



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Deb Andraca

23RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Representative Andraca: Statement on the Redistricting Votes Today

MADISON, WI -- During the Assembly floor session on November 11th, Representative Deb Andraca (D-Whitefish Bay) provided the following remarks on redistricting legislation:

“The maps that are negotiated this year will be with us for the next decade, so it is worth spending time to get them right. Redistricting is a complicated endeavor that is made even more challenging in our polarized political environment. It shouldn’t be this way.

For months I have been urging Republican leadership to hold hearings on AB 395, the Fair Maps Bill. We introduced the measure in May and it has yet to have even a public hearing. Meanwhile, the Republicans’ gerrymandered maps were introduced and on the floor for a vote in just a few weeks. The people of Wisconsin have said loud and clear that they want fair maps. I voted against the Republican maps because they further embed the gerrymander that we currently have and do not reflect the will of the people of Wisconsin.

The independent redistricting process detailed in AB 395 does not require the legislature to accept the maps drawn by the commission. Instead, the bill allows the legislature to ask for a revised version along with specific reasons for the request. Assembly Democrats did not introduce the People’s Maps because of concerns some members have which are still being addressed. However, since Republicans compelled a vote on them today, I voted in favor of the Peoples Maps because they were created in a transparent manner that originated with the people of Wisconsin, not legislators. Unfortunately, the gerrymandered Republican maps passed the Assembly, The People’s Maps did not.

To paraphrase a quote about democracy by Winston Churchill, “Independent commissions are the worst form of redistricting, except for all the others.” The People’s Map Commission has been a model for how a fair, transparent, independent redistricting commission should work. Now it is up to the legislature to do the work, negotiate, and approve maps that represent all of our communities and restore our faith in the democratic process.”

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