From: Joseph W. Handrick
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 4:50 PM
To: 'adam foltz'; 'tottman@gmail.com'
Subject: FW: Google Alert - wisconsin redistricting

From: Carol Bannen
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 3:25 PM
To: Joseph W. Handrick
Subject: FW: Google Alert - wisconsin redistricting

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From: Google Alerts [mailto:googlealerts-noreply@google.com]
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Subject: Google Alert - wisconsin redistricting

News

Marquette law professor, GOP redistricting maps would pass legal challenge
WHBL Sheboygan
MARQUETTE, WI (WTAQ) - A Marquette law professor told Wisconsin legislators Wednesday that the GOP's proposed new congressional and legislative districts would withstand any legal challenge. Richard Esenberg was asked by an attorney who helped draw the ...
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Committee Holds Hearing On Wis. Redistricting Plan
WISC Madison
MADISON, Wis. -- The public gets its chance Wednesday to tell Wisconsin state lawmakers how they feel about Republicans' plans for redrawing political boundaries. The GOP-controlled Legislature is scheduled to vote on the maps next week. ...
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1/9/2012
ADDING TO A HOT POLITICAL SUMMER, THE REDISTRICTING BATTLE BEGINS

Republican legislative leaders released proposed maps this afternoon to dramatically overhaul Wisconsin's political boundaries, pairing 22 lawmakers -- 10 Dems and 12 Republicans -- with other incumbents in the new districts.

Map lines have circulated for weeks as majority lawmakers prepared to push them through ahead of this summer's recall elections, which could flip control of the state Senate. But the offices of Assembly Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald and Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald refused to detail the changes other than releasing the statutory language that would redraw the boundaries.

Senate Minority Leader Mark Miller, D-Monona, immediately pledged a legal challenge.

"This latest attempt at a partisan power grab by Republicans is another sad example of their disdain for the law and why people have lost faith in their leadership," he said. "There is no question that the Republicans' partisan political redistricting plan will be challenged in court. The unconstitutional means they employ to try to protect their legislative majorities subvert the public interest in fair, competitive elections and are unquestionably grounds for a strong legal challenge."

The Fitzgeralds only released a short statement.

"Republicans have been keeping our promises and getting the job done since Day One," they said. "We started with jobs bills to improve the economy; we balanced the budget on time and turned a deficit into a surplus; and now we're fulfilling our constitutional requirement to properly reapportion the state's legislative and congressional districts."

Assembly Org planned to meet Monday to approve an extraordinary session starting 11 a.m. July 19 to take up redistricting as well as legislation to extend unemployment benefits using federal funds, on tax incremental finance districts (AB 87/SB 65) and a change to a TIF district in Pleasant Prairie (AB 105/SB 147). Senate Org planned to vote on approving the extraordinary session via paper ballot. The date irked Dems because it will be the same day as the first recall general election, pitting Dem Sen. Dave Hansen against Republican challenger David VanderLeest.

The pairs in the Assembly could significantly shake up the Milwaukee Dem caucus.

The pairs are: Fred Kessler, D-Milwaukee, and Don Pridemore, R-Hartford; Sandy Pasch, D-Whitefish Bay, and Jim Ott, R-Mequon; Dave Cullen, D-Milwaukee, and Dale Kooyenga, R-Brookfield; Josh Zepnick, D-Milwaukee, and Peggy Krusick, D-Milwaukee; Andre Jacque, R-Bellevue, and John Klenke, R-Green Bay; Tyler August, R-Walworth, and Amy Loudenbeck, R-Clinton; Chris Danou, D-Trempealeau, and Mark Radcliffe, D-Black River Falls; Andy Jorgensen, D-Fort Atkinson, and Steve Nass, R-Whitewater; John Steinbrink, D-Pleasant Prairie, and Samantha Kerkman, R-Genoa City; and Karl Van Roy, R-Green Bay; and John Nygren, R-Marinette.

The Assembly maps provided often don't offer enough detail to pinpoint changes in the district lines. The draft of the Senate bill to make the changes only includes a list of municipalities in the districts and census tracts.

In the Senate, the only paired lawmakers are freshman GOP Sen. Van Wanggaard, R-Racine, and longtime Dem Sen. Bob Wirch of Pleasant Prairie, who's one of three Dems under recall threat (see more below). Under the proposed map, the cities of Kenosha and Racine would be put together in one district while the rural parts of those counties would be pulled together into a separate district. Now, each of the lawmaker's districts largely covers their own counties.
Making the move would make the new Kenosha-Racine district solidly Dem. But it would shore up the 21st SD for Republicans. Since GOP Sen. George Petak lost the district in a 1996 recall election, only Dem Kim Plache has held it for more than one term.

The maps provided by legislative leaders only include districts lines transposed over county boundaries and include no ward information. Only close ups of Dane and Milwaukee counties include any cities and towns.

Here are some brief details of the Senate maps compared to current boundaries:

1st SD: Still largely represents the peninsula in northeastern Wisconsin. Held by Sen. Frank Lasee, R-DePere.

2nd SD: Moves west to include most of Outagamie County, more of Shawano County and more of Waupaca County. Held by Sen. Rob Cowles, R-Green Bay.


5th SD: Pushes boundary westward into Waukesha County to pick up more GOP territory. Now held by Sen. Leah Vukmir, R-Wauwatosa.


7th SD: District appears to continue representing southern Milwaukee County, but map is not detailed enough to ascertain how far into the city of Milwaukee the district may go. Now held by Sen. Chris Larson, D-Milwaukee.

8th SD: District appears to move westward to pick up more of Washington and Waukesha counties and northward along Lake Michigan to pick up more of Ozaukee County. Now held by Sen. Alberta Darling, R-River Hills.

9th SD: District shifts in Sheboygan County to cover eastern two-thirds, rather than the northern half of the county as it now does. Sheds piece of Fond du Lac County. Now held by Sen. Joe Leibham, R-Sheboygan.


11th SD: Moves westward to pick up part of Rock County, while losing some territory in Waukesha and Jefferson counties. Now held by Sen. Neal Kedzie, R-Elkhorn.

12th SD: Picks up more of Oconto County. Now held by Sen. Jim Holperin, D-Conover.

13th SD: Loses some of southern Jefferson County, picks up piece of eastern Dane County. Now held by Sen. Scott Fitzgerald, R-Juneau.

14th SD: Picks up piece of Adams County, adds territory in Columbia County and adds small sections of northern Dane County. Now held by Sen. Luther Olsen, R-Ripon.

15th SD: Loses southeast corner of Rock County, picks up some of southern Dane County and picks up southeastern one-third of Green County. Now represented by Sen. Tim Cullen, D-Janesville.

16th SD: Sheds parts of Columbia County and northern and eastern Dane County. Now held by Sen. Mark Miller, D-Monona.

17th SD: Loses parts of Iowa and Sauk counties, picks up rest of Richland County. Now held by Sen. Dale Schultz, R-Richland Center.

18th SD: Largely unchanged. Now held by Sen. Randy Hopper, R-Fond du Lac.

19th SD: Loses some of Outagamie County. Now held by Sen. Mike Ellis, R-Neenah.

20th SD: Swaps some territory in Sheboygan County with the 9th and picks up northeastern third of Fond du Lac County. Now held by Sen. Glenn Grothman, R-West Bend.

21st SD: Switched from a largely Racine County district to one that includes rural and suburban areas of Racine and

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22nd SD: Switched from a largely Kenosha County district to one that includes stretch along Lake Michigan from city of Kenosha through city of Racine. Now represented by Sen. Bob Wirch, D-Kenosha, who would be drawn out of his district.

23rd SD: Swaps portions of Eau Claire County to represent the eastern half rather than the northern one-third. Now represented by Sen. Terry Moulton, R-Chippewa Falls.

24th SD: Picks up portions of Jackson and Monroe counties, loses southern half of Adams County, adds southwestern corner of Waushara County. Now represented by Sen. Julie Lassa, D-Stevens Point.

25th SD: Loses most of Sawyer County, picks up corners of Dunn, St. Croix and Polk counties. Now held by Sen. Bob Jauch, D-Poplar.

26th SD: Continues to largely represent Madison. Now held by Sen. Fred Risser, D-Madison.

27th SD: Loses southern half of Green County, picks up eastern third of Iowa County, and adds portions of Sauk and Columbia counties. Now held by Sen. Jon Erpenbach, D-Middleton.

28th SD: Largely unchanged. Now held by Mary Lazich, R-New Berlin.

29th SD: Swaps Price County for most of Sawyer County. Now held by Sen. Pam Galloway, R-Wausau.

30th: Area in Brown County included in district changes. But exact differences hard to ascertain. Now held by Sen. Dave Hansen, D-Green Bay.

31st SD: Loses portion of Jackson County, all of Monroe County that it had represented and swaps area represented in Eau Claire County to have the western half rather than the southern two-thirds. Now held by Sen. Kathleen Vinehout, D-Alma.

32nd SD: Loses areas in Richland County. Now held by Sen. Dan Kapanke, R-La Crosse.

33rd SD: Loses portion of Washington County and becomes more concentrated around city of Waukesha and surrounding area. Now held by Sen. Rich Zipperer, R-Pewaukee.

See a statewide map of the legislative boundaries:
http://www.wispolitics.com/1006/11_2266_1_leg_maps_and_tables.pdf

See the legislative redistricting bill:
http://www.wispolitics.com/1006/11_2266_1_leg_redistricting_SB_2.pdf

See the amendment on the 8th and 9th Ads:
http://www.wispolitics.com/1006/11a1388_1_SA_to_leg_redistricting_SB.pdf

House map helps Duffy

The map of House districts would swap several areas of the 7th and 3rd CDs to make the former more Republican and the latter more Dem. Duffy would pick up growing St. Croix County on the western edge of the state, while shedding all of Portage and most of Wood counties, which would be added to the 3rd. Duffy would also lose the southern third of Chippewa County.

See the congressional map:
http://www.wispolitics.com/1006/large/11_2265_2_cong_maps_and_tables.pdf

See the language of the congressional redistricting bill:
http://www.wispolitics.com/1006/11_2265_2_cong_redistricting_SB.pdf

Companion bill impacts munis

Today's release also includes a companion bill that could force some municipalities to tear up the new maps they've approved for city and county offices and start over.

Redistricting is typically a bottom up process with local governments finishing their maps first and the state and federal district boundaries then drawn off those to keep wards intact.

1/9/2012
But the legislation requires municipal ward plans to reflect the boundaries on April 1 of the year of each federal census. Now, those wards have to reflect municipal boundaries on Aug. 1 of the year following a census. The change would be retroactive.

The legislation would also dictate that if muni wards would have to fit the legislative and congressional boundaries lawmakers draw.

See the local redistricting bill:
http://www.wispolitics.com/1006/11.2296_1_Local_redistricting_SB_2_.pdf

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From: Carol Bannen
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2011 8:19 AM
To: Joseph W. Handrick
Subject: Redistricting

Wisconsin Senate committee to vote on redistricting plan
Janesville Gazette (blog)
By AP Friday, July 15, 2011 - 4:46 am MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A Wisconsin state Senate committee is meeting to vote on passing Republican-written plans for redrawing political boundaries. Once the committee votes on the plans Friday, they can be taken up... See all stories on this topic »

State redistricting plan means some municipalities might have to redraw maps...
Sauk Prairie Eagle
Wisconsin has traditionally followed a "bottom-up" process, by which local governments redraw wards every 10 years based on US Census data. Counties typically submit their new maps to state officials, who use the local maps to redraw congressional and... See all stories on this topic »

What we're not IRC-ing: Map-drawing panel spends half its time meeting behind...
Arizona Capitol Times
Prior to voting to award a lucrative contract to a mapping consultant on June 29, the Independent Redistricting Commission had spent as much time in closed door executive meetings as it had before the public. And public records held by the Former US Rep. Obey, Current Legislators, Decry Redistricting
Ashland Current
For example, in the Congressional redistricting map drawn by Congressman Paul Ryan, the Western Wisconsin 3rd Congressional District would move through the central part of the state, including communities that have traditionally been in the 7th... See all stories on this topic »

Cuomo Faces New York Public-Worker Pay Fight After 'Extraordinary Success'
Bloomberg
He also will meet opposition from Republicans on his call for legislative redistricting by an independent commission. "Wind at his back as a new governor, he's delivered on the public image, and people believe he's done a good job," said Senator Martin ...

See all stories on this topic »

Wisconsin Democrats disagree with proposed state redistricting plan
FOX6now.com Milwaukee
Pasch says, "They're afraid they're going to lose August 9th so they push through a redistricting map that really doesn't reflect common boundaries, common concerns." Darling fires back saying, "I have nothing to do with redistricting. ..."

See all stories on this topic »

New electoral maps change political landscape of WNC
Macon County News
Across the country, from Wisconsin to Texas, similar battles are being waged. Some states utilize
independent *redistricting* commissions to draw the maps, theoretically creating a more fair system, but those states have their *redistricting* struggles too ...
See all stories on this topic »

**Eau Claire, Chippewa Counties could see big *redistricting* changes**

WEAU-TV 13

We spoke with a current assemblyman for the 91st district about this drastic change in *redistricting*. The state senate bill to change legislative boundaries in *Wisconsin* could be causing lines to change. County planners and clerks call it an ...

See all stories on this topic »

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one more

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Subject: Google Alert - wisconsin redistricting

News

1 new result for wisconsin redistricting

Republican redistricting compells redos at the local level

Isthmus
John Hendrick, who was involved with redistricting in 1990, 2000 and this year. "It may create contradictions that municipalities can't resolve." In Wisconsin, redistricting traditionally starts at the local level, with counties creating supervisor ...
See all stories on this topic »

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1/9/2012
MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A Wisconsin state Senate committee has passed Republican-written plans for redrawing political boundaries.

The committee voted 3-2 on Friday to pass both a map redrawing all 132 state legislative districts as well as one redoing the eight congressional districts.

The full Senate plans to vote on passing the maps Tuesday with the Assembly to follow on Wednesday.

Democrats spoke out against the maps, saying they are an unconstitutional power grab by Republicans.

No changes were made to the congressional map. Boundaries of two Milwaukee state Assembly seats were changed to slightly alter the percentage of Hispanic residents.

Changes were also made to a third bill to ensure that cities and counties that have already drawn new political boundaries won't have to redo them to comport with the state lines.
The liberal playbook in Wisconsin is reminiscent of the old MadLibs books from my youth. Call them HyperboLibs:

Today (NAME OF OUTRAGED PERSON/GROUP) said the Republicans efforts to (AGENDA ITEM OR DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION) was a (Choose one; APPALLING BREECH OF TRUST / INSULT TO CITIZENS / BETRAYAL OF THE WISCONSIN TRADITION / TRAVesty / SHAM / MOCKERY / TRAVESHAMOCKERY).

This week’s topic is redistricting. Is it safe to assume 1) you are outraged 2) you are starting a petition drive 3) your fellow liberals will go to court to stop the legislation? “Today, One Wisconsin Now said the Republicans efforts to pass their redistricting plan was a betrayal of the Wisconsin tradition.” Am I close? I know the summer months can lead to writer’s block, so I’m just trying to give you a head start on this week’s feature...

As long as the Republicans try and shred the state constitution, the people of Wisconsin are going to rebel against the Fitzwalkerstan Empire. Once again, an amazing power grab by the Republicans, rejecting all pretext of sensible, lawful map-drawing. But then again, that’s to be expected when your party’s goal is the destruction of the middle class so the corporations funding your entire right-wing movement don’t have to worry about pesky democracy to get in the way. I appreciate your concern about my potential writer’s block, but with the limitless depths of GOP’s bottom-feeding corporate sycophancy, there’s always new inspiration.

There is absolutely nothing out of the ordinary or unlawful about the proposed maps. No district looks like some sort of Japanese origami gone awry. They are compact, they keep communities of interest together, and they were lawfully drawn. Since January, the far left and Wisconsin Democrats (but I repeat myself) have proven that they will run to the courts or demand a redo
when they don't like the outcome: the budget repair bill, photo ID, recall petitions, Supreme Court elections, etc. A legal challenge, no matter how frivolous, is likely in this case, too. That's why the Republicans retained legal counsel at the onset, to advise the process to ensure that the districts are fully compliant with every legal requirement. There is nothing illegal or unconstitutional about the process or the product here. Learn to live with these maps, Scot. They're the new districts for the next 10 years.

The maps are a mess of carved-out partisanship, violating long-standing county boundaries as demarcation lines. This thing's garbage. Defend it, you will, but its rancid cheese in the dairy state. It's being rammed through immediately because the Senate is going Democratic in the next month. How in crisis is the country club cabal that drew these maps behind closed doors? They've now reached a constitutional crisis. They've rigged the districts and now they are trying to rig the court. It's a clear violation of the separation of powers. They claimed they could illegally pass the attack on workers' rights, because of separation of powers, and now they're perfectly willing to ignore that when it comes to desperately trying to keep their stranglehold on power. That's a convenient flip flop, ain't it?

County boundaries haven't played a role in legislative districting for decades, Scot. Look, the Democrats were given the exact same redistricting software and hardware and census data as the Republicans. What did they do with it? Where are their maps? The reapportionment plan needs to be passed by the Legislature, like any bill. They have an opportunity to deliver an alternative. Where is it? I'm sure it will be nonpartisan. Are the currently proposed districts contiguous and compact? Yes. Do they ensure broad minority representation? Yes. Are they statistically equal in size? Yes. This isn't the Illinois-styled map that would give the Democratic Party a five-seat pick up in the congressional delegation, or Assembly districts that look like spokes coming out of Chicago. It's a reasonable and legal map that inconveniences legislators from both parties but provides a fair map for Wisconsin voters. What do you have against increasing the Hispanic make-up of the Legislature anyway?

