



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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## A Tale of Two Redistricting Bills: Floor Speech on June 20, 2021

Wow, I was SO excited when I heard that redistricting legislation was going to be voted on in committee! Finally, we can put an end to gerrymandering and pass a bill that brings transparency and fairness to the redistricting process, a bill that 70 percent of Wisconsinites have been asking for! For years!

Well imagine my surprise when I learned that it was ANOTHER redistricting bill that got a hearing. A bill that the [Wisconsin Examiner called a "mystery redistricting bill."](#) A bill that was introduced on June 1st, had a hearing on June 2nd, and here we are voting on it already.

This is NOT the fair maps bill that the people of Wisconsin are demanding. In fact it is the exact opposite. AB-369 is a smokescreen of a bill designed to keep our horrifically-gerrymandered maps in place for another election cycle. It is the opposite of transparent and fair, as it was planned months ago and is now being rammed through the Assembly in record time.

It's amazing how quickly SOME things can get done, which brings me to the content of the bill. The bill is designed to give local municipalities more time to draw maps because of a delay in the Census. In committee, the bill's supporters spoke about the need for more time to draw the maps. Yet we have heard from county clerks and others who say they are perfectly capable of completing the task in 30 days, not 60, and still abide by all local requirements for public hearings. And if help is needed, there are companies such as District Solutions, run by a UW Milwaukee engineering professor, who can use the data, available in August, to create a map in about 24 hours. Our computer mapping software has come a LONG way in 10 years. Just follow election Twitter for countless examples.

The bill we SHOULD be talking about today -- AB-395 -- has bipartisan support and is all ready for your consideration in the Committee on State Affairs. AB-395 was introduced at a rally with hundreds of people here at the Capitol on May 17th. It was just assigned a bill number on Friday, June 11th -- the same day as AB-369 -- but unlike the other bill, it has yet to have a hearing.

What we have here is a "Tale of Two Redistricting Bills" and there is still time for this tale to have a happy ending. I urge my colleagues to vote NO on AB-369, but to also listen to your constituents. Listen to the people of Wisconsin who are tired of the gerrymandering and the secret bills and the rushed legislation and complete lack of transparency and all that goes along with it. Join me in supporting the Fair Maps Bill and reject this bill today. The vote is no.



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