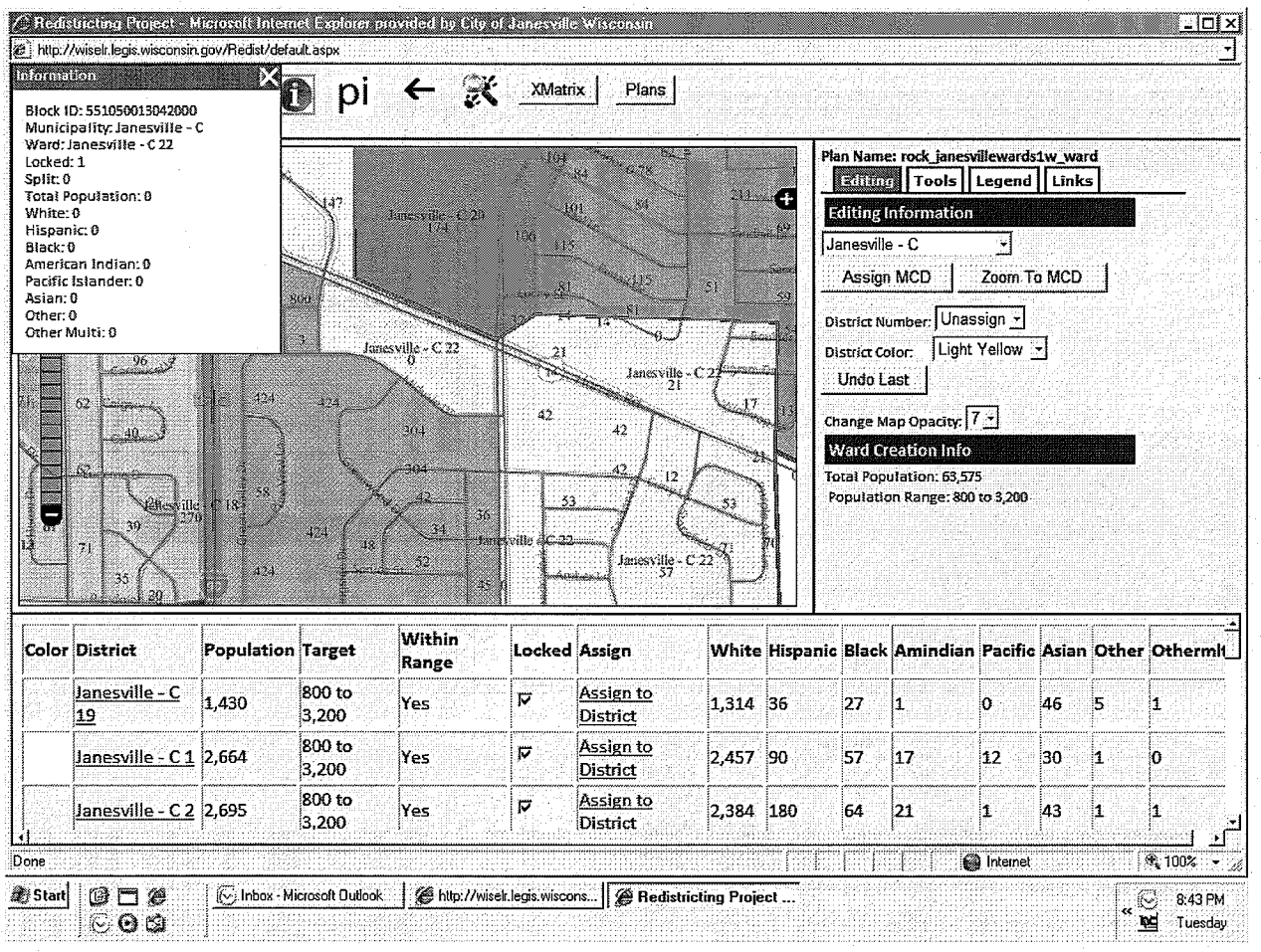


2011 REDISTRICTING TIMELINE

Federal Government releases population count by block, along with maps showing location and numbering of census blocks. (Wis. State Statutes 59.10) April 1, 2011 is the legal deadline for the delivery of the census data.

NOTE – Outagamie County received census data March 31, 2011.

60 Days – propose and adopt a tentative county supervisory district plan

- Planning Department staff begins developing options for 36 and 31 supervisors
- April 7, 2011 – Committee reviews initial plan options
- April __, 2011 – Committee reviews revised plan options – invites local municipalities to review at an informational meeting – Committee makes recommendation for Board consideration
- Planning Department prepares tentative plan based on comments from the informational meeting with the municipalities and direction from the Ad Hoc Committee
- April 19th, April 26th, and May 3rd – public hearing notice published (class 3)
- May 10, 2011 – Committee holds public hearing (could result in changes to plan)
- Planning Department prepares final tentative plan for County Board action
- May 24, 2011 – County Board adopts and locks in the vote for the tentative plan
- May 31, 2011 – County Clerk forwards the adopted tentative plan to all local municipal clerks, along with a cover memo outlining the procedures for adjusting local wards and a "Ward Report Form".

60 Days – local municipalities adjust their ward plan to fit the supervisory district plan for the County and to meet required population ranges. (Wis. State Statutes 5.15)

- City with population between 39,000 and 150,000, wards shall contain between 800 and 3,200 persons.
- City, village, or town with population between 10,000 and 39,000, wards shall contain between 600 and 2,100 persons.
- City, village, or town with population less than 10,000, wards shall contain between 300 and 1,000 persons.
- City, village, or town less than 1,000 persons are not required to divide into wards.

60 Days – after every municipality in the County adjusts its wards, the County Board shall hold a public hearing and shall adopt a final supervisory district plan.