This is the most partisan, most hurried, most expensive redistricting map in Wisconsin's history. Once again, the gang that doled out $2.3 billion in tax breaks for corporations and the rich and hit taxpayers for almost $500K for fake primary races, comes back with another $300K for taxpayer-financed legal fees. Your discussion
about any place other than Wisconsin shows that the GOP map here is indefensible. Nice dodge, though. Hey, speaking of things not Wisconsin -- team One Wisconsin Now is losing our deputy director, Robert Doeckel, who's leaving today to go law school out west. Since I don't have anything left to say about the GOP's election-rigging map scheme, let me close by saying Wisconsin libs will miss you, Robert.

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Redistricted Dems: Republicans aren't exactly boasting about their redistricting plan, using a cautious legal strategy. But it's clear to insiders that they pulled off protecting their incumbents while putting a series of Dems in a difficult spot. Though Dems have been complaining loudly about what they say is a power grab, some say privately the maps wouldn't necessarily banish them to a decade of insignificance. But they also won't make it easy to hold the majority in either house over the next decade. Seats held by GOP Sens. Van Wanggaard of Racine, Leah Vukmir of Wauwatosa and Alberta Darling of River Hills are effectively taken off the table because they would become so much more Republican. That leaves Dems with fewer pickup opportunities to flip the chamber over the next two election cycles if they can't pull it off this summer. What's more, Dem recall candidates like Fred Clark of Baraboo and Nancy Nusbaum of Green Bay live outside the new lines for the districts they're now seeking. In the Assembly, there could be some shuffling of Madison-area Dem lawmakers, for example, because some would not live inside the proposed districts, while some see at least four Milwaukee-area Dems who could lose in their reconfigured districts. One Dem says it's the perfect map for a 54-45 GOP Assembly majority in the near term.

**2nd District - Edge to Cowles**

Rob Cowles hasn't had a competitive race in years, and fundraising is not his strong point. He has pulled in just $100,522 for the year, well behind the $177,300 raised by Dem opponent Nancy Nusbaum.

Still, this is the most Republican district held by any of the GOP incumbents targeted for recall, and insiders generally view Cowles as a good bet for re-election.

Nusbaum's time as Brown County exec gave her good name ID for the race. But insiders say that's a mixed bag for Nusbaum with some having negative memories of her time in office. She also switched from a Republican to an independent and then to a Dem, and insiders point out she finished third in the 8th CD Dem primary five years ago.

Dems have been touting a poll that had Nusbaum down four or five points. But some question how committed Dems will be to the district, which David Prosser won with almost 58 percent of the vote, considering more attractive targets elsewhere.

The edge goes to Cowles at this point.

See background on the 2nd District race:
http://www.wispolitics.com/index.lml?Article=249311

1/9/2012
**8th District - Leaning to Darling**

The conventional wisdom has been the GOP bent of the district will be too much for Sandy Pasch to overcome. Though Pasch's Assembly district is Dem-heavy, the other two districts that comprise the Senate seat are just as Republican and will be heavily targeted by conservative media and the GOP to turn out in big numbers.

Still, there are signs this race could be very close. Dems put out a polling memo today that showed Pasch up 1 percentage point, and some Republicans say their polling shows Pasch has been making inroads, especially with female voters. In an attempt to hurt her standing with seniors, Dems have also been slamming Darling for comments she made seeming to back Paul Ryan's proposed changes to Medicare.

But there is still a feeling among some insiders that the district is just too Republican for Pasch to win so long as Darling works hard and conservatives can define Pasch.

Both sides are engaged in this district, which David Prosser won with more than 57 percent of the vote in April, and the two candidates have proven to be no slouches when it comes to fundraising. For the year, Darling has raised $958,412 and had $401,382 in the bank on her last report, while Pasch raised $431,302 and had $216,439 cash on hand. Still, outside groups are expected to outspend the candidates, and Club for Growth and We Are Wisconsin have been busy running attack ads there.

There's also a new wrinkle in the race: With the way Republicans have redrawn the district for the 2012 elections, it would be nearly impossible for Pasch to hold it if she knocks off Darling this summer.

Considering the nature of the district, the race appears to be leaning toward Darling at this point. The key will be to watch if Pasch can continue the momentum some believe she has.

See background on the 8th District race:
http://www.wispolitics.com/index.lml?Article=240314

**10th District - Leaning to Harsdorf**

After teacher Shelly Moore won her primary Tuesday against a "protest" Dem with just 55 percent of the vote, some Republicans were quick to declare that race essentially over. After all, they say, if she can't do better than that in a Dem primary, how's she going to beat Sen. Sheila Harsdorf in a general election?

Some insiders, though, say it's not quite that clear cut.

More than 35,000 voters turned out for primary, almost 93 percent of the turnout from this spring's Supreme Court race. Some chalk that up to an effort by local Republicans to get their side to the polls in an attempt to knock off Moore before she gets a short at Harsdorf. If nothing else, the fact they made the race that close -- no other Dem won less than 65 percent against their sham challenger -- shows Republicans are motivated just like Dems are these days, some argue.

The GOP brand has been hurt in western Wisconsin over the collective bargaining fight, and JoAnne Kloppenburg won the 10th SD with 51.3 percent of the vote, so it's a bit of a swing seat.

It's also been traditionally hard to penetrate because it's covered by the expensive Minneapolis TV

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market. Dems appear ready to play in the market with We Are Wisconsin and Wisconsin Women Vote! making buys this month there. Citizens for a Strong America also has a buy listed there.

Still, the Harsdorff family has a reputation as a string of moderate Republican lawmakers. The question to some is whether Dems can take the collective bargaining issue and this year's budget and do enough to damage that Harsdorf brand.

Some Republicans say Harsdorf has a decent margin in polls from their side and argue the line of attack on Moore has been effective in painting her as a bomb thrower.

At this point, the race leans toward Harsdorf.

See background on the 10th District race:
http://www.wispolitics.com/index.lml?Article=240322

**12th District - Toss-up**

Jim Holperin is the Republicans' best -- and likely only -- pick up opportunity. And for good reason.

His northern Wisconsin district has a GOP lean, and Prosser won 55 percent of the vote there this spring. In the Dem wave of 2008, Holperin won the seat with just more than 51 percent, and insiders on both sides say this race is likely to be a squeaker either way.

Polling is all over the map, with some saying Holperin is anywhere from down 9 points to up by more than 5. Turnout will be key in all of the recall elections, but perhaps nowhere more than this expansive and largely rural district.

Some argue that's a strength for Tea Party activist Kim Simac, who is heavily favored to win Tuesday's GOP primary, after she spearheaded the effort to recall Holperin.

But Simac has also proven a treasure trove for opposition researchers, especially for someone without a voting record. Insiders expect opponents to pick over every book, speech and radio show the author and talk show host has done to make her out as an extremist.

Holperin, who survived a recall attempt over spearfishing while in the Assembly more than a decade ago, could be a firewall for Republicans. If the GOP loses three seats in the Aug. 9 elections, they could pick off Holperin a week later to narrowly hold onto control of the chamber. Others argue if Dems prove to have momentum on their side and win three or more seats, that likely means Holperin survives.

But anything could happen in this race, and it's a toss-up.

See background on the 12th District race:

**14th District - Leaning to Olsen**

In a normal election year, this race likely wouldn't be on the radar. Luther Olsen wasn't even challenged in 2008, and Prosser won almost 55 percent of the vote this spring.

Add in that some haven't been impressed with Fred Clark as a candidate -- especially with the comment about smacking around a female constituent after a phone call -- and that wouldn't seem

1/9/2012
like the recipe for success.

But Olsen, who was first elected to the Assembly in 1994, hasn't run a tough race in years. He won the open Senate seat in 2004 easily in a three-way primary and didn't face a Dem in the general election. That's left him without much of a campaign or fundraising operation, and there have been a series of complaints from Republicans that Olsen isn't working hard enough to retain his seat. The expectation is that the party will have to pull him across the finish line if he's to win, and Senate Republicans have staffed up there.

The fundraising numbers reflect some of that frustration. Olsen has raised $107,111 for the year and had $70,656 cash on hand, while Clark pulled in $226,501 and had $163,197.

The ad traffic in the district underscores how competitive it now is. The Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, We Are Wisconsin, Club for Growth and Wisconsin Family Action have all targeted the race in recent weeks.

Some insiders believe Olsen shouldn't lose, but he still may, and there are Republicans who were feeling better about the seat a few weeks ago than they are now with conservative polling showing the race tightening.

The race leans toward Olsen slightly just because of the district's nature. But it will be no shock if Clark -- flaws and all -- wins come August.

See background on the 14th District race: http://www.wispolitics.com/index.lml?Article=240325

**18th District - Leaning to King**

Dan Kapanke is No. 1 on the Dem target list. Randy Hopper is No. 2.

Republicans praise Hopper as one of the best retail politicians they know and a likable lawmaker. But he has two things that have been working against him. One, though the district has traditionally leaned Republican, he has a lot of public employees living there who are none too happy about the collective bargaining stuff. Two, Hopper's personal baggage is not helping him in this environment.

Some say the polling has tightened in that race in recent weeks. Still, some have a hard time seeing how Hopper wins in the end considering he has consistently been down in polls. That's never a good sign for an incumbent.

Hopper's best chance may be to demonize Jessica King and hope voters focus on whether they want to toss him out and possibly flip the Senate to Dems more than his personal problems. A key sign, some say, will be whether groups like the Club for Growth, the RSLC or All Children Matter get heavily involved there in an attempt to save Hopper. King has a liberal record that can be prodded for attack lines, and opponents will have to make her unacceptable for Hopper to pull through.

While Republicans talk about a tightening race, some Dems believe that may just be an attempt to slow King's momentum. She is neck-and-neck with Hopper fundraising-wise with $221,932 pulled in compared to $226,708 for the incumbent. She also has a significant cash on hand advantage of $190,647 to $92,461.

Hopper still has a chance and the race could turn, but the race leans toward King at this point.

1/9/2012
**22nd District - Edge to Wirch**

Republicans would love to make Bob Wirch’s Kenosha County district a competitive race. Having lost an opportunity to play offense in Dave Hansen’s Green Bay-area seat, the GOP now only really has Jim Holperin of Conover as a target, though some Republicans have made noise about taking a closer look at Wirch.

So far, though, insiders aren’t buying into the race as one that will be competitive.

Insiders like Jonathan Steitz’s chance to make it through Tuesday’s GOP primary against Fred Ekornaa. The perception is Steitz is working harder, particularly after he reported raising more than $33,038 compared to $4,958 for Ekornaa, a county board supervisor who some say may be relying on his name ID after a lengthy career in Kenosha County politics.

Still, almost half of Steitz’s money came from his own pocket and Wirch has an almost 12-to-1 cash on hand advantage over him.

The district also would be overhauled completely under the map Republicans have drawn for the 2012 elections that would essentially cede the district to Dems in exchange for shoring up the 21st SD for the GOP.

Kenosha is still a decent union town, and labor has traditionally mobilized for Wirch, who has the edge here.


**32nd District - Edge to Shilling**

Dan Kapanke has been viewed as the most vulnerable of the GOP targets from day one, largely because of the heavy Dem lean of the district. Gov. Scott Walker did well there last fall, but it bounced back hard this spring following the collective bargaining debate, and JoAnne Kloppenburg won it with almost 58 percent of the vote.

Kapanke has fought against the tide before and squeaked out a narrow win in 2008 even as Barack Obama pulled in more than 60 percent of the vote. But the nature of the district, the collective bargaining fallout and the strength of his opponent has most putting this race into the Dem column at this time.

Jen Shilling has some votes that Republicans can use to tee off on her. But she’s also well liked, a good candidate and will turn out the city of La Crosse, some say.

Despite the odds against him, Kapanke has been a solid fundraiser with $725,913 raised for the year and $123,824 left in the bank after spending $611,233. Shilling, meanwhile, has raised $271,385 and had $156,634 in her war chest at the end of the last reporting period.

Still, insiders note the Club for Growth was last in the district in late June, according to ad buy information available earlier this week. Meanwhile, We Are Wisconsin and Wisconsin Women Vote!, which is associated with EMILY’s List, are now up in the district. Some believe conservative groups
may take one more run at trying to breathe life into Kapanke's campaign. But with Dems saying they have polling that shows Shilling up double digits, some don't expect any additional efforts to be successful.

The edge goes to Shilling.

See background on the 32nd District race:
http://www.wispolitics.com/index.lml?Article=240329

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1/9/2012
Local Republicans mixed on redistricting plan

July 17, 2011 Central Wisconsin Sunday

Some Republican leaders are hoping GOP plans for redrawing political boundaries will be contested this week in the Legislature.

"I'm not pleased with the map," said Bill Elmhorst, vice chairman for the Clark County Republican Party. "I think it's very disruptive after working in this district for many years. It's not helpful to the grass-roots members."

Elmhorst lives in Neillsville and has been inside Democrat Ron Kind's 3rd Congressional District for decades, but with redistricting, he'd now be in Republican Sean Duffy's 7th District.

1/9/2012
"The issue isn't whether or not I like Sean Duffy, the issue is what this has done to the 3rd District," said Elmhorst, who voted for Republican Dan Kapanke during the last election. "It's conceded the 3rd District to Ron Kind, and that's the problem. We're contenders and we want a level playing field."

The proposed maps appear to make the 7th District more favorable for Duffy by cutting Portage County and eastern Wood County from the district and adding St. Croix County.

About 60 percent of voters in Portage and eastern Wood counties went for President Barack Obama in 2008.

Wood County Republican Party Chairman Jerry Lippert noted that the proposed maps also help Kind, who picks up Democratic-leaning cities Wisconsin Rapids, Stevens Point and Chippewa Falls.

"This could be perceived as a Ron Kind protection since the 3rd District is a much easier save for him," said Lippert, who does not oppose the GOP map.

Despite the advantage, Kind opposed the maps in a statement earlier this month.

Clark County Republican Party Chairwoman Deb Koncel said the new district lines aren't necessarily a bad move.

"As a county group, it will make our work interesting," Koncel said. "We'll have more representatives and our constituents are split up even more, so that's the part that will make it more difficult. I see it as a move to try and ensure that policies and legislation that are best for our constituents will have the best chance."

The full Senate plans to vote on the maps Tuesday with the Assembly to follow Wednesday.

--- INDEX REFERENCES ---

NEWS SUBJECT: (Government (1GO80); Public Affairs (1PU31); Political Parties (1PO73); Legislation (1LE97))

REGION: (Wisconsin (1WI59); U.S. Midwest Region (1MI19); North America (1NO39); U.S. West Region (1WE46); Americas (1AM92); Nevada (1NE81); USA (1US73))

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OTHER INDEXING: (Central Wisconsin Sunday; Clark County Republican Party; Clark County Republican Party Chairwoman Deb Koncel; Chippewa County; GOP; Koncel; Republican Dan Kapanke; Republican Sean Duffy; Sean Duffy; Wood County Republican Party) (Barack Obama; Bill

1/9/2012
Redistricting: Districts guarantee 'one person, one vote'

July 17, 2011 Press-Gazette

Every 10 years, each state draws new congressional and legislative boundaries, based on population estimates in the U.S. Census. On Tuesday, the Wisconsin Legislature will meet in an extraordinary session to discuss a redistricting proposal.

Green Bay Press-Gazette

The redistricting maps, introduced July 8 as part of Senate Bill 148, attempt to equalize representation across Wisconsin, as the state population grew by more than 320,000 in the past decade. The plan shifts existing district borders and would cause overlaps in some Assembly districts.

At a public hearing Wednesday in Madison, the plans were criticized for allegedly favoring Republicans, who control both chambers of the Legislature and the governor's office. The Republican leadership, in consultation with attorneys, developed the maps without input by Democratic lawmakers.

At the hearing Wednesday, Tad Ottman -- a staff member in state Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald's office -- said the lines were drawn in keeping with the three core principles of redistricting: equal population, sensitivity to minority concerns and
compact and contiguous districts. In some cases, he said, difficult choices were made about which principle was given greater weight.

David Wegge, professor of political science at St. Norbert College, said the need for redistricting grew out of cases in the 1950s. Some districts across the nation had far greater numbers of people than others and each was represented by one person. For example, he said, if one district had a population of 10,000 and another had 40,000, the political power of people in the district of 10,000 would be four times as great as people in a district of 40,000. In the early 1960s, he said, the Supreme Court handed down decisions with the philosophy of "one person, one vote." Those cases were Baker v. Carr and Wessberry v. Sanders.

Wegge said the task of redistricting has been political from the beginning. He said the practice of gerrymandering -- where district lines are drawn in a way that favors a political party or a particular group -- goes on, but is difficult to detect.

"One of the things we have to remember about redistricting is it is about who has power," Wegge said. "Politics is about who gets what in our society. And who gets what in our society is based on who has the votes. And so redistricting can be done in such a way it would advantage one political party and disadvantage another."

In some cases, Wegge said, the courts have decided the redistricting plan. In Wisconsin, it has been decided that way in each of the past three decades.
Cullen proposes making redistricting process nonpartisan

Frank Schultz
The Janesville Gazette, Wis.

July 17, 2011

July 17—Republicans hold the power in Madison, and they have redrawn the electoral maps to strengthen their re-election chances, said Sen. Tim Cullen, D-Janesville.

Cullen knows his party would do the same thing if it were in power.

"That's why I support taking this out of hands of the Legislature because the Legislature can't help itself," Cullen said.

"The real losers are the voters because this tends to exacerbate our political problems because it creates fewer competitive Senate and Assembly seats," Cullen said. "The voters don't get the competitive races they deserve because essentially the politicians are picking their voters."

