



# JERRY L. O'CONNOR

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For Immediate Release  
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## **Rep. O'Connor Supports Historic Non-Partisan Redistricting Bill Passed by Assembly**

MADISON... State Representative Jerry O'Connor (R-Fond du Lac) released the following statement in reaction to the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 415:

Yesterday, September 14, 2023, the Wisconsin State Assembly –passed AB-415, “Non-Partisan Redistricting bill”. The language of the bill mirrors an Iowa Non-Partisan Redistricting law originally passed in 1980. Every year since Iowa passed this re-districting bill they have never come to an impasse on new maps. It has worked well for Iowa. No longer was a majority party in control of drawing maps.

This is a model specifically requested by Governor Evers and the Democrat legislators in one of the Governor’s budget proposals. This bill provides that the maps be drawn by the independent Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB). The bill is then presented to the Legislature and Governor for input. Their input is considered and then the LRB re-presents the revisions for approval.

At any time during the process, if either party feels slighted, they can appeal their concern to the courts. As used in Iowa for 43 years, the legislature and Governor have signed off on the non-partisan maps drawn by Iowa’s non-partisan Legislative Service Bureau without fail. Because it is a fair process.

Going back 25 years, variations of this bill were presented and defeated in Wisconsin by BOTH Democrats and Republicans. So BOTH Democrats and Republicans have introduced and supported a non-partisan Re-districting bill in the past and BOTH parties have voted it down.

Speaking on behalf of the bill Representative O'Connor said, “The vitriol and the angry battle over districting maps in Wisconsin must be reduced to a level where the public can conclude that our maps are fair. People like you and me are simply tired of the bickering.

How much money, time, emotions, and partisan anger have been spent on this issue over time? It is time to stop the shouting, name-calling, and wasteful spending on this issue. In the last few sessions, there has been renewed bi-partisan support for specifically the Iowa model that Democrats have previously referred to as the ‘gold standard’.

2023 is the time to turn this matter over to a bi-partisan venue and let us move on to the other issues facing Wisconsinites.

With the passage of this bill and the Governor’s signature, there will be new non-partisan maps for the 2024 election. Then there will be no need to consider impeachment. I will support this bill because it is the best long-term solution for the citizens of Wisconsin.”

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