The chairperson of the Board shall file a certified copy of the final districting plan with the secretary of state.

April - May	June - July	August - September
60 Days	60 Days	60 Days
County Adopts Tentative Supervisory Plan	Municipalities Adjust Local Ward Plans	County Adopts Final Supervisory District Plan

District Priorities

1. Districts should be essentially the same population. The goal will be to have all districts with about 2% (plus or minus) of the target population for a district.

2. Districts should be compact. That is, they should closely approximate a square or a circle. They should not be long and narrow, and should avoid major appendages.

3. Districts should minimize the crossing of municipal (city, village, and town) boundaries. A municipality should include the fewest number of districts that is possible. A district should include the fewest number of municipalities that is possible.

4. When municipalities are combined or split in forming districts, every effort should be made to maintain the integrity of incorporated communities.

5. When it is not possible for district boundaries to follow municipal boundaries, physical barriers should be followed such as significant rivers and major highways first, and other physical features second.

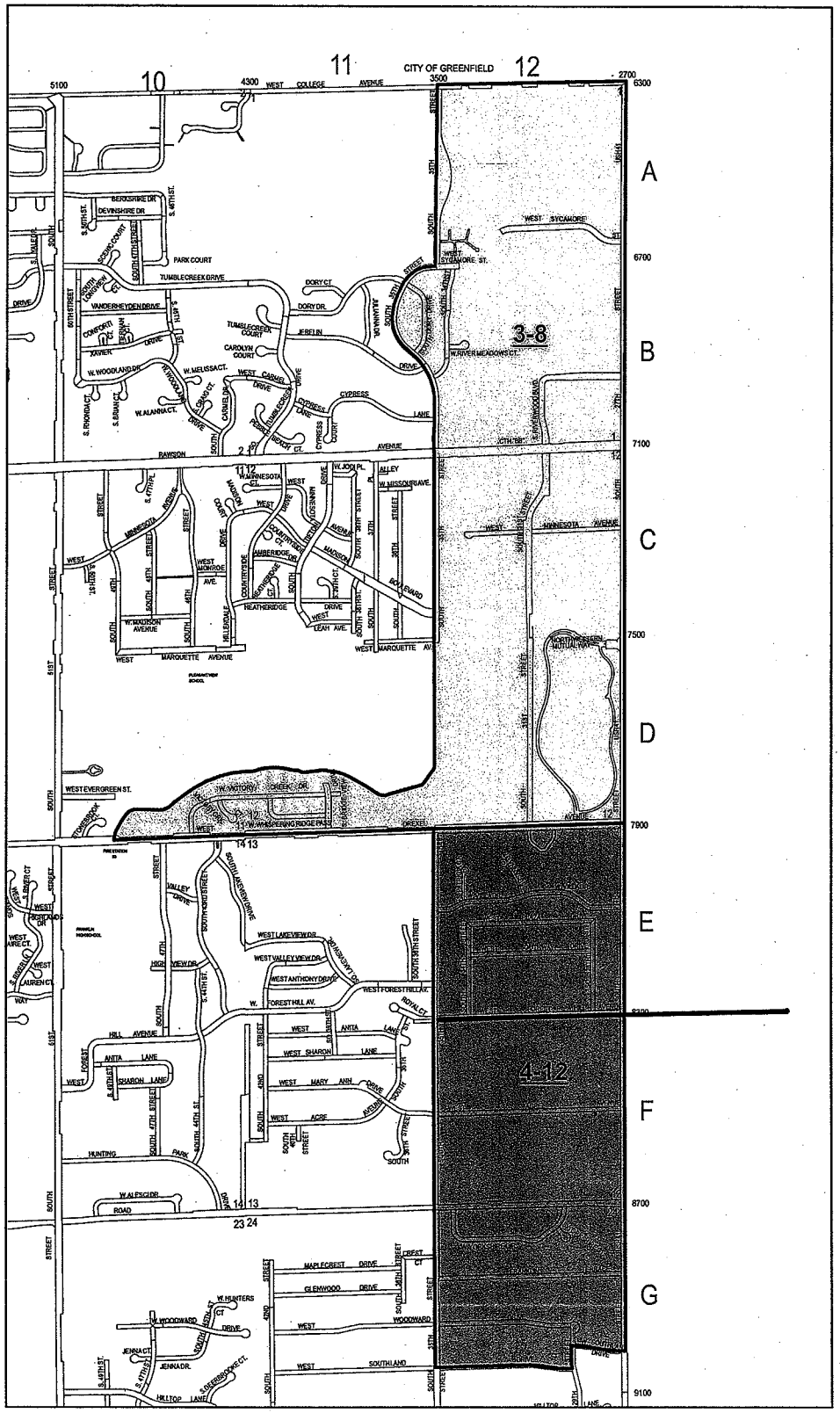
6. District should avoid the creation of small isolated wards. A small section of an adjoining municipality should not be used to complete a district whenever possible. The minimum ward size should be about 300-400 persons.

Planning Department Requested Ground Rules

1. The Planning Department does not want to know where any current or prospective County Board supervisor resides.

2. Contact with the Planning Department staff regarding redistricting plans during the development of plan options is limited to the Ad Hoc Redistricting Planning Committee chairperson or vice-chairperson.

3. Limit the number of options that we are asked to develop (3-4 maximum).



CITY OF GREENFIELD
10
11
12
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
3-8
4-12
WEST COLLEGE AVENUE
RAWSON AVENUE
WEST MARQUETTE AVENUE
WEST EVERGREEN ST.
WEST SYCAMORE ST.
WEST MINNESOTA AVENUE
WEST FOREST HILL AV.
HUNTING PARK