The Republicans don't have to "wire" every district in their favor, Cullen noted. They only need enough districts to ensure majorities in the Legislature. So they draw boundaries to include Republican majorities in a majority of districts.

"Right now, you have a bunch of people who are trying to secure their own job. That's what's going on here. Talk about a sort of a blatant conflict of interests," Cullen said.

In years when the parties split power, they negotiate the maps, Cullen said. Sometimes, the courts make the final decision. This year, however, the Republicans control both houses and the governor's office. They can do what they want.

Cullen knows there's no chance of changing the system anytime soon. He's proposing that changes go into effect after the next Census in 2021.
Cullen is not the first to suggest a change, and he is not the only one with ideas. The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign is backing Assembly Bill 198, introduced by 13 representatives, including Janis Ringhand, D-Evansville.

Under the proposal, the state's Legislative Reference Bureau and Government Accountability Board would jointly develop standards for drawing the maps.

AB 198s would require districts be drawn to make them competitive.

Cullen said nobody knows which party will be in power in 2021. If the past is any guide, about 70 percent of today's legislators won't hold office in 10 years.

"My argument is, you're not going to be here anyway, so let's do the right thing," Cullen said.

--- INDEX REFERENCES ---

COMPANY: AS; AKHIL BROTHERS; SPOLKA AKCYJNA; AFFENZELLER BAHNEN AG; OESTERRREICHISCHE APOTHEKERBANK EG; ALVES BANDEIRA AND CA LDA

NEWS SUBJECT: (Global Politics (1GL73); Government (1GO80); Public Affairs (1FU31); Local Government (1LO75); Regulatory Affairs (1RE51); World Elections (1WO93))

Language: EN

OTHER INDEXING: (AB; LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD; REPUBLICANS; WISCONSIN DEMOCRACY CAMPAIGN) (Cullen; Janis Ringhand; Talk; Tim Cullen)

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July 17, 2011

State's new lines could undo county's work
Ann Marie Ames
The Janesville Gazette, Wis.

July 17--JANESVILLE -- After months of work, Rock County is close to finalizing its plan to create new boundaries for county and municipal voting districts.

But plans released July 8 by the state Legislature could slice the county's map into strange pieces.

The Legislature is considering a plan to change the boundaries of Assembly and Senate districts.

In a separate process, local changes have been proposed and debated. The county will review its proposal one more time and could finalize the changes in September, County Clerk Lori Stottler said.

If the state approves its map without consulting the finalized local maps, it could mean added confusion for voters and municipal clerks, she said.

Here's what you need to know:

What already happened

The county this spring used the results of the federal census to tweak the boundaries for the 29 county board supervisory districts. An ad hoc committee with the help of county staff used census data and other information to make changes, said Nick Osborne, assistant to the county administrator.

The goal is to make sure that each county board supervisor represents about the same number of people, Osborne said. In Rock County, that means each supervisor would represent about 5,500 of the county's 160,331 residents.

Planners also want to create districts that don't confuse voters, Osborne said. Statutes allow the use of features such as rivers, highways or municipal lines to create logical boundaries, Osborne said.

Population changes are the primary factor behind redistricting, but geography also is taken into consideration "because that makes it easier for the voter," he said.

The county board in May approved a proposal and sent it to local municipalities for 1/9/2012
review.

What's new

Municipalities had until July 11 to review the county proposal and return it to Stottler's office. County officials will look over the changes the municipalities made and could make more changes.

Stottler didn't expect much of that because municipal and county officials worked together on the boundary details, Stottler said.

"At this point, we don't have a lot of changes coming forward," Stottler said. "They were giving us input as we were going along."

She can't say the same for the state process, which is moving faster than normal, Stottler said, and the Legislature did not appear to use anything other than straight census data to draw boundaries, she said. Therefore, the lines could cut through municipalities or in some cases through wards.

County and municipal staff had worked hard to avoid such divisions, Stottler said. She wasn't sure if the county would need to make more changes if the state's proposal splits local wards.

"What does this mean for us? What does this do to our process?" Stottler said. "Would we have to go back and change it so we match their stuff? That's possible."

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

NEWS SUBJECT: (Government (1GO80); Local Government (1LO75))

Language: EN

OTHER INDEXING: (ASSEMBLY; COUNTY; COUNTY CLERK LORI STOTTLER; LEGISLATURE; SENATE; STATE; STOTTLER) (Nick Osborne; Osborne; Planners; Population; Statutes)

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1/9/2012
Redistricting plan means changes for legislators and voters

July 17--JANESVILLE -- The Wisconsin Legislature is expected to vote this week on a proposal that would redraw boundaries for all 132 legislative districts.

The Republican-proposed changes would put four area Assembly representatives into new districts:

-- Amy Loudenbeck, R-Clinton, would no longer live in the 45th Assembly District.

-- Steve Nass, R-La Grange, would no longer live in the 31st Assembly District.

-- Tyler August, R-Walworth, would live outside of the 32nd Assembly District.

-- Janis Ringhand, D-Evansville, would no longer live in the 80th Assembly District.

The new state Senate lines would not put any area senators outside their current districts.

Republicans, who control both houses of the Legislature, drew the maps that they say are constitutional and deal with a growth in population of about 300,000 people over the past decade.

Democrats say they are unconstitutional because of the way they break up district boundaries. They say the maps put Democrats at a disadvantage.

The state Senate is expected to take up the redistricting plan Tuesday. The Assembly plans to vote on the maps Wednesday. Once passed by the Legislature, the maps go to Republican Gov. Scott Walker for his consideration.

The Gazette spoke with area representatives about the proposed district changes:

Rep. Joe Knilans, R-Janesville

1/9/2012
Under the proposed redistricting, most of Janesville would be blanketed under the 44th Assembly district instead of the current setup, which includes few other district lines meandering through the geographic fringes of the city.

Knilans said he likes the redistricting proposal because he believes it would cut down on confusion for residents.

"The people in Janesville would basically have one representative," he said.

Knilans said he now gets calls from people who live in the 43rd Assembly District, which is represented by Evan Wynn, R-Whitewater.

"I have to tell them, 'You're not in my district,' and then refer them to Evan's number. This will help them out," Knians said.

Knilans said he doesn't believe that the overall redistricting plans favor Republican lawmakers over Democrats.

"There's a lot of Republicans who are paired next to each other who would have to either move or run against each other in a primary to determine who is going to get a seat," Knilans said.

He pointed to Rep. Amy Loudenbeck, R-Clinton, who now represents the 45th Assembly District but would be living in the 31st Assembly District under the proposed district changes.

Knilans said Loudenbeck would either have to move to keep her current seat, or stay put and later run in a primary against a few other Republican challengers whose adjacent seats also are affected by shifting district lines.

Sen. Tim Cullen, D-Janesville

Cullen was elected last fall to represent a Senate district that covers most of Rock County and a corner of Walworth County. The proposed changes would shift the 15th Senate District to the west and north, adding pieces of three other counties, for a total of five.

Cullen said it looks as though he will lose about 35,000 constituents in southeast Rock County and Walworth County's Richmond Township, but he'll pick up new constituents in Green, Dane and Jefferson counties.

Cullen said he's trying to get a more detailed map to be sure of what happens in Beloit,

1/9/2012
which he now represents. The new map splits the city. Similarly, it looks as though he is picking up a portion of the village of Oregon, but the map is not clear.

Cullen said it doesn’t look as though the Republicans changed the district with the incumbent Democrat in mind, although he hasn’t analyzed the changes in depth. He suspects the main reason was to help freshman Republicans Evan Wynn and Amy Loudenbeck, who now represent two of the three Assembly districts that make up the 15th Senate.

Cullen noted that for the next 18 months he’ll represent the current 15th District, but he becomes the senator of about 40,000 new constituents in Green, Dane and Jefferson counties starting in 2012.

Those new constituents will see the changes coming, he said, and the effect will be that he’ll be representing an extra-large district for the next year and a half, not that he’s complaining.

Normally, the map is changed in the spring of the election year, Cullen said, but Republicans want to solidify power now, before recall elections in August. Those elections could shift control of the Senate back to the Democrats, and that would mean the two parties would have to negotiate the changes.

Cullen expects the Republican majority and the governor to approve the new map before the recall elections.

Sen. Jon Erpenbach, D-Middleton

Erpenbach will remain in his 27th Senate District, which will shift north to include eastern Iowa County and parts of Sauk and Columbia counties. His district will no longer include any of Rock County.

"The boundary of my district doesn’t make a lot of sense as far as continuity," he said.

His district lost a good chunk of Green County in exchange for "bits and pieces of other counties" stretching up to the Wisconsin Dells and Reedsburg area, he said.

"It doesn’t make much sense," he said, adding he had no input in the changes.

Erpenbach said he doesn't agree with the maps or the way they were drawn. The maps are a result of Republican lawyers drawing them "very much behind closed doors." Changes were made purely for political reasons, he said.

A better way to redistrict, he said, would be to have a panel of three judges draw maps purely on census data to remove the politics.
Rep. Janis Ringhand, D-Evansville

Ringhand said the changes to her district were "not at all what I expected."

Her 80th District shifts to the northwest, no longer including her Evansville home or any portion of Rock County. Her new district would be the 45th, which is shifting west to part of Green County and an L-shape in southwestern Rock County.

"It's really a different district to say the least," she said.

She told the Gazette last week she was surprised by the changes to her district.

"It's just a very, very different segment than what I've had," she said.

She said she would miss the residents she's gotten to know in Monroe and Green County.

Rep. Evan Wynn, R-Whitewater

Wynn's 43rd Assembly District would no longer include the southwestern townships in Rock County and Orfordville and would add southern parts of Jefferson and Dane counties.

The redistricting wouldn't really change anything for Wynn, he told the Gazette earlier. He said he'll keep knocking on doors and getting his message out.

Rep. David Craig, R-Vernon Township

Craig will remain in the 83rd Assembly District, which will include a smaller corner of northeastern Walworth County.

"Every 10 years, following the national census, every state must redraw their legislative boundaries," Craig said. "I am pleased that we are moving forward with our constitutional duty to reapportion the state of Wisconsin."

Sen. Mary Lazich, R-New Berlin

Lazich will remain in the 28th Senate District, which will include a smaller corner of northeastern Walworth County.

Lazich said "redistricting is bittersweet. I do not like losing constituents and territory. I look forward to meeting new constituents."

1/9/2012
Sen. Neal Kedzie, R-Elkhorn

Kedzie will remain in the 11th Senate District, which will be extended to include most of southeastern Rock County and most of southern Jefferson County.

Kedzie's Madison office referred all redistricting questions to Republican Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, R-Juneau.


---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

COMPANY: GAZETTE

NEWS SUBJECT: (U.S. Congressional Campaigns (1US07); Government (1GO80); Public Affairs (1PU31); Political Parties (1PO73); Legislation (1LE97); Local Government (1LO75))

REGION: (Wisconsin (1WZ59); U.S. Midwest Region (1MI19); North America (1NO39); Americas (1AM92); USA (1US73))

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OTHER INDEXING: (GAZETTE; LEGISLATURE; REPUBLICAN SENATE MAJORITY; SENATE; WISCONSIN; WISCONSIN DELLS; WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE) (Amy Loudenbeck; Clinton; Columbia; Craig; Cullen; David Craig; Democrats; Erpenbach; Evan; Evan Wynn; Janis Ringhand; Jefferson; Joe Knilans; Jon Erpenbach; Kedzie; Knilans; Lazich; Loudenbeck; Mary Lazich; Neal Kedzie; Republicans; Republicans Evan; Ringhand; Scott Fitzgerald; Scott Walker; Similarly; Stephen Nass; Steve Nass; Tim Cullen; Wynn)

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Madison — With recall elections looming for state senators and his poll numbers slumping, Gov. Scott Walker is touting his work with Democrats and their allies on issues like school reform and an income tax deal with Minnesota.

The GOP governor says that shows he's willing to work across party lines to help the state despite bruising fights over the state budget and union bargaining changes. But Democrats say it's a cynical attempt for Walker to rebrand himself after his first six months in office have made him potentially the most polarizing governor in the country.

Walker said he put forward jobs bills in January that drew bipartisan support and said he wanted to return to shared priorities like the economy as well as education, where he is working with the state superintendent of schools.

People seeing us working together and seeing things happen from that, I think, will restore a sense of trust, Walker—er said in a telephone interview Friday from Salt Lake City, where he's attending the National Governors Association conference.

On taking office, Walker had to deal quickly with a more than $3 billion budget shortfall over two years. To help do it, he and GOP lawmakers made big cuts in state aid to schools and local governments and then cut public employees' benefits and union bargaining authority to help absorb the losses in aid.

The budget bills passed on partisan votes - Democratic senators even left the state seeking unsuccessfully to block them - amid often massive protests. Walker, who won November's election with 52% of the vote, found his public approval ratings sinking rapidly to the depths seen late in the term of former Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle, the figure that Walker had very deliberately made the center of his 2010 campaign.

A series of polls since February done by different pollsters for groups across the political spectrum have shown that a majority of voters in the state disapprove of the job that Walker is doing and that fewer voters find him likable compared to last fall during the campaign. So far that trend has held even as the most bitter political fights of February and March have receded.
Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca (D-Kenosha) said Walker showed little interest in working with Democrats until after his standing with the public sank.

It's very clear, his poll numbers are plummeting, Barca said. He's showing absolutely no evidence whatsoever that he's interested in working with us on anything. Initiatives cited Walker counters that he puts little emphasis on polls. He points to several initiatives he's brought forward to work with Democrats and others on the left: Last week Walker unveiled a new initiative with state schools Superintendent Tony Evers, a nonpartisan official allied with Democrats, to track student progress and judge the quality of both public and private schools that receive tax dollars. Walker and Evers say they will seek approval from the U.S. Department of Education to allow the new school accountability system to replace the decade-old, federally imposed one they label as broken.

On Wednesday, Walker and Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton, a Democrat, announced that Wisconsin had sent its neighboring state $60 million to repay a debt from a canceled reciprocal income tax agreement and said they would work together to try to bring back the arrangement.

I think we're going to reach an agreement where (former Wisconsin Gov. Jim) Doyle and (former Minnesota Gov. Tim) Pawlenty couldn't, Walker said.

This fall, Walker said he wants to pass with a broad consensus a proposal - so far delayed because of problems - to boost venture capital spending to fund start-up companies and create jobs in the state.

There are some people who will complain if you're not working in a bipartisan way, and then when you do, they complain it's not real enough. With some people you're not going to win, Walker said of his critics.

But the road ahead for Walker and his party with Democrats is clearly a long one. For instance, Walker had a regular meeting with Barca and Senate Minority Leader Mark Miller (D-Monona) before the budget crisis. But those meetings broke down during that battle and haven't been restarted yet, something that Walker said he would like to change.

Dems seek map veto Democrats say it will take more than seeking a meeting or settling a debt to Minnesota that already had to be paid to show a commitment to bipartisanship.

Barca said the governor could show a real commitment to bipartisanship by vetoing redistricting plans proposed by Republican lawmakers that would give their party an electoral advantage for the next decade.

It's time to show some leadership, governor. Have your actions match your rhetoric, Barca said.
Joe Heim, a political science professor at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, said the governor's recent efforts to collaborate with Evers and other education leaders in the state may signal he was seeking a more centrist approach. Heim said he believes Walker was motivated in part by a desire to head off a recall effort against himself.

The fact that Evers is working with him is a positive sign. I don't think he would do this unless he felt the governor was sincere, Heim said.

But education reform has always been part of the core Republican agenda, observed Charles Franklin, a political science professor at UW-Madison.

This is not breaking brand-new ground there, Franklin said.

Walker may not be able to win back Democrats at this point, but the key to his political success will be winning back state independents without alienating his conservative supporters, Franklin said.

The one risky point of moderation is, you're doing really well with that Republican base. The last thing you want to do is disappoint them, because they're the only ones keeping you in striking distance, Franklin said.

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---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

COMPANY: UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN*; TIM SPOLKA AKCYJNA; UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON; NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION; TCX INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COMPANY BV; TAESUNG T I M CO LTD; TIM SUL SA; US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN; TIM CELULAR SA; TURICUM INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AG; TELECOM ITALIA MOBILE SPA; JOURNAL SENTINEL INC; TIM PARTICIPACOES SA

NEWS SUBJECT: (Public Finance (1PU60); Economic Policy & Policymakers (1EC69); Economics & Trade (1EC26); Public Affairs (1PU31); Legislation (1LE97); Global Politics (1GL73); Government (1GO80); Political Parties (1PG73); World Elections (1WO93))

REGION: (Minnesota (1MI53); Wisconsin (1WI54); North America (1NO39); U.S. Midwest Region (1MI19); USA (1US73); Americas (1AM92))

Language: EN

OTHER INDEXING: (DEMS; GOP; JOURNAL SENTINEL INC; NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION; TIM; US

1/9/2012
Gov. Walker mum on signing the redistricting bills

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Gov. Scott Walker isn’t saying whether he’ll sign the redistricting bills that have passed in the state Senate and Assembly.

The bills redraw political boundaries. Democrats fear the maps were drawn in a way that could give Republicans an edge in upcoming elections. The proposals passed both chambers along party lines.

A reporter asked Walker on Thursday when he planned to sign the bill. The Republican governor was coy, saying he’d have to take a look at the overall maps first.

Walker says he’ll judge them using the same measures that courts used a decade ago when federal judges drew the state’s legislative lines.
GUARD BUS-COLLISION

6 injured after Guard vehicle loses control

RAYMOND, Wis. (AP) _ Six people are injured after a four-vehicle crash involving a military convoy from the Illinois National Guard in Racine County.

According to the Wisconsin State Patrol, an Illinois National Guard convoy was traveling south in the right lane of Interstate 94 near Caledonia at about noon Thursday.

