

Rally held to support fair maps in Wisconsin



Photos by Mark Justesen/
News Graphic staff

Above, attendees of a Fair Maps Rally in Port Washington Friday hear from Mequon's Beth Bauer, who is active in promoting non-partisan causes. **Right**, State Rep. Deb Andraca, D-Whitefish Bay, said political maps should reflect the will of the people, not one party or the other.



PORT WASHINGTON — Supporters of a nonpartisan standard for creating legislative districts in Wisconsin took their case to the steps of the historic Ozaukee County courthouse in Port Washington Friday. About 75 people bundled up in hats and mittens, holding signs calling for an end to gerrymandering, a process by which districts are drawn in a way to manipulate geographic boundaries to support one party or the other.

"By any measure, Wisconsin is considered one of the most gerrymandered states in the country," said State Rep. Deb Andraca, D-Whitefish Bay,

whose District 23 includes portions of Ozaukee County. "We are not asking for Democratic maps or Republican maps — what we want are districts where candidates win on their message, not their maps"

Andraca has co-authored a bill in the Assembly that calls for an independent, nonpartisan commission to create legislative districts, not politicians.

"We need more competition in more districts so that the best candidates win," Andraca said. "That's what is best for our state and for our democracy, too."

Political boundaries are redrawn every decade following the U.S. Census, with the majority party in the Legislature in charge of the process. Gov. Tony Evers has vetoed the Republican-drawn maps and the case is now before the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

The Port Washington Fair Maps Rally was one of dozens held in front of courthouses around Wisconsin Friday and was organized by the Fair Maps Coalition.

Andraca said that a majority of Wisconsin counties have passed resolutions demanding a fair redistricting process.