



STATE CAPITOL PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708
PHONE (608) 266-7746 TOLL-FREE (888) 534-0081
EMAIL Rep.Considine@legis.wisconsin.gov
WEB <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/81/considine>

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Contact: Rep. Dave Considine
(608) 266-7746

Rep. Dave Considine Helps Lead Push for Non-Partisan Redistricting Reform

Madison – This week, Rep. Dave Considine (D-Baraboo), Democratic legislators, and open government advocates renewed their push for nonpartisan redistricting reform by introducing Assembly Bill (AB) 328. AB 328 and its companion, Senate Bill (SB) 58, would remove redistricting authority from politicians and assign it to a non-partisan body. Following recent efforts to dismantle Wisconsin's open records laws, eliminate the state's non-partisan government watchdog and interfere with the investigation and prosecution of political corruption, it is more important than ever to promote clean, open and transparent government by passing non-partisan redistricting reform.

“The people should be choosing their elected representatives, not the other way around. This should be true no matter which party controls the redistricting process,” Rep. Considine said. “The last round of redistricting cost Wisconsin taxpayers more than \$2 million and resulted in maps drawn to gain one party maximum partisan advantage. Let's get a non-partisan process in place now to prevent abuse down the road.”

Currently, state law mandates that the legislature adopt new district borders every 10 years. This bill assigns the authority to draw these borders to the non-partisan Legislative Reference Bureau and a to-be-created Redistricting Advisory Commission. This will help ensure fair borders even if one party controls all of state government. This model of redistricting has been used successfully in Iowa for more than 30 years.

“We've seen this model work in other states, and my colleagues and I know Wisconsinites are tired of the deeply divisive partisanship we've seen in recent years,” Rep. Considine stated. “It's time to give this non-partisan process a chance in our state.”

Both SB 58, authored by Sen. Dave Hansen (D-Green Bay) and AB 328, authored by all seven freshman Assembly Democratic representatives, have gained significant support from other legislators and voters across the state.

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