Several Humvees, a bus and other units slowed down as they approached a disabled semi on the right shoulder.

The State Patrol says the operator of one of the Humvees lost control resulting in the crash.

The Wisconsin State Patrol says four Guard members were injured as well the drivers of a straight truck and a pickup involved in the crash. They all were taken to a hospital.

HEAT DEATH-WISCONSIN

Columbia County man becomes first Wis. Heat death

(Information in the following story is from: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, http://www.jsonline.com)

PORTAGE, Wis. (AP) _ Wisconsin authorities say a 65-year-old Columbia County man has died from heat-related causes, the first confirmed death in the state from this week's heat wave.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported (http://bit.ly/n5thzq) that the man died Monday in Fountain Prairie. Columbia County Medical Examiner Angela Hinze told the newspaper Thursday the man had underlying medical conditions and was outdoors helping a family member with housework when his condition worsened.

PARK DEATH-MADISON

Heat suspected in Madison park death

(Information in the following story is from: The Capital Times, http://www.madison.com/tct)

1/9/2012
MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Authorities are investigating to see if the death of a 36-year-old man found in a Madison park could be heat-related.

Madison police spokesman Howard Payne tells The Capitol Times (http://bit.ly/o9KOVI) that the unidentified man was found dead about 6:15 p.m. Wednesday near a shelter in Brittingham Park.

Payne says the local medical examiner is looking to see if the death could be related to the extreme heat.

FRAUD THEFT-SUN PRAIRIE

Woman sentenced in theft from 85-year-old neighbor

(Information in the following story is from: Wisconsin State Journal, http://www.madison.com/wsj)

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A Sun Prairie woman who conned an 85-year-old neighbor out of $24,000 to feed her gambling addiction has been sentenced to 10 years in prison.

The Wisconsin State Journal reports (http://bit.ly/ploNLm) 49-year-old Gloria Evans allegedly told the victim she needed a loan until an insurance settlement came through. But on Thursday, Evans told a Dane County judge she bet $500 a hand at a casino.

Evans was sentenced to eight years in prison and five years of extended supervision for theft by false representation. Evans has a criminal record dating back to the 1980s and was also sentenced to two more years in prison for another theft and felony bail-jumping convictions.

Evans' attorney, Dorothea Watson, says Evans believed she was going to repay the neighbor from her gambling winnings.

WINCHESTER HOMICIDE-SENTENCE

Winnebago Co. landlord sentenced to life

(Information in the following story is from: WBay-TV, http://www.wbay.com)

OSHKOSH, Wis. (AP) — A Winnebago County landlord has been sentenced to life in prison without parole in shooting death of his tenant.

1/9/2012
WBAY-TV reports (http://bit.ly/p0Be6Z ) Thursday that 43-year-old Mark West pleaded guilty May 12 to first-degree intentional homicide in the death of Ronald Lau last October.

West owned a duplex in Winchester, where Lau lived.

Prosecutors claim West shot Lau five times at close range last October.

WISCONSIN UNEMPLOYMENT

Walker: Wisconsin reports net gain of 9,500 jobs

(Eds: Updates to restore background. Adds contributing line. Changes headlines to clarify the job gains are net. AP photos planned.)

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Wisconsin added 9,500 jobs last month, in part because of a renewed focus on drawing tourists to the state, Gov. Scott Walker said Thursday.

The state added 12,900 jobs in the private sector but lost 3,400 government jobs in June, according to seasonally adjusted numbers released by the state Department of Workforce Development. The net gain of 9,500 jobs accounts for more than half the 18,000 net jobs created across the nation during the month.

The governor credited the state's numbers to "a rebirth of tourism" following broad efforts to publicize Wisconsin's state fairs, ethnic festivals and sporting events.

"Tourism is more than a $12 billion industry in the state of Wisconsin," he told reporters in Milwaukee. "This is about putting people to work."

He said he didn't have details on which specific industries gained jobs. However, the Department of Workforce Development confirmed that almost half the private-sector growth was in the leisure and hospitality industry. There were 6,200 jobs created in that sector last month, and 3,300 more jobs than in June of last year.

A reporter asked whether the new jobs were seasonal and would be gone in several months. Walker replied that some were summer jobs but that an unspecified number would carry over into subsequent months.

BON IVER-MILWAUKEE

Milwaukee mayor makes Friday "Bon Iver Day"

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett is a Bon Iver (BOHNE-ee-VAIR) fan.

1/9/2012
He has issued a proclamation making Friday "Bon Iver Day" in Milwaukee.

The band starts its international tour at the Riverside Theater in Milwaukee on Friday.

Riverside spokesman Andrew Nelson says the lead singer, Justin Vernon, will get the proclamation Friday on stage before a sold out crowd from his godfather who works for the city. Vernon is from Eau Claire, where he records his music.
Here is the latest Wisconsin news from The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) - Governor Scott Walker isn't saying whether he'll sign the redistricting bills that have passed in the state Senate and Assembly. The bills redraw political boundaries in ways Democrats say could give Republicans an edge in upcoming elections. The proposals passed both Republican-led chambers along party lines.

MILWAUKEE (AP) - Wisconsin added 9,500 jobs last month in part because of a renewed focus on drawing tourists to the state. That's according to Governor Scott Walker who spoke at a press conference in Milwaukee yesterday with Tourism Secretary Stephanie Klett. The state added 12,900 jobs in the private sector but lost 3,400 government jobs in June, according to seasonally adjusted numbers released by the state Department of Workforce Development.

(More information in the following story is from: Wisconsin State Journal, http://www.madison.com/wsj)

MADISON, Wis. (AP) - A Sun Prairie woman who conned an 85-year-old neighbor out of $24,000 to feed her gambling addiction has been sentenced to 10 years in prison. Forty-nine-year-old Gloria Evans told a Dane County judge during yesterday's sentencing that she lost the money playing $500 a hand at a casino.

MILWAUKEE (AP) - Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett has issued a proclamation making today "Bon Iver Day" (BOHNE-ee-VAIR) in Milwaukee. The band is starting its international tour at Milwaukee's Riverside Theater today. According to Barrett's proclamation, Bon Iver has become an international ambassador for Milwaukee and Wisconsin.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

COMPANY: SUN PRAIRIE

NEWS SUBJECT: (Government (1G080); Regulatory Affairs (1RE51))

REGION: (Wisconsin (1WI54); U.S. Midwest Region (1MI19); North America (1NO39); Americas (1AM92); USA (1US73))

1/9/2012
Suit argues redistricting maps are unconstitutional.

Patrick Marley

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

July 22, 2011

July 22--MADISON -- A group of residents asked a federal court to throw out new legislative and congressional maps on Thursday, a day after lawmakers approved them.

The lawsuit argues the new maps violate the U.S. Constitution, the state constitution and the federal Voting Rights Act by carving up cities and splitting minority communities.

The maps, which would affect elections starting in fall 2012, still need the approval of Republican Gov. Scott Walker.

Republican lawmakers, who now control the Legislature, did not have a comment on the lawsuit, but have insisted their maps would be found legal.

Lawmakers approved the maps Tuesday and Wednesday, just weeks before a wave of recall elections that could shift the majority in the Senate to Democrats.
Suit filed early

Fifteen residents, including two Democratic former lawmakers, filed a lawsuit in June in federal court in Milwaukee over redistricting, before legislators had unveiled their plans. On Thursday, they amended their complaint to say the new maps don't meet constitutional requirements.

"Under the legislation, Democrats have little chance of attaining and retaining a majority in either the Senate or the Assembly, or in the congressional delegation, giving them little ability to overcome minority status at any point over the next decade," the lawsuit argues.

Anticipating a legal fight, Republicans hired Michael Best & Friedrich and the Troupis Law Office to consult on drawing maps. State taxpayers have paid the firms $350,000 so far this year.

The lawsuit, filed against the state Government Accountability Board, which runs state elections, seeks an injunction preventing elections from being conducted under the new boundaries. The suit also asks a panel of three judges to draw its own lines if the Legislature cannot draw valid ones.

The filing takes issue with how minorities are treated in the maps. Milwaukee could have seven Assembly districts with African-American majorities, but is provided only six, the lawsuit says.

The Forest County Potawatomi have traditionally been in one Assembly district, but the tribe has been split into two, the lawsuit says. Three other tribes find themselves in similar situations.

The lawsuit also says the maps violate requirements that districts be compact and follow county, municipal and ward lines to the extent possible. It notes, for example, that Beloit has traditionally been in one Assembly district and one Senate district but would now be split into two of each.

--- INDEX REFERENCES ---

NEWS SUBJECT: (Legal (1LE33); Business Litigation (1BU04); Legislation (1LE97); Corporate Events (1CR05); Government (1GO80); Local Government (1L075); Regulatory Affairs (1RE51); Business Management (1BU42); Business Lawsuits & Settlements (1BU19))

REGION: (Wisconsin (1WI59); North America (1NO39); U.S. Midwest Region (1MI19); USA (1US73); Americas (1AM92))

1/9/2012
Gov. Walker mum on signing the redistricting bills

MILWAUKEE_Gov. Scott Walker isn't saying whether he'll sign the redistricting bills that have passed in the state Senate and Assembly.

The bills redraw political boundaries. Democrats fear the maps were drawn in a way that could give Republicans an edge in upcoming elections. The proposals passed both chambers along party lines.

A reporter asked Walker on Thursday when he planned to sign the bill. The Republican governor was coy, saying he'd have to take a look at the overall maps first.

Walker's says he'll judge them using the same measures that courts used a decade ago when federal judges drew the state's legislative lines.

The maps redraw all 132 legislative districts and Wisconsin's eight congressional districts. Democrats call the current proposal an unconstitutional plan that won't survive in court.

----- INDEX REFERENCES -----

1/9/2012
Assembly passes maps redrawning political lines

MADISON, Wis. — Republicans in control of the state Assembly passed bills Wednesday redrawing political boundary lines in Wisconsin with no support from Democrats, who called it an unconstitutional plan that will not survive in court.

The proposals, which passed the Senate on Tuesday also along party lines, now head to Republican Gov. Scott Walker.

The maps redraw all 132 legislative districts and Wisconsin's eight congressional districts.

Democrats in both houses objected to the new maps, saying they amounted to an unconstitutional power grab designed to cement Republican majorities over the next decade. They also accused Republicans of rushing to get the maps to Walker before recall elections next month that could give Democrats control of the Senate, thereby able to block the governor's agenda.
"Democracy is literally on life support in Wisconsin and now you want to give it a lethal injection," said Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Madison.

The Legislature usually doesn't consider the once-a-decade process of redistricting until the fall. The new lines, which are required to be drawn to address about a 320,000-person population increase over the past decade, don't take effect until the fall 2012 elections.

Like their counterparts in the Senate, Democrats in the Assembly offered no alternative maps on Wednesday, saying there wasn't time to come up with a plan. Republicans released their maps on July 8.

--- INDEX REFERENCES ---

NEWS SUBJECT: (Government (1G080); Public Affairs (1PU31); Political Parties (1P073))

REGION: (Wisconsin (1WI54); U.S. Midwest Region (1MI19); North America (1NO39); Americas (1AM92); USA (1US73))

Language: EN

OTHER INDEXING: (ASSEMBLY; LEGISLATURE; SENATE; STATE ASSEMBLY) (Democracy; Mark Pocan; Republicans; Scott Walker; Walker) (StateDistribution) (United States; USA; North America)

KEYWORDS: (n); (Political)

Word Count: 223
7/21/11 AP ALERT POLITICS 11:30:53
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Gov. Walker mum on signing the redistricting bills

MILWAUKEE Gov. Scott Walker isn't saying whether he'll sign the redistricting bills that have passed in the state Senate and Assembly.

The bills redraw political boundaries. Democrats fear the maps were drawn in a way that could give Republicans an edge in upcoming elections. The proposals passed both chambers along party lines.

A reporter asked Walker on Thursday when he planned to sign the bill. The Republican governor was coy, saying he'd have to take a look at the overall maps first.

Walker's says he'll judge them using the same measures that courts used a decade ago when federal judges drew the state's legislative lines.

The maps redraw all 132 legislative districts and Wisconsin's eight congressional districts. Democrats call the current proposal an unconstitutional plan that won't survive in court.

--- INDEX REFERENCES ---

REGION: (Wisconsin (IWI54); U.S. Midwest Region (1MI19); North America (INO39); Americas (IAM92); USA (IUS73))

Language: EN

OTHER INDEXING: (Democrats; Gov; Scott Walker; Walker) (StateDistribution) (United States; USA; North America)

KEYWORDS: (n); (Legislative); (Political)

Word Count: 130
7/21/11 APALERTWI 23:02:10
END OF DOCUMENT

State sens. on 7/20 "voted along party lines ... on guidelines" for redistricting.

While the state House redistricting cmte "unanimously adopted the same set of guidelines," the three Dems on the Senate cmte meeting "at the same time voted no." They also "objected to holding both ... meetings simultaneously, because it made it difficult for interest groups to have representatives at both.

State Senate Dems "offered three amendments to the proposed guidelines designed to keep the map-making process less partisan." One would have prohibited the cmte "from considering past voting history as a factor in deciding where district boundaries would go."

But all three amendments "failed on a party-line vote" in the GOP-led cmte. Dems "say they're already worried the process is stacked against them." They charge state Senate Reapportionment & Redistricting Cmte Chair Mitch Seabaugh (R)'"with keeping them in the dark about draft maps," arguing that state House Dems have more access.

Seabaugh "bristled at that." Seabaugh: "There are members of the Senate, members of this committee, that have told outright lies."

State Senate Min. Whip Vincent Fort (D) "told reporters after the meeting that" GOPers "are playing games." Fort: "It has not been an open process. The chairman is being a little thin-skinned" (Jones, Florida Times-Union, 7/21).

"There was no commitment" that the cmtes "would meet again before lawmakers return to session" in Aug. to approve maps, "nor was there a commitment on when those maps would be ready." But Seabaugh "vowed that the public would see proposed maps before any vote." Seabaugh: "Whenever we have a plan that is ready and we make sure it adheres to the principles and to the law, then we will make it public" (Gould Sheinin/Edward, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 7/20).

State House Min. Leader Tom Cross (R) and state Senate Min. Leader Christine Radogno (R) "filed a federal lawsuit" on 7/20 "seeking to undo" new state legislative boundaries that Gov. Pat Quinn (D) approved "that could give" Dems "a decade-long legislative stranglehold" (McKinney, Chicago Sun-Times, 7/21).

Cross: "The Democrats passed a map this session that we believe is in direct violation of the Federal Voting Rights Act and some of our most basic rights under the Constitution. ... They should be ashamed of themselves" (Erickson, Quad-City Times, 7/20).
Attys for both the Dem Party and GOP on 7/20 asked Judge James Russell "to rule first on whether Hispanics merit" a majority-Latino CD in NV "before he appoints a special panel to draw new maps."

GOPers "believe the Voting Rights Act requires the state to shape one district" in Southern NV "around its heavy Hispanic population," now 26% of the state. Dems, however, "argue that packing Latinos" into one CD "will dilute their voting power across the rest of the state, which could be considered a violation of the federal act."

Despite the opposing views, "the two sides agreed that a court-appointed panel can't begin to draw the new maps until it has a legal ruling from the judge on whether to form a Hispanic majority district." GOP attys: "The proper application of the Voting Rights Act will likely be the most important legal question of this entire process."

Dems "agreed, arguing that it's vital to decide the Latino issue first." Dem brief: "The court's answer to this question will then inform whether the Legislature's map or the existing districts should be the starting point for the court's line-drawing task" (Myers, Las Vegas Review-Journal, 7/21).

The newest proposed revisions for the state's CDs are drawing criticism from Dems, but also '10 NC-07 nominee Ilario Pantano (R).

"The new maps wrongly divide up communities of interest in the Wilmington area," according to Pantano spokesperson Andy Yates. Pantano "last year lost a close election against" Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-07).

Raleigh suburbs "have little to do with" coastal SE NC, and vice versa, said Yates. "A better-drawn map likely would put more" Dems into the CD, Pantano "said in a statement ... but "I know that truly selfless service means doing the right thing, even when it hurts you politically."

The new CD "has also drawn a primary opponent for Pantano." State Sen. David Rouzer (R) announced on 7/20 that he will run for the seat (Woolverton, Fayetteville Observer, 7/21).

The Raleigh News & Observer's ed board calls the GOP's map "the acrobatic equivalent of a quadruple somersault off the high wire -- while riding a motorcycle" (7/21).

Two OSU profs. "joined leaders" of the League of Women Voters, Common Cause and OH Citizen Action on 7/20 "in urging that the map-drawing process be transparent and open to the public" (Hallett, Columbus Dispatch, 7/21).

Meanwhile, "only two people came to speak" to members of a joint state House and Senate cmte at a meeting 7/20 in Zanesville "because of a lack of publicity." The Zanesville
Times Recorder, there to report on it, "learned of the 3 p.m. meeting via an email shortly beforehand" (Gadd, Zanesville Times Recorder, 7/21).

The state Dem Party "officially entered the court fight" of the GOP-drawn redistricting maps. State Dem Party gen. counsel Chad Dunn: "Allowing these partisan redistricting plans to take effect would violate the voting rights of every Texas voter who is not a partisan Republican" (Hicks, San Antonio Express-News, 7/21).

The state Senate passed the redistricting bill on 7/20 "with no support" from Dems, "who called it an unconstitutional plan that will not survive in court."

The plan passed the state House on 7/19 and now goes to Gov. Scott Walker (R) for his signature.

Dems in both houses "objected to the new maps, saying they amounted to an unconstitutional power grab designed to cement" GOP majorities "over the next decade." They also accused GOPers "of rushing to get the maps to Walker before recall elections next month" that could give Dems control of the state Senate. State Rep. Mark Pocan (D): "Democracy is literally on life support in Wisconsin and now you want to give it a lethal injection."

Walker spokesperson Cullen Werwie "had no comment on the passage of the bill" (Bauer, AP, 7/20).

--- INDEX REFERENCES ---

COMPANY: CODIBEL DISTRIBUTION NV; TEXAS; DEM

NEWS SUBJECT: (Social Issues (1SO05); Public Affairs (1PU31); Minority & Ethnic Groups (1MI43); Government (1GO80); Regulatory Affairs (1RE51))

REGION: (Wisconsin (1WI54); North America (1NA39); U.S. Midwest Region (1MI19); U.S. Southwest Region (1SO89); USA (1US73); Americas (1AM92); Texas (1TE14); Ohio (1OH35); North Carolina (1NC26); U.S. Southeast Region (1SE88))

Language: EN

OTHER INDEXING: (CD; CHAD DUNN HICKS; COMMON; CROSS WORD; DEM; DEM PARTY; ERICKSON QUAD CITY; FEDERAL VOTING; GIFT HORSE; GOP; HALLETT COLUMBUS; HISPANIC; LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS; LEGISLATURE; OSU; PARTY; SENATE; STATE; STATE DEM PARTY; STATE HOUSE; STATE REP; STATE SEN; STATE SENATE; TEXAS; TOM CROSS CHRISTINE RADOGNO PAT QUINN MCKINNEY CROSS; VOTING; ZANESVILLE TIMES RECORDER GADD ZANESVILLE TIMES RECORDER) (Andy Yates; Atlanta Journal-
Candidate's home district will change

JAMES B. NELSON, jnelson@journalsentinel.com
Staff

Redistricting is required by law every 10 years to adjust districts to account for population shifts. In Wisconsin, the past several redistrictings have been done by the courts because legislators couldn't agree on new borders.

This year is different because, for the first time in decades, one party controls both legislative branches and the governor's office - Republicans.

Democrats and their supporters say the GOP maps are aimed at protecting the party and undermining Democratic chances. What's more, they say the new maps are being rushed through the Legislature in case the Senate flips hands during the August recall elections.

Under the Republican maps, 11 pairs of lawmakers in the two chambers from both parties wind up in the same district and will be forced to run against each other. Several key Democratic state senators - or candidates in the recalls - are drawn out of their current districts.

1/9/2012
In a blog post, the state AFL-CIO cried foul: "These maps are so ludicrous that Nancy Nusbaum (D) and Fred Clark (D) won't even be in their districts any more if the changes go through. They cut off Nancy's house from her district by half a block!" The group adds that the new districts "are rigged so that when the people of Wisconsin reclaim their democracy in the August recall elections, Republicans will be able to sneak back into office in 2012 via GOP-favored districts." There have been plenty of instances where elected officials have been forced to choose between their seat or their house. Often it's part of a downsizing of the legislative body - such as when a state loses a congressional district or a county board slims down.

But what about the Nusbaum part of this claim? A half a block out of the district? Looking into it provides some insight into the redistricting process.

Possible dilemma Nusbaum is the Democrat challenging Sen. Robert Cowles (RGreen Bay) in the Aug. 9 recall election for the 2nd District seat. If the maps, as proposed, become law, Nusbaum would be a resident of a different Senate district - the 30th. That seat is now held by Sen. Dave Hansen (DGreen Bay), who prevailed in a recall election July 19.

In short, Nusbaum could win the battle with a victory over Cowles.

But she'd lose the war by having to either move or run against Hansen.

Nusbaum lives at 1319 N. Summer Range Road in De Pere, a suburb of Green Bay.

The new district's border would be Webster Ave., a thoroughfare that runs just east of Nusbaum's home. Her house is three homes from the intersection.

"I used to be right in the middle of this district," Nusbaum said, who has lived in the home for 26 years.

Nusbaum, a former mayor of De Pere and former Brown County executive, said she was well aware of the politics of redistricting. She notes that the new map splits her city into two Senate districts, something that hasn't sat well with local leaders.

"I think it's because of me, and I'm sorry," she said. "I think it's blatant, the way they cut me out of this district." We tried to reach Republicans involved in the drawing of the new Senate districts. Attorney Jim Troupis, whose office was involved in the work, didn't return a call. Andrew Welhouse, a spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau), said the staffers involved in the redistricting would not comment on the advice of attorneys involved.

But Welhouse added this observation: "How can it be her present district? She doesn't have a district." Indeed, Nusbaum doesn't hold a Senate seat, as the AFL-CIO claim suggests, or any office. She left the county executive's job in 2003.

1/9/2012
By law, districts must be drawn to ensure that they have roughly equal-sized populations and, based on past cases, ensure that minority groups aren't discriminated against.

Also, the complaints about the redistricting are - at least in Nusbaum's part of the state - bipartisan. Freshman Assembly Rep. André Jacque (R-Bellevue) asked GOP leaders to reconsider the map because his home was drawn into a new district, held by another freshman, Rep. John Klenke (R-Green Bay).

"The party in power has a lot of leeway," said Rick Esenberg, a conservative blogger, attorney and Marquette University Law School professor. Esenberg testified before a state Senate committee July 13 that he thought the maps would survive a legal challenge.

"There just is no effectively enforceable legal obligation to avoid pairings or even to do it in a way that equally impacts Democrats and Republicans," Esenberg said in an email, referring to the incumbents who are forced to run against each other.

A 2007 report on the process to the Wisconsin Supreme Court touched on similar points.

"Redistricting is an inherently political process, one which defines the nature of representative government.

All of the stakeholders - political parties, incumbent legislators, civil rights coalitions, interest groups, watchdog organizations, labor unions, even individual voters - seek to draw districts in a way that helps their allies and puts their opponents at a disadvantage," it said, in part.

The report noted that drawing lines to favor one's own party is a process that's more than 100 years old in Wisconsin.

After the 1890 census, "the Democrats were in power and made the existing apportionment so as to get out of it as many Democratic districts as possible. Previous Republican legislatures had set the example. "So where does that leave us now? In criticizing the GOP maps, the state AFL-CIO says Nusbaum's home would be carved out of "her state Senate district by half a block." She does live there, and the map would fall the way the union claims. The maps may well face a legal challenge or even ultimately be redrawn by the courts. But that's all in the future and not part of the claim at hand.

We rate the statement True.

REDISTRICTING Wisconsin AFL-CIO, outside group THE STATEMENT Republican redistricting plans cut Democrat Nancy Nusbaum out of "her state Senate district by a half a block." THE VERDICT It's right there on the GOP map.
Madison - Senate and Assembly Republicans are at odds over whether to make workers wait a week to receive jobless benefits, a disagreement that could delay - perhaps for months - approving more federal help for the long-term unemployed.

The Senate voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to capture an estimated $88 million in federal money to extend jobless benefits to tens of thousands of out-of-work state residents.

But GOP senators also unexpectedly joined Democrats in voting to drop a one-week waiting period to get jobless benefits that they adopted just a month ago as part of the state budget.

Assembly Republicans on Wednesday agreed to take the federal money to extend benefits, but kept in place the one-week delay in an effort to help the state's struggling unemployment fund. Until the two houses agree on a package, the long-term unemployed can't get their additional benefits.

Assembly Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald (R-Horicon) said he hoped to resolve the differences quickly but acknowledged it could take time.

"We could even do it in September," he said.

Earlier Wednesday, the Assembly approved new maps of legislative and congressional districts that will give Republicans an easier time in elections. Legislative leaders secured approval of the maps just before recall elections next month that could shift control of the Senate to the Democrats.

The fight among Republicans over unemployment insurance could inject a new issue into the recall campaigns.

Elections are pending for eight senators - six Republicans and two Democrats.

Sen. Dave Hansen (D-Green Bay) easily kept his seat in the first election Tuesday; the others are scheduled for Aug. 9 and Aug. 16.

Democrats pilloried Republicans for keeping the one-week delay in place.
"That is punishing people who need the money the most right now," said Rep. Christine Sinicki (D-Milwaukee).

Senate President Mike Ellis (R-Neenah) expressed surprise the Assembly didn't go along with the Senate and end the delay to access benefits.

Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) has said his house could come in as soon as Thursday to again consider the bill.

"The Assembly and Senate are still talking about the right way to address this issue.

At the end of the day, there are still 225,000 people out of work in Wisconsin. That's far too many, and the end goal here is to get them working again," Scott Fitzgerald spokesman Andrew Welhouse said in a statement.

Extending the jobless benefits by 13 weeks would not worsen the state's struggling unemployment insurance trust fund, because it would be paid with federal money. But allowing people to access benefits right away instead of waiting a week would add $41 million to $56 million a year in additional costs for the fund, which is $1.4 billion in debt to the federal government. The one-week wait is currently scheduled to take effect on Jan. 1 of next year. As of January 2010, Wisconsin was one of 12 states without a one-week waiting period, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Gov. Scott Walker has said he supports both the extended benefits and the one-week waiting period, which he signed into law as part of the budget.

The extended jobless benefits would provide payments for out-of-work residents for up to 86 weeks. Now, coverage ends at 73 weeks.

All but a handful of states are accepting the new benefits, which are worth a maximum of $363 a week.

The bill is expected to affect 23,000 to 40,000 workers in Wisconsin. The cost to state and local governments would be roughly $800,000 for expenses associated with their workforce, with the federal government picking up the rest.

Maps approved Meanwhile, the Assembly largely on party lines approved the legislative and congressional maps, sending them to Walker. Rep. Samantha Kerkman (R-Powers Lake) - one of 22 incumbents put into the same district as a colleague - joined Democrats in opposing the legislative maps.

Redistricting is required every 10 years to account for population shifts recorded by the U.S. census.

1/9/2012
Republicans have moved quickly on their maps, which will allow them to be in place before
the recall elections. The new maps would take effect in the fall of 2012 and so would not
affect the recall elections. But getting them approved before the recall elections would
guarantee Democrats don't have a say in how the maps are drawn.

Setting district boundaries can give one party an advantage by packing likeminded voters
into certain areas.

Walker has said he will review the maps before deciding whether to approve them. If he
signs them, the fight over redistricting will move to the courts, where a federal lawsuit
has already been filed.

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---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

COMPANY: US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR; JOURNAL SENTINEL INC

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Westlaw

1/9/2012
GOP redistricting bill goes to Walker: Assembly OK's map on party-line vote

Scott Bauer Associated Press

Republicans in control of the state Assembly passed bills Wednesday redrawing political boundary lines in Wisconsin with no support from Democrats, who called it an unconstitutional plan that will not survive in court.

The proposals, which passed the Senate a day earlier and also along party lines, now head to Republican Gov. Scott Walker.

The maps redraw all 132 legislative districts and Wisconsin's eight congressional districts.

Democrats in both houses objected to the new maps, saying they amounted to an unconstitutional power grab designed to cement Republican majorities over the next decade. They also accused Republicans of rushing to get the maps to Walker before recall elections next month that could give Democrats control of the Senate, thereby able to block the governor's agenda.

"Democracy is literally on life support in Wisconsin, and now you want to give it a lethal injection," said Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Madison.

The Legislature typically doesn't consider the once-a-decade redistricting until the fall. The new lines, which are required to be drawn to address a 320,000-person population increase over the past decade, don't take effect until the fall 2012 elections.

Like their counterparts in the Senate, Democrats in the Assembly offered no alternative maps Wednesday, saying there wasn't time to come up with a plan. Republicans released their maps July 8.

"What we are doing here today is so wrong on so many different counts," said Assembly
Democratic Minority Leader Peter Barca of Kenosha. "It's just a partisan overreach."

No Republican spoke during debate of the maps before the votes to pass them.

Barca said passage of the redistricting plans will be a test of Walker's claims that he intends to be more bipartisan following the first six months of his term that polarized the state over his collective bargaining proposal and divisive state budget that dramatically cut public education to help balance a $3 billion shortfall.

"Is he truly trying to have bipartisanship?" Barca said.

Walker spokesman Cullen Werwie had no comment on the passage of the bill.

Democrats also criticized Republicans for spending $350,000 to date on private attorneys to help draw the maps, while Democrats were not allowed to hire their own attorneys to come up with an alternate plan.

Rep. Fred Kessler, a former judge who previously has assisted Democrats in Wisconsin and Nevada with redistricting, said the legislative map was unconstitutional because it splits minority populations to dilute their concentration and creates 59 strongly Republican districts and just 40 Democratic ones.

"It's a vicious plan, and I think it's not going to survive," Kessler said. "You have overreached this in an effort to crush the minority."

Federal judges drew the state's legislative lines each of the past three times, when a politically divided Legislature couldn't agree on maps.

A federal lawsuit is already in place challenging the map, even though Walker has yet to sign the bills into law. The lawsuit, filed last month by former Senate Democratic Majority Leader Judy Robson of Beloit and 14 other citizens, asked for a federal three-judge panel to develop a redistricting plan if lawmakers do not put a constitutional plan in place in a timely fashion.

The legislative map makes a number of changes to the current 99 Assembly and 33 Senate districts. Twelve Republicans and 10 Democrats would be forced to run against an incumbent in the newly drawn districts.

The congressional map moves Portage County and eastern Wood County from the 7th District, along with the Democratic-leaning cities of Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids and Chippewa Falls, and puts them into the 3rd District. It also moves Republican-leaning areas including Vilas and St. Croix counties into the 7th District.
That would make the 7th District, currently represented by Republican Rep. Sean Duffy, slightly more Republican. The moves would make the 3rd District, represented by Democratic U.S. Rep. Ron Kind, more Democratic.

The vote to pass the legislative map was 57-40, with independent Rep. Bob Ziegelbauer of Manitowoc voting no. Rep. Samantha Kerkman, R-Powers Lake, also joined Democrats in voting against it. The bill redrawing the congressional map was 59-38 along party lines, with Ziegelbauer joining Republicans in support.
SLICE & DICE: REDISTRICTING | REPUBLICANS' NEW LEGISLATIVE MAPS SPLINTER DEFOREST AND WINDSOR INTO SEVERAL PIECES.

CLAY BARBOUR cbarbour@madison.com 608-252-6129

TOWN OF WINDSOR Anna Storkson lives on Oak Springs Road, a quiet neighborhood street in a tiny sliver of Windsor practically surrounded by the village of DeForest.

For as long as Storkson can remember, the odd locale has meant little when it came to representation in the state Legislature. The village of DeForest and surrounding town of Windsor share many of the same problems, and as such, share one member of the Assembly, representing the 47th District.

But that could change dramatically under the new redistricting maps debated in the Capitol the last few weeks. If signed by the governor, the Republican-authored bill would split Windsor into three Assembly districts (42nd, 37th and 79th) and DeForest into two (42nd and 37th).

Republican leaders are saying little specific about the new maps, other than to point to a sort of political butterfly effect; population changes in one place shift the map in such a way that odd things happen elsewhere.

But critics of the new maps say Republicans are ignoring some historic "communities of interest" in an effort to secure their power base. The state constitution stipulates that district lines be drawn to preserve such communities and keep districts as contiguous and compact as possible.

"There is absolutely no reason to split such small communities like DeForest and Windsor," said Mike McCabe, director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, a government watchdog group that recently released an alternative redistricting plan. "These kinds of changes are clearly politically motivated."

The Republican-controlled Assembly approved the maps Wednesday night. Next stop is the governor's desk, and then likely the courts.

Accusations not unusual

The state Legislature is required to redraw Assembly, Senate and congressional districts after every 10-year census.

1/9/2012
The new maps split 62 communities into multiple districts, up from 50 on the current map. Along with DeForest and Windsor, the new maps split Marshfield, Beloit, West Allis, Clintonville, Racine and Kenosha.

Population changes force the Legislature to alter the map, and sometimes splitting communities is unavoidable, but the party out of power usually accuses the map's authors of manipulating district lines for political gain.

Wisconsin gained more than 320,000 residents in the past 10 years. According to village officials, DeForest has grown from about 7,500 residents to 8,500 since 2000. Over that same time, Windsor grew from 5,392 to 5,942. The average Assembly district population will be 57,444.

Protecting Keith Ripp?

Democrats have accused Republicans of manipulating the district lines in the area to protect a potentially vulnerable Republican. Rep. Keith Ripp, who lives in the town of Dane, won the seat by a razor-thin 23 votes in 2008. Though re-elected by a significant margin in 2010, Democrats have targeted Ripp's seat as one they could reclaim in 2012.

Under the new map, Ripp now would represent the 42nd District, which has only part of DeForest, along with a large section of rural farmland and smaller communities, traditionally more conservative. The rest of DeForest and Windsor, which have shown a slight Democratic tilt, would be separated into the 79th and 37th districts.

Rep. Sondy Pope-Roberts, D-Middleton, represents the 79th. The 37th District, as configured in the proposal, would not have a sitting representative.

"What will happen in DeForest is you will go from having one person represent a fairly contained group of people to having three people representing portions of that area," said Joel Gratz, a Democratic political consultant who has analyzed the proposal. "Any way you look at it, DeForest and Windsor lose in that scenario."

Ripp did not return several phone calls seeking comment. 'The reality of drawing a line'

The office of Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, R-Juneau, said Tuesday the changes were a necessary trade-off to get a lower population deviation between districts.

"The reality of drawing a line means that there are always going to be people on opposite sides," said Andrew Welhouse, a Fitzgerald spokesman. "We aimed for compact, contiguous districts of equal population, that are constitutional and mindful of minority
This is not a new situation. Every 10 years, the same arguments emerge, no matter the party in power. The state’s past three redistricting plans, which took place with divided leadership, were decided in court. Frustration over this situation led former state Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, to introduce legislation that would change Wisconsin’s to a nonpartisan system similar to Iowa’s.

There, an arm of the Legislature draws the maps, using computer programs to create compact, contiguous districts without regard to partisanship and incumbency. Lawmakers approve them with a straight vote. Amendments are not permitted.

Black, who retired in January after 26 years in the Assembly, proposed his bill five times, the last one in 2010. It never got traction. Black’s successor, state Rep. Brett Hulsey, D-Madison, introduced a version of that plan this month.

"They've been doing it for 30 years in Iowa and it seems to work fine," Black said. "We waste a whole lot of money on this every 10 years. It's time we stop this."

Fitzgerald said the proposal meets all of the constitutional requirements. "Because of this, Wisconsin can avoid what's happened in previous decades: partisan gridlock and long, expensive court battles costing millions of dollars," he said.

DeForest/Windsor politics

The area being cut into three Assembly districts has a slight Democratic tilt:

In 2008: Both the town of Windsor and village of DeForest voted for Democratic candidate Trish O'Neil, who lost to Republican Keith Ripp in a race for the open 47th District seat.

In 2010: Ripp, this time an incumbent, easily won Windsor and narrowly won DeForest in a strong Republican year. Democratic gubernatorial candidate Tom Barrett won DeForest but lost Windsor.

WEB EXTRA

Interactive: Check out the current and proposed legislative district boundaries in DeForest and Windsor, as well as statewide.

Go to: madison.com.
How much money did Gov. Scott Walker and the Democratic candidates spend on their campaigns?
Talk about wasteful spending! We could have saved or created a lot of jobs with that money.

They have no idea how to spend our money. They never seem to know how to get by with what we taxpayers give them. They either have to raise taxes or cut essential workers' jobs and services.

Unlimited campaign spending gives us bought-and-paid-for government officials. Only individual American citizens should be allowed to donate a limited amount to campaigns. No corporation donations! No lobby donations!

The Democratic Party is too far left. The Republican Party is too far right.

I have no one representing me in our state or federal government.

The middle class, what's left of it, is left high and dry and paying the bills.

- Rick Luther, Madison

City supports Willy Street businesses

My family lives in the Willy Street neighborhood.

I am pleased to hear that the Williamson Street Business Association and the city of Madison have been working together on a parking lot project that will help keep the businesses successfully running. I am eager to see the end product of the construction project.

From a resident's perspective, I can see how the construction might interfere with the neighborhood businesses, particularly in lowering sales. The effort the city of Madison is making to help this community is great.

- Zoe Messing, Madison

Republicans wrong on redistricting

As I watched and listened to seven hours of talk about redistricting, I kept asking myself if this is why I served in Vietnam. Is this why all veterans served and many died in past and present wars?

I still struggle finding an honest answer about the United States being in Vietnam and

1/9/2012
most of the other conflicts we engage in. Many know it's about the money or the power to
control the money. The response of the politicians (always the ones wearing the American
flag lapel pins) is that we are fighting for freedom and democracy.

Whether you agree with Gov. Scott Walker's far right elitist corporate agenda is not the
issue. The issue is the lack of democracy and the cowardice of the lockstep Republican
representatives who don't have the courage to admit that they are ramming this legislation
through simply for future political control and gains. Shame.

Please take off your flag pins. What you are doing is a disgrace to the concept of
democracy and disrespectful toward me and other veterans.

- Gary L. Stout, Madison

Plenty of shame to go around

Last week, as Rupert Murdoch apologized for the News of the World's hacking of a murdered
child's cell phone, British onlookers yelled: "Shame, shame, shame on you."

Shame could also be cast on all the British readers who made News of the World a well-read
and very profitable newspaper. And shame on all the tabloid readers in this country and
all the grocery stores that fill check-out lines with tabloids whose headlines are obvious
fiction to educated readers.

Some might also cast shame on respectable newspapers that devote a whole inside page to
mindless celebrity gossip. Some have already said shame on cable news channels that
substitute ideology and semi-fiction for reporting and solid fact after 3 p.m.

But it must be said - shame, shame, shame on a culture that so enjoys wallowing in all
that morass of dung.

- Ken Kosier, Verona

M&I bonuses should go to the customers

Regarding the pay bonuses the top employees at M&I received, they were hired to do a job
and earned a big salary to do those jobs, so why did they also get bonuses?

Shouldn't the people who bank, save and invest with them get the bonus if the bank makes a
profit, instead of getting 1 percent interest on savings and paying 15 percent interest on
credit cards?

Either that or take away the salary from these guys and put them on commission instead.

1/9/2012
Of course they would never go for that.

Now they get to have their cake and eat it too.

- John McKay, Waterloo

--- INDEX REFERENCES ---

NEWS SUBJECT: (Government (1GO080); Public Affairs (1PU31); Political Parties (1PO73))

REGION: (Indo China (1IN61); Vietnam (1VI02); Southeast Asia (1SO64); North America (1NO39); Far East (1FA27); Eastern Asia (1EA61); Asia (1AS61); Americas (1AM92); USA (1US73))

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News

**Wisconsin AFL-CIO says Republican redistricting plans cut Democrat Nancy ...**

*Politifact*

**Wisconsin AFL-CIO says Republican redistricting plans cut Democrat Nancy Nusbaum out of her state Senate district by a half a block.** *Redistricting* is required by law every 10 years to adjust districts to account for population shifts. ... See all stories on this topic »

**Redistricting proposal creates a split in DeForest, Windsor**

*Wisconsin State Journal*

"There is absolutely no reason to split such small communities like DeForest and Windsor," said Mike McCabe, director of the *Wisconsin* Democracy Campaign, a government watchdog group that recently released an alternative *redistricting* plan. ... See all stories on this topic »

**Barca and Pocan respond to Assembly Redistricting vote**

*Dane101*

Assembly Democratic Leader Peter Barca (D-Kenosha) released the following statement on Assembly passage of the Republicans' *redistricting* plan. "This gerrymandered Republican map is not only a blatant, partisan power grab — it makes Wisconsin a more ...
"Stop rigging state's political maps" - I AGREE! Do YOU?  
Janesville Gazette (blog)  
And his call for reforming the ridiculous and offensive redistricting process deserves wide public support." I agree! Do YOU? IF you want to check out the redistricting map from our WI State Senate, check out the WSJ's link to the interactive map, ...

See all stories on this topic »

Tearing up Beloit’s map  
Beloit Daily News  
Redistricting is constitutionally required at the municipal, county and state level every 10 years to fit population changes indicated by the US census. When census data was made available in March, a Rock County committee had 60 days to produce a ...

See all stories on this topic »

Assembly reinstates wait for jobless benefits, at odds with Senate  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
Redistricting is required every 10 years to account for population shifts recorded by the US census. Republicans have moved quickly on their maps, which will allow them to be in place before the recall elections. The new maps would take effect in the ...

See all stories on this topic »

Inching Toward A Deal On The Debt Ceiling  
NPR  
But she may not be long for this world or at least the political world - her district may be merged with Henry Waxman in the new redistricting in California. So we don’t know what her long-range plans are. Still two vacant seats in the House, ...

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How to Understand Obama's Chances in 2012  
The American  
The Jacksonian region is significantly more Republican in 2010 than in 2002-2004; this is in part a result of the 2003 Texas redistricting plan, which resulted in the retirement or defeat of several white Democratic House members, but it is also a ...

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1/9/2012
-- State Rep. Fred Kessler says his analysis of the GOP plan to redistrict Assembly lines suggests Republicans would have a built-in 59-40 advantage in a normal election.

Kessler, D-Milwaukee, has been involved in more than two dozen redistricting efforts, either as a lawmaker or a consultant. While in the Assembly in 1971, he drew that chamber's map.

In breaking down the proposed Assembly lines, Kessler averaged the top-of-ticket performance from the past five statewide elections – the last two presidential races and the last three guv contests.

Using those numbers, Kessler counted 49 seats that were at least 50 percent Dem in those races.

Still, Kessler said using that aggregate from the past five races is somewhat skewed because Dems won four of those five races, including Barack Obama's landslide win in 2008. The average of those five races statewide was a 53.4 percent Dem win.

A better gauge of the proposed districts is to look at how many exceeded that statewide average, Kessler said. He counted 40 proposed districts that bettered that mark for Dems.

"In a landslide, we could win 50 seats," Kessler said. "In a normal year, we're going to get 40."

Kessler said he hadn't calculated what could happen in a GOP landslide election, but he suspected it could be as high as the mid-60s for Republican-held seats.

GOP legislative leaders haven't publicly released any breakdowns they have on how the proposed districts would have performed in past races if the new lines had been in place.
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Mark Pocan Thanks to Mayor Paul Soglin for raising this issue with the redistricting maps. There are literally islands in my current district in the Town of Madison that will now be carved out of their surrounding area and put into a rural/suburban Dane County district. Islands from the Isthmus of Madison will be put together with McFarland, the Town of Dunn and surrounding areas. What sense does that make?

GOP redistricting plan would create political 'islands' in Madison and Dane County
host.madison.com

5 people like this.

Kate Morand It makes sense to the GOP so they can have complete control of the state. I dislike this and wish it mattered what the populace thinks. Talk about TAXATION (and other matters) WITHOUT REPRESENTATION!!

2 hours ago · LikeUnlike · 1 person Sharron A Saint John likes this.

Ruth Simpson I noticed this on the map and had no idea what it means. With the statutory definition of the district using census blocks, it impossible for the average person to know what district they reside in. This whole process stinks.

2 hours ago · LikeUnlike · 2 people Beth McConnell and Sharron A Saint John like this.

Richard Linton Here I thought the GOP was all for local control....foolish me....they want to control the locals!

1/9/2012
about an hour ago Â· LikeUnlike Â· 2 people William Backes and Brad Carman like this.

Nancy Julien â€” they are all "local" in a 'crazy' sense.

about an hour ago Â· LikeUnlike

Ginger Williamson I am currently in your district... Town of Madison by Maple Bluff. We already are treated like the stepchild of the city. We don't want to lose you!

about an hour ago Â· LikeUnlike

Jonathan Ewald I was under the impression that districts had to be contiguous. I guess not, eh? I mean, if it were so, it'd make perfect sense... so of course I'm not surprised the Republitards are against it.

about an hour ago Â· LikeUnlike

Katherine Sydor That looks like Swiss cheese. I know we are the Dairy state, but sheesh!

about an hour ago Â· LikeUnlike

Andrew Schauer Mark, I agree the maps are screwed up. What, other than yelling at the wind, can we do about it? Is there a court challenge to be made? What is the next step?

about an hour ago Â· LikeUnlike Â· 1 person Lynn Gall likes this.
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1/9/2012
Wis. Senate panel passes GOP redistricting plan

MADISON, Wis._A Wisconsin state Senate committee passed Republican-written plans for redrawing political boundaries on Friday, setting the stage for approval by the full Legislature next week.

Democrats voted against all three redistricting bills, arguing that the Legislature was moving too quickly and that the plans amounted to an unconstitutional power grab.

The maps were worked on secretly between Republican leaders in the Legislature and privately hired attorneys for months before being released publicly a week ago. A hearing was held Wednesday, followed by Friday's vote.

The Senate plans to debate the maps first on Tuesday followed by the Assembly on Wednesday.

Sen. Jon Erpenbach, D-Waunakee, said the entire process was flawed given that Republicans wouldn't allow Democrats in the minority to hire their own attorneys to draw alternative maps. Democrats do not plan to offer an
alternative map during debate next week, he said.

The Republicans have already spent $300,000 on attorneys' fees.

Committee Chairman Sen. Rich Zipperer, R-Pewaukee, defended the process, saying Republicans were moving quickly because of a federal lawsuit filed in Milwaukee by former Democratic Senate leader Judy Robson and others claiming that current legislative boundaries were unconstitutional given the results of the 2010 Census.
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Madison - Nearly 300,000 Wisconsinites would have to wait six years - two years longer than usual - before they had a chance to vote for a state senator in a regular election under a Republican plan rocketing through the Legislature.

The plan took another big step toward passage Friday.

GOP leaders have drawn new maps of legislative districts that shift many voters from one Senate district to another. Among those voters are 299,533 who last had a chance to vote for a state senator in 2008, but couldn’t do so again in a regular election until 2014, rather than 2012.

Every 10 years, states must redraw the lines for congressional and legislative districts to account for population shifts detected by the U.S. Census. For decades, Wisconsin’s maps have largely been drawn by courts because of legislative gridlock, but this time Republicans control the process because they hold both houses of the Legislature and the governor’s office.

Democrats have decried the proposed maps as overly partisan. A group of citizens that includes two Democratic former lawmakers sued over redistricting in federal court last month, even before Republicans unveiled their maps.

Jim Troupis, the attorney hired by Republican leaders to help draft the plan, said redrawing maps leads inevitably to moving some people into districts that will require them to wait longer to vote for a state senator. He said the current plan moves a number
of voters similar to a plan written by federal judges in the early 1990s.

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1/9/2012
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INDEX REFERENCES ----

COMPANY: UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN; UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN; UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON; SUPREME COURT OF NSW; JOURNAL SENTINEL INC; US SUPREME COURT

NEWS SUBJECT: (Legal (1LE33); Public Affairs (1PU31); Legislation (1LE97); Judicial (1JU36); Population Demographics (1PO77); Government (1GO80); Forecasts (1FO11); Political Parties (1PO73); Local Government (1LO75))

1/9/2012
Regional Redistricting Committee Schedules Hearing for Tuesday

The Milwaukee County Board Redistricting Committee will hold its fourth public hearing at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at the courthouse on plans to redraw county supervisory district lines. The hearing will be the panel's second in two weeks. Earlier hearings were held in April.

The board's preliminary redistricting plan has come under criticism for failing to
aggressively seek public input; for not adding a second predominantly Hispanic district; for eliminating the North Shore district of Joseph Rice; and for not downsizing enough. The board plan would cut the number of supervisors by one to 18.

Swimmers, pet owners warned about blue-green algae State health officials are reminding families and pet owners to keep an eye out for blue-green algae in swimming and wading spots.

They warn that the algae can produce toxins that can make people sick and have killed animals.

The algae can form a thick, stinky scum on the water's surface that can look like paint or pea soup. The algae's color can vary from green to fluorescent blue to brown.

People exposed to blue-green algae typically experience eye, throat, nose or skin irritation as well as stomach problems and diarrhea. Symptoms usually appear a few hours after contact but can come on days later, too. People should wash off with clean water whenever they swim or play in any lake or river.

Man accused of shooting, killing friend at north side drug house A 22-year-old Milwaukee man was charged Friday with fatally shooting his friend in the neck in a drug house, according to a criminal complaint.

Trenton J. Dawson was charged with first-degree reckless homicide, keeping a drug house and possession with intent to sell cocaine. If convicted, he faces up to 75 years in prison.

According to the complaint, Dawson was bagging crack cocaine in a house in the 3500 block of N. 10th St. when, he said, he shot Kenneth Cunning, 26, in the neck about 10 p.m. Monday.

Cunning was playing with a .44-caliber handgun in the living room when Dawson picked up another gun and shot Cunning in the neck, according to the complaint. Dawson said he tried to stop the bleeding and hid the guns after police arrived. The complaint did not say why Dawson shot Cunning.

Madison mother charged in death of 3-year-old son Madison - A 22-year-old Madison mother has been charged with causing head injuries that killed her 3-year-old son.

Maria Castillo-Dominguez was charged Thursday with first-degree reckless homicide. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison.

The criminal complaint quotes her as telling police she slapped Luis Vasquez with an open hand when she was trying to get him to take a bath. Prosecutors said she later also
acknowledged throwing Luis against a wall because he ate gum after being told not to.

Guilty verdict returned in 2009 Beloit homicide A 28-year-old man was found guilty Friday of fatally shooting one man and wounding another in Beloit in 2009.

Antonio Lavel Mance was convicted of one count of first-degree intentional homicide and one count of attempted first-degree intentional homicide.

Mance fired 22 times into a vehicle, killing the driver, Derrick Kimber, and wounding Martell Rodgers, who was a passenger in the front seat, according to the Rock County district attorney's office. The shootings occurred Nov. 24, 2009.

Authorities identify motorcyclist killed in crash A 33-year-old Greenfield man who died Thursday morning from injuries he suffered in a motorcycle crash has been identified by the Milwaukee County medical examiner's office as Nicholas L. Amezquita. The crash was reported about 10 p.m. Wednesday in the 2300 block of E. North Ave.

Woman's body found in Lake Michigan near Racine Racine - Firefighters recovered a woman's body Friday afternoon from Lake Michigan, near the Samuel Meyers Park boat launch. The woman is believed to be between 25 and 35 years old. Investigators from the Racine County sheriff's office and the medical examiner's office are asking for the public's help in identifying her.

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July 16--MADISON -- Nearly 300,000 Wisconsinites would have to wait six years -- two years longer than usual -- before they had a chance to vote for a state senator in a regular election under a Republican plan rocketing through the Legislature.

The plan took another big step toward passage Friday.

GOP leaders have drawn new maps of legislative districts that shift many voters from one Senate district to another. Among those voters are 299,533 who last had a chance to vote for a state senator in 2008, but couldn't do so again in a regular election until 2014, rather than 2012.

Every 10 years, states must redraw the lines for congressional and legislative districts to account for population shifts detected by the U.S. Census. For decades, Wisconsin's maps have largely been drawn by courts because of legislative gridlock, but this time Republicans control the process because they hold both houses of the Legislature and the governor's office.

Democrats have decried the proposed maps as overly partisan. A group of citizens that includes two Democratic former lawmakers sued over redistricting in federal court last month, even before Republicans unveiled their maps.

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COMPANY: UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN; UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN*; UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON; SUPREME COURT OF NSW; US SUPREME COURT

1/9/2012
Wisconsin state Senate committee passed Republican-written plans for redrawing political boundaries on Friday, setting the stage for approval by the full Legislature next week.

Democrats voted against all three redistricting bills, arguing that the Legislature was moving too quickly and that the plans amounted to an unconstitutional power grab.
privately hired attorneys for months before being released publicly a week ago. A hearing
was held Wednesday, followed by Friday's vote.

The Senate plans to debate the maps first on Tuesday followed by the Assembly on
Wednesday.

Sen. Jon Erpenbach, D-Wauunakee, said the entire process was flawed given that Republicans
wouldn't allow Democrats in the minority to hire their own attorneys to draw alternative
maps. Democrats do not plan to offer an alternative map during debate next week, he said.

The Republicans have already spent $300,000 on attorneys' fees.

Committee Chairman Sen. Rich Zipperer, R-Pewaukee, defended the process, saying
Republicans were moving quickly because of a federal lawsuit filed in Milwaukee by former
Democratic Senate leader Judy Robson and others claiming that current legislative
boundaries were unconstitutional given the results of the 2010 Census.

But Erpenbach said the real motivation for the swift legislative action was to pass the
maps before recall elections that could give Democrats majority control of the Senate in
August. Six Republican incumbents, along with three Democrats, could lose their seats
after the elections. Democrats need to pick up three seats to win control.

In a rare moment of bipartisanship, the two Democrats on the committee did vote for a
Republican amendment that would allow counties and municipalities that have already gone
about redrawing local political boundary lines from having to redo their work to comport
with state maps.

The committee made no changes to the map redrawing congressional boundary lines, even
though Democrats argue it divides communities of interest by moving Portage County and
eastern Wood County from the 7th District, along with Democratic-leaning cities of Stevens
Point, Wisconsin Rapids and Chippewa Falls, and puts them into the 3rd District. It also
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District.

The committee made one change to the legislative map. Boundaries of two Milwaukee state
Assembly seats were changed to slightly alter the percentage of Hispanic residents.
Instead of districts 8 and 9 each having 57 percent Hispanic population, the 8th District
would be 60.5 percent Hispanic and the 9th District would be 54 percent Hispanic.

Zipperer said that change was made in response to concerns raised by leaders in the
Hispanic community at Wednesday's hearing. Zipperer said he was unaware of any opposition
to the move.

The Legislature is required to redraw political boundaries every decade following the

1/9/2012
release of new Census figures. The new maps have to account for a growth in population
since 2000 of about 300,000 people.
The full Senate plans to vote on passing the maps Tuesday with the Assembly to follow on Wednesday.

Democrats spoke out against the maps, saying they are an unconstitutional power grab by Republicans.

No changes were made to the congressional map. Boundaries of two Milwaukee state Assembly seats were changed to slightly alter the percentage of Hispanic residents.

Changes were also made to a third bill to ensure that cities and counties that have already drawn new political boundaries won't have to redo them to comport with the state lines.

--- INDEX REFERENCES ---

NEWS SUBJECT: (Government (1G080); Legislation (1LE97))

REGION: (Wisconsin (1WI59); U.S. Midwest Region (1MI19); North America (1NO39); Americas (1AM92); USA (1US73))

Language: EN

OTHER INDEXING: (HISPANIC) (Democrats) (StateDistribution) (United States; USA; North America)

KEYWORDS: (n); (Legislative); (Political)

Word Count: 132

7/15/11 AP ALERT POLITICS 17:52:22
END OF DOCUMENT

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The maps were worked on secretly between Republican leaders in the Legislature and privately hired attorneys for months before being released publicly a week ago. A hearing was held Wednesday, followed by Friday's vote.

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REGION: (Wisconsin (1WI54); U.S. Midwest Region (1MI19); North America (1NO39); Americas (1AM92); USA (1US73))

Language: EN

OTHER INDEXING: (COMMITTEE; DEMOCRATIC; DEMOCRATIC SENATE; GOP; HISPANIC; LEGISLATURE; SENATE; STEVENS POINT WISCONSIN RAPIDS; WISCONSIN STATE SENATE) (Chippewa Falls; Democrats; Erpenbach; Jon Erpenbach; Judy Robson; Republicans; Rich Zipperer; Sen; Vilas; Zipperer) (StateDistribution) (United States; USA; North America)

KEYWORDS: (n); (Legislative); (Hispanic); (Political)

Word Count: 484
7/15/11 AP ALERTWI 22:36:19
END OF DOCUMENT

Wis. committee passes redistricting plan

MADISON, Wis. — A Wisconsin state Senate committee has passed Republican-written plans for redrawing political boundaries.

The committee voted 3-2 on Friday to pass both a map redrawing all 132 state legislative districts as well as one redrawing the eight congressional districts.

The full Senate plans to vote on passing the maps Tuesday with the Assembly to follow on Wednesday.

Democrats spoke out against the maps, saying they are an unconstitutional power grab by Republicans.

No changes were made to the congressional map. Boundaries of two Milwaukee state Assembly seats were changed to slightly alter the percentage of Hispanic residents.

Changes were also made to a third bill to ensure that cities and counties that have already drawn new political boundaries won't have to redo them to comport with the state lines.

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7/15/11 APALERTWI 17:52:22

1/9/2012
New polling places for many Janesville residents
Marcia Nelesen
The Janesville Gazette, Wis.

July 15, 2011

July 15--JANESVILLE -- About half of Janesville's residents will report to different polling places because of the 2010 census and subsequent redistricting.

The city also renumbered its wards to return No. 4 to what historically was the Fourth Ward.

After a census, the county creates county board supervisory districts. The city in turn redraws its wards.

The Janesville City Council on Monday approved creating 25 city wards, down from 32 wards now, City Clerk Jean Wulf said.

The city will keep the same number of polling places but move three with the goal of improving voter access, Wulf said.

Marshall Middle School and Jefferson and Wilson elementary schools will be eliminated as polling places and Rotary Gardens, Harmony Elementary School and City Hall will be added.

Those changes account for about 30 percent of the residents who will change polling places, Wulf said.

The city also renumbered the wards so the Fourth Ward neighborhood--the downtown area that goes by its old-time ward number--is once again Ward 4.

The ward was renumbered 16 in 2000 after a county request, Wulf said.
"The community requested that we change it back, and so we accommodated those requests," Wulf told council members Monday.

Burdette Erickson, a Fourth Ward resident, said the name is part of the neighborhood's identity and has historic significance.

"Our neighbors would like to thank Jean Wulf for listening to the public input in giving us the Fourth Ward back," Erickson said. "We appreciate that."

The city expects to spend about $5,000 to notify voters of their new polling places and to print new ward maps. It will also put signs at former polling places on voting day to direct any wayward resident to new polling places.

The county is redrawing its 29 county board supervisory districts to equally divide the county's 160,331 residents. District populations would vary by about 3 percent, meaning each county board supervisor would represent 5,337 to 5,710 residents.

Under the new plan, 13 county board supervisors would represent Janesville, down from 14 now.

Seven of the redrawn county board districts are completely within Janesville. Six are a mix of city and adjoining townships. In shared districts, the city represents the majority of the population except for District 9, Wulf wrote in a memo.

--- INDEX REFERENCES ---

Language: EN

OTHER INDEXING: (FOURTH WARD; HARMONY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; MARSHALL MIDDLE SCHOOL)
(Burdette Erickson; District; Erickson; Jean Wulf; Rotary Gardens; Wulf)

Word Count: 365
7/15/11 JANESVILLEGAZ (No Page)
END OF DOCUMENT

July 15, 2011

Under districting plan, nearly 300,000 would have 6-year wait for Senate vote

Patrick Marley
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

July 15--MADISON -- Nearly 300,000 Wisconsinites would have to wait six years, rather than four, before they had a chance to vote for a state senator in a regular election under a Republican plan rocketing through the Legislature.

GOP leaders have drawn new maps of legislative districts that shift many voters from one Senate district to another. Among them are 299,533 who last had a chance to vote for a state senator in 2008, but wouldn't be able to vote again in a regular election for the state Senate until 2014, rather than 2012.

Every 10 years, states must redraw the lines for congressional and legislative districts to account for population shifts detected by the U.S. Census. For decades, Wisconsin's maps have largely been drawn by courts because of legislative gridlock, but this time Republicans control the process because they hold both houses of the Legislature and the governor's office.

Democrats have decried the proposed map as overly partisan. A group of citizens that includes two Democratic former lawmakers sued over districting in federal court last month, even before Republicans unveiled their maps.

Jim Troupis, the attorney hired by Republican leaders to help draft the plan, said redrawing maps leads inevitably to moving some people into districts that will require them to wait longer to vote for a state senator. He said the current plan moves a similar number of voters as one written by federal judges in the early 1990s.

The situation occurs when a voter moves from an even-numbered district to an odd-numbered one. Elections will be held in 2012 in even-numbered districts and 2014 in odd-numbered districts.

"It's directly in line with past maps," Troupis this week said in a panel discussion on the WisconsinEye Public Affairs Network.

"It's hard not to have that happen and the consequence is simply because of the even/odd split of Senate districts... People try to avoid it as best they can, but it's inevitable that you will have that happen."

But Rebecca Mason, the attorney for the people who have sued over districting, said she
will closely review how many people are being displaced.

"The issue of disenfranchising 300,000 Wisconsin citizens is definitely something that we've been looking at and something that's a cause for concern," she said during the panel discussion. "If and when a map is passed, if the final numbers are the disenfranchisement of 300,000 Wisconsin citizens, that will be something we will examine quite closely."

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved the maps Friday, clearing the way for the Senate to take them up as early as Tuesday. The Assembly is expected to act on them soon after that.

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Now, the 21st Senate District consists primarily of Racine County and the 22nd Senate District consists primarily of Kenosha County. Republicans are dramatically reshaping the districts so that the 21st would be made up of the rural and suburban western portions of both counties, while the 22nd would include the City of Kenosha and the bulk of the City of Racine.

The result: One heavily Republican district (the 21st) and one heavily Democratic district (the 22nd), rather than two competitive districts.

The last time voters in the 22nd chose a senator was in 2008, when they re-elected Wirch. If the maps stayed the same, they would next vote in 2012, but the voters moved to the new district wouldn't have a regular election until 2014.

However, residents of the 22nd Senate District will vote for Senate candidates next month because Wirch is one of nine senators facing a recall election. Recall efforts against six Republicans and three Democrats were prompted earlier this year because of senators' stances on legislation to curb collective bargaining for public workers.

Thus, because of the recall election they would not have to wait a full six years between elections.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

1/9/2012
Waupun takes action on city redistricting

WAUPUN -- Waupun officials expect little to change in city voting wards when redistricting plans are finalized this fall.

The Reporter

Waupun Common Council members approved a resolution Wednesday night to establish aldermanic wards on both the Fond du Lac and Dodge County sides of the city. City Clerk Angie Hull said the city will enact an ordinance to finalize the new boundaries once Fond

1/9/2012
du Lac and Dodge County supervisors establish supervisory districts.

The move is another step in aligning city voting wards with redrawn county maps as part of the redistricting process following the 10-year census.

Once every decade, election districts must be realigned based on population counts so that each is roughly the same size and citizens are represented equally in the process. The new Dodge County redistricting plan reflects the decrease in county supervisory districts, said County Board Chairman Russ Kottke. The County Board voted last year to trim its membership from 37 to 33 supervisors. One supervisory district near the city of Waupun will be eliminated.

"The municipalities had until this month to develop their own ward boundaries so that the populations are equal," Kottke said.

Hull said that the city worked with Dodge County to equalize the voting districts in the northern part of the county that house correctional institutions. To achieve that goal, prison inmate populations at Fox Lake Correctional Institution, Dodge Correctional Institution, Waupun Correctional Institution and the John Burke Corrections Center were spread out over several supervisory districts in the county and three aldermanic districts in the city of Waupun.

"This year the state allowed us to divide up the prison populations across the aldermanic wards so we didn't have to move a lot of the residential population," Hull said. "Except for about 15 residents, Waupun citizens will be listed in the same aldermanic district."

Hull noted that each aldermanic district is divided into two county supervisory districts. Residents living in the Fifth Aldermanic District will have two separate ballots during Fond du Lac County Board races.

Fond du Lac County Clerk Lisa Freiberg said county officials are still working on establishing new boundaries, adding that the redistricting committee would be meeting the first week of August. After county officials give supervisory districts their stamp of approval, municipalities will be asked to finalize their aligned voting districts.

"The council should be ready to create an ordinance by September approving the final boundaries for the aldermanic districts," Hull said.

Language: EN

OTHER INDEXING: (FOND; JOHN BURKE CORRECTIONS CENTER; LAC COUNTY CLERK LISA FREIBERG; WAUPUN; WAUPUN COMMON COUNCIL) (City; Clerk Angie Hull; Hull; Institution; Kottke; Lac;


Redistricting process shouldn't be rushed

If the Fitzgeralds' redistricting maps are legislated into reality, I would be shifted out of the 48th Assembly District - as would, apparently, the winning candidate in this week's special election.

We must protest the secrecy and speed with which the Fitzgeralds are pushing through this redistricting. To pull this stunt in the middle of ongoing elections is typical of their maneuvers, and detrimental to democracy.

- Karen Bassler, Madison

Forced primaries a lose-lose for us all

I find it hypocritical for Republicans in the Legislature to claim they are for saving taxpayer dollars, then to force primary elections which cost taxpayer dollars.

Why? They admit it was to give them more time to get ready for their recall elections. Sure, that gives them more time to raise more money for TV ads - and we all know that politicians pay back those who contribute by voting for their pet projects.

1/9/2012
It's a lose-lose for all citizens.

- Ed Durkin, Winneconne

Credit union bill slipped into budget

Our state political system is broken. The merits of an argument no longer matter. What is best for the constituents no longer matters. Decisions are made by how much money has been donated, and how can that donor be rewarded, and how can we slip something in at the last minute.

The recent credit union conversion bill was slipped into the Wisconsin budget bill at the last minute by the Wisconsin Bankers Association. To quote Brett Thompson, president of the Wisconsin Credit Union League, "It was added to the budget bill at the last minute without notice to any credit union, any credit union member, or any credit union trade association, and without a public hearing."

Please re-read that quote. How could a bill that affects credit union members be passed without any input from the credit union industry or the public?

Why would the governor refuse to veto this amendment, which is clearly not a budgetary issue? I suspect it is money. There is no other reason to include this type of amendment in a budget bill.

This is shameful for the governor and all Wisconsin banks. This action is indefensible.

- Tom Pinnow, Jefferson

Insurance companies need regulation

Thursday's editorial, "Students protected from cuts," asked two questions. First, why didn't WEA Trust offer a deal earlier. That one is easy - the insurers are in the business of making money.

The second question was why didn't the board ask earlier for a reduction. This is more complicated and applies to both private and public entities.

A small private company would have a hard time gaining leverage when their rates go up by double digits, but this is not the case for public entities. When health insurance rates were increasing by double-digit percentages against inflation of around 3 percent, did the state Legislature ask the companies bidding for state business why their rates were many times the rate of inflation? Did they say they had tens of thousands of customers, so couldn't the state get a better rate?

1/9/2012
I'm glad to see the State Journal is beginning to see the system is broken and overpriced. Not only should WEA Trust have given a lower rate, they should have either had no increase or given a reduction from the previous year.

The people paying the bills are seeing no raises or salary cuts against that low inflation number. And insurance companies wonder why many people want to see them regulated.

- Derek Popp, Mount Horeb

Walker no hero in insurance savings

Thursday's editorial, "Students protected from cuts," implies that we should punish the teachers union because it also happens to be the owner of a for-profit business enterprise - WEA Trust.

Wisconsin Physicians Service is such an organization, but no one sees a conflict with medical doctors owning a for-profit enterprise that provides a service to patrons of their profession.

The savings are a happy consequence of the controversy, but I question Gov. Scott Walker with his anti-union agenda being the hero for prompting the savings. We deserve a better explanation about the failure to ask for lower prices than we have received from both the school boards and Walker. Lack of competition is the likely culprit.

But it did not require the elimination of collective bargaining rights to provide for a competitive bidding platform. Walker and the Legislature could have changed the law to require that public employee benefits be shopped on a competitive basis, which would have solved the problem without causing the controversy.

It appears that the fight over collective bargaining is between two bullies - corporate interests vs. organized labor - and once again taxpayers take it on the chin.

If we can justify limiting the ability of labor to produce benefit for its corporate being, how then can we not, for the same reasons, be able to limit corporate profits?

- John Whitesel, Pardeeville

--- INDEX REFERENCES ---

COMPANY: FITZGERALDS; WISCONSIN CREDIT UNION LEAGUE; WISCONSIN BANKERS ASSOCIATION

NEWS SUBJECT: (Inflation (1IN09); Prices (1PR65); Public Finance (1PU60); Economic Policy 1/9/2012
7/15/11 BSX-WISTJ All
END OF DOCUMENT


Westlaw Delivery Summary Report for BANNEN, CAROL

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Sent: Friday, July 22, 2011 11:13 AM
To: 'adamfoltz@gmail.com'; 'tottman'
Subject: FW: Google Alert - wisconsin redistricting

From: Carol Bannen
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2011 10:04 AM
To: Joseph W. Handrick
Subject: FW: Google Alert - wisconsin redistricting

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News

Kind urges veto of redistricting plan
Wisconsin Radio Network
US Representative Ron Kind (D-WI) says he's disappointed in the redistricting process, which was approved by the Republican-controlled Legislature this week with little input from Democrats or the general public. He says it's the classic definition of ...
See all stories on this topic »

GOP remap plan clears legislature
Beloit Daily News
"Democracy is literally on life support in Wisconsin and now you want to give it a lethal injection," said Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Madison. The Legislature usually doesn't consider the once-a-decade process of redistricting until the fall. ...
See all stories on this topic »

A Vicious Abuse of Power
Progressive.org
By Rebecca Kemble, July 21, 2011 On Wednesday night the Wisconsin State Assembly voted to approve legislative and congressional redistricting maps that Representative Fred Kessler called, "the most vicious abuse of partisan power that I have ever seen ..." See all stories on this topic »

1/9/2012
Roys and Taylor respond to Assembly Redistricting vote
Dane101
Wisconsin voters will not forget their disgraceful actions today." Chris Taylor, Democratic nominee for State Assembly in the 48th District, issued the following statement. "The new redistricting bill is just another example of the blatant abuse of ... See all stories on this topic »

Here is the latest Wisconsin news from The Associated Press
WMTV
MILWAUKEE (AP) -- Governor Scott Walker isn't saying whether he'll sign the redistricting bills that have passed in the state Senate and Assembly. The bills redraw political boundaries in ways Democrats say could give Republicans an edge in upcoming ... See all stories on this topic »

Emily's Post: Walker's rejection of federal train money still hurts Wisconsin
Isthmus Daily Page
As I sat and watched the Senate debate over the Republican redistricting plan on Monday (which has, unsurprisingly, now passed both Houses on straight party-line votes), one little jab in particular by Sen. Fitzgerald stood out to me. ... See all stories on this topic »

Romlein running for open Assembly seat
Watertown Daily Times
... the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board and will be running for the 37th District position as a Republican. The 37th District seat is expected to become open because of new redistricting maps that are being proposed by Republican leadership. ... See all stories on this topic »

NRCC rolls out newest Young Guns
Politico
Sessions pointed to redistricting as a major factor, arguing that newly drawn maps have shored up as many as nine potentially vulnerable incumbents, including Indiana Rep. Todd Young, Texas Rep. Francisco Canseco and Wisconsin Rep. Sean Duffy. ... See all stories on this topic »

GOP has more ad money but opposition has better arguments
Milwaukee Labor Press
Look at how they're trying to chill voter turnout this summer by pushing through redistricting for next year -- clearly an effort to help the likely losers in the recalls sneak back into office in 2012 through excessive demographic fiddling. ... See all stories on this topic »

Recommended: First Thoughts: On the cusp
msnbc.com
Cook Report's Dave Wasserman and Rothenberg Report's Nathan Gonzales with a 2012 redistricting primer... And one of us (!!!) joins the Washington Post's Chris Cillizza and Democratic strategist Karen Finney to chew on the latest campaign trail news. ... See all stories on this topic »

10th Senate District candidate who never was says both parties fail to ...
River Falls Journal
When Democrats had majorities in state government and could control political boundaries, Democrats opposed Republicans who called for a "nonpartisan way of redistricting." Now that Republicans are the majority state party, Republicans want to redraw ... See all stories on this topic »

Gov. Walker mum on signing the redistricting bills
WEAU-TV 13
The state of Wisconsin is getting better every day, now the loyal is gone. GO WALKER by Anonymous on Jul 22, 2011 at 05:16 AM I hope he signs it in private and then a couple of months

1/9/2012
from now it will come out that it has been signed into law. by ...

See all stories on this topic »
Joseph W. Handrick

From: Joseph W. Handrick
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2011 11:21 AM
To: adamfoltz@gmail.com; 'tottman'
Subject: kedzie column


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1/9/2012
WisPolitics ALERT!

28 July 2011

Exclusively for WisPolitics Platinum Subscribers

From WisPolitics.com ...

-- A federal court has dismissed a motion from former state Sen. Judy Robson on redistricting.

"The occurrence of a constitutionally mandated, decennial event is hardly a 'special circumstance' warranting reopening the court's earlier judgment," the decision says. "An opposite ruling would only serve to eviscerate the principle of the need for finality with regard to judgments of this, or any court."

See the ruling: http://www.wispolitics.com/1006/110728_Arrington_Order.pdf

Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald praised the decision.

"This ruling can't be much of a surprise: this court case was always a complaint with no basis in reality or law. The Legislature has a constitutional duty to redistrict every 10 years based on population changes, and we made sure that these new maps follow every legal requirement. They're compact, contiguous, have equal populations, and are sensitive to communities of interest."


See more later in today's PM Update.

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Subject: FW: Google Alert - wisconsin redistricting

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News

Walker should veto redistricting, work with Risser on better plan
Capital Times
The governor should veto the hyper-partisan plan for redistricting Wisconsin legislative seats that was drawn up and hastily passed by his legislative allies. Gov. Scott Walker has launched what some are referring as a "charm offensive. ...
See all stories on this topic »

Hopper, King steadfast as recall election nears
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
"People are concerned about the pace of government, the extreme agenda, and what's next," she said, referring to votes on the budget, increased veto powers for the governor and recent redistricting. "People are realizing that eventually it's going to ...
See all stories on this topic »

The Hitchhiker's Guide To How the Debt Deal Could Fall Apart
Fox News (blog)
Due to redistricting, Iowa loses a Congressional seat next cycle. So Latham finds himself running against Rep. Leonard Boswell (D-IA) next year. Latham may have been hard-pressed to vote against his friend if Boehner really needed the vote. ...
See all stories on this topic »

1/9/2012
check out this congressional map for wisconsin:

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Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2011 11:42 AM
To: 'adamfoltz@gmail.com'; 'tottman'
Subject: FW: Google Alert - wisconsin redistricting

From: Carol Bannen
Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2011 10:02 AM
To: Joseph W. Handrick
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News

Redistricting Journal: Dems, GOP fighting to a draw
CBS News
In addition, legal challenges are a strong possibility in Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina and Wisconsin, and can't be ruled out in other states. The North Carolina map, which is likely to produce a four seat GOP windfall, must await Justice ... See all stories on this topic »

John Nichols: Targeting Jorgensen and Jefferson County
Capital Times
No matter where he runs, Jorgensen will have to re-establish himself after having his district chopped up in the most partisan redistricting process ever seen in Wisconsin. Few legislators will face a longer or tougher haul. But just to make sure that ... See all stories on this topic »

Afternoon Fix: Wisconsin Democrats tout recall polls
Washington Post (blog)
Redistricting could change the borders, but Inslee's seat will probably stay Democratic. * Mitt Romney, who has been keeping a pretty low profile, will pick up the pace in August. The former Massachusetts governor plans to hold seven town hall events ... See all stories on this topic »

1/9/2012
Seattle Post Intelligencer (blog)
In Washington, the state redistricting commission must complete its work of carving out a new 10th Congressional District in the Evergreen State. One likely locale, embracing suburbs east of Lake Washington, means a reconfigured 1st District. ... See all stories on this topic »

Marta Mossburg: Alternative strategies.
Frederick News Post (subscription)
And if Democrats behave as expected in the redistricting process, it will be even more difficult to restore fiscal sanity to the once Free(er) State. If spending less is off the table, legislators need to think "big" to remedy projected $1 billion-plus ... See all stories on this topic »

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Election-watchers are increasingly keeping their eyes on the Aug. 9 recall election in this central Wisconsin district, with some thinking it could be one of a couple of pivotal races that will determine if Democrats take control of the state Senate. The calculus goes like this: If GOP Sens. Dan Kapanke and Randy Hopper get beat as many handicappers expect, but their colleagues Rob Cowles, Sheila Harsdorf and Alberta Darling survive, then the third seat Dems need would be the 14th, now held by Luther Olsen, R-Ripon. If Olsen goes down, then it would come down to Dem Sen. Jim Holperin's seat on Aug. 16, the handicappers say. Recent polling indicates the race between Olsen and challenger Rep. Fred Clark, D-Baraboo, is a tossup.
With Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin looking more and more like a U.S. Senate candidate, speculation heightens about who would vie to take her place in the 2nd Congressional District. Most insiders assume state Rep. Mark Pocan, the former Joint Finance Committee co-chair, small businessman and an openly gay pol (like Baldwin), will jump in. But many other names abound, including: former Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk, former Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, state Sen. Jon Erpenbach and state Rep. Kelda Helen Roys. Dane County politicos, without a recall election in their backyard, wonder about the many possibilities if sitting elected officials enter the race, leaving open and redistricted seats in their wake.

State spending

Surprise! Despite what many think, state spending in the new Republican spending plan is up over the budget Jim Doyle and Dems put together two years ago. The nonpartisan Wisconsin Taxpayer Alliance reminds budget-watchers in a new report that the 2011-13 state budget is up 3.5 percent to $64.32 billion and the general fund budget is up 7.6 percent to $29.03 billion. The major reason? According to WTA, one-time federal stimulus money is disappearing and state general fund taxes had to replace it. Also, according to WTA, tax and fee cuts are "surprisingly small" - just $140.8 million in net general fund cuts.

MIXED

Southeastern Wisconsin rail

The long-debated KRM commuter line comes to an end, but the Milwaukee streetcar plan gets a big boost. On July 25, the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority met for the last time, according to legislative dictate, and stopped a $284 million commuter rail line linking Kenosha, Racine and Milwaukee. The authority also asked that $6 million in federal money set aside for the commuter line go to bus systems in Racine, Kenosha and Milwaukee counties and will return what's left from the collection of a $2 rental car fee collected from 2006-09. While that was disappointing to rail boosters, they get a lift when the Milwaukee City Council votes the next day to give the green light to a downtown streetcar line. The vote ends more than 10 years of debate over how to spend more than $54 million in federal grant money.

Redistricting challenges

One attempt to get federal intervention in the GOP-led redistricting effort goes down, but Democrats say their real focus is on a case that's still pending. A federal court dismisses an attempt by former state Sen. Judy Robson to reopen the court's 2002 order redrawing the state's political maps, but a redistricting observer points out that effort was always a long shot - the motion was filed before the maps passed the Legislature and wasn't amended to include new information after the bill passed. A separate complaint, filed by Robson and 14 others in June and amended to include the newly passed maps, is still pending in federal court. That group argues that the new maps are unconstitutional
and asks the court to redraw the boundaries, as federal judges have done three times in
the past three decades.

FALLING

Positive ads

If it seems like there are few positive recall ads out there, you're probably right. Like
them or not, nasty ads seem to work, political pros say. And that's why as the recall
elections draw closer, the broadcast ads seem to get nastier. In the Milwaukee-area race
involving GOP Sen. Alberta Darling, one radio ad uses recent high-profile violent crimes
to slam Democratic opponent Sandy Pasch for her past support of a now-rescinded early
release program, and a TV ad alleges she voted "against funding to protect our children
against Internet predators" and urges viewers to tell her to protect children, not
criminals. An anti-Darling radio ad says Darling has a secret - she wants to "end Medicare
as we know it." In the central Wisconsin race involving GOP Sen. Luther Olsen, Democratic
opponent Fred Clark's checkered driving record, his collision with a bicyclist and his
insulting words against a constituent who gave him the brush-off are all fodder for hard-
hitting ads. And in the 12th Senate District, Republican businesswoman Kim Simac gets
accused of not paying her taxes. Under the radar are the nasty-grams coming through the
mail. The tone of direct mail could be even harsher in the coming days before the Aug. 9
and Aug. 16 elections, insiders say.

Post offices

Some 41 post offices in Wisconsin are being considered for closure as the U.S. Postal
Service tries to cut costs. USPS is considering closing more than 3,600 post offices. The
Wisconsin post offices being considered for closure include six in the city of Milwaukee.
The rest are in rural areas throughout the state.

Sick leave

A Milwaukee County judge rules that the city's controversial ordinance requiring paid sick
days for employees is "over" after state lawmakers enacted legislation prohibiting that
local law in May. In issuing his ruling, Judge Thomas Cooper says he doesn't "feel real
good about how this happened politically," saying the state essentially removed the city's
power in passing the new state bill.

The Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce hails the decision as "an official end
to a nearly three-year legal and legislative battle led by MMAC to protect workers and
employers from this job-killing mandate." The group requesting that the law take effect -
9to5, National Association of Working Women - vows to continue fighting for the law,
saying that it is "sick and tired of the corporate lobbyists running this town and now
state."

1/9/2012
The ordinance was originally passed by 69 percent of Milwaukee voters in November 2008. Legal challenges by the commerce association kept it from going into effect then.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

COMPANY: MMAC LLC; MEDICARE; MADISON INVESTMENT ADVISORS INC; UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

NEWS SUBJECT: (U.S. Congressional Campaigns (1US07); Economic Policy & Policymakers (1EC69); Public Finance (1PU60); Economics & Trade (1EC26); Public Affairs (1PU31); Legislation (1LE97); Government (1GO80); Local Government (1LO75))

REGION: (Wisconsin (1WI54); North America (1M039); U.S. Midwest Region (1MI19); USA (1US73); Americas (1AM92))

Language: EN

OTHER INDEXING: (BALDWIN; COMMERCE; CONGRESSWOMAN TAMMY BALDWIN; DEMOCRATIC; FALLING; GOP; JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE; KRM; MADISON; MEDICARE; METROPOLITAN MILWAUKEE ASSOCIATION; MILWAUKEE; MIXED; MMAC; NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WORKING WOMEN; RISING; SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY; SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN; TV; US POSTAL SERVICE; USPS; WISCONSIN; WISCONSIN TAXPAYER ALLIANCE; WISPOLITICS; WTA) (Alberta Darling; Dan Kapanke; Darling; Dave Cieslewicz; Fred Clark; Jim Doyle; Jim Holperin; Jon Erpenbach; Judy Robson; Kathleen Falk; Kelda Helen Roys; Kim Simac; Luther Olsen; Mark Pocan; Olsen; Randy Hopper; Rob Cowles; Robson; Sandy Pasch; Sheila Harsdorf; Thomas Cooper)

EDITION: ALL

Word Count: 1066
8/3/11 WICAPTIMES 12
END OF DOCUMENT
Walker should veto redistricting plan

Gov. Scott Walker has launched what some are referring to as a "charm offensive."

With the approach of recall elections that could cost his Republican Party control of the state Senate, Walker is reportedly attempting to alter his image as a rigid partisan.

Here's a place to begin: The governor should veto the hyper-partisan plan for redistricting Wisconsin legislative seats that was drawn up and hastily passed by his legislative allies.

"The Republican redistricting plans are very polarized and extremely partisan," explains state Sen. Fred Risser. "They cut up communities of interest and unnecessarily limit the competitiveness of many districts."

Walker should veto the bill and sit down with Risser to discuss how a fair and responsible map could be drawn. Both Walker and Risser know the state. And they know what a good map would look like.

Obama's deal with 'nutters' is a bad one

Faced with the threat that tea party Republicans really would steer the United States toward default, Obama had to do something. But instead of bold action, the president engaged in inside-the-beltway bargaining of the most dysfunctional sort.

In cutting a deal with Republicans that places Democratic legacy programs - Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid - at risk while cutting essential programs for working families and the poor, Obama has positioned himself to the right of mainstream Republicans such as Bob Dole and George H.W. Bush. Obama is cutting deals to satisfy Republicans that Britain's banking minister describes as "right-wing nutters."

Reports said the deal would "raise the debt limit by about $2.7 trillion and reduce the deficit by the same amount in two steps. It would cut about $1 trillion in spending up front and set up a select bicameral committee to put together a future deficit-reduction package worth $1.7 trillion to $1.8 trillion. Failure of Congress to pass the future deficit-reduction package would automatically trigger cuts to defense spending and Medicare."

Congressional Progressive Caucus Co-chair Raul Grijalva objected, in particular, to the deal's lack of shared sacrifice.

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"This deal does not even attempt to strike a balance between more cuts for the working people of America and a fairer contribution from millionaires and corporations," the Arizona congressman explained.

The only question is how much damage this deal would do to our nation.
JOHN NICHOLS

Gov. Scott Walker's Fitzgerald brothers (Senate Majority Leader Scott and Assembly Speaker Jeff) must really want to get rid of state Rep. Andy Jorgensen.

As part of their hyper-partisan redistricting scheme, the Fitzgeralds chopped Jorgensen's 37th Assembly District into four parts. The formerly compact district that had Jefferson County as its center has been blown apart, with some of Jorgensen's constituents swept into a new district that extends almost to Milwaukee County. Other constituents are dumped into a Janesville-area district, a Cambridge-area district and an Oconomowoc-area district.

Jorgensen, a working-class Democrat who had proven to be a popular voter-getter in his formerly Republican district, was a prime target of the Fitzgerald brothers. And if it wasn't enough to obliterate his district for partisan purposes, they tried to finish the job by drawing Jorgensen's home into an overwhelmingly Republican Whitewater-area district where, should he choose to contest the seat, he would have to challenge high-profile Republican state Rep. Steve Nass.

Jorgensen is already being encouraged to move into a section of his former district where he would have a better chance of winning and continuing to contribute an independent progressive voice to legislative debates.

No matter where he runs, Jorgensen will have to re-establish himself after having his district chopped up in the most partisan redistricting process ever seen in Wisconsin.

Few legislators will face a longer or tougher haul.

But just to make sure that Jorgensen has a hard time of it, the Walker administration's Department of Motor Vehicles has announced that it plans to close the Fort Atkinson Division of Motor Vehicles center. The Fort Atkinson DMV facility has been Jefferson County's primary site for obtaining not just licenses and registrations but the photo IDs that - under legislation recently passed by the Republican Legislature and signed by the Republican governor - will be required of Wisconsinites who lack a driver's license and want to cast ballots.

The shuttering of the Fort Atkinson DMV office is part of a broad plan by Walker's DMV to shutter offices in communities where they have traditionally been located, shift hours and generally make things more complicated for eligible voters to obtain the required identification.

The confusion is going to play out across the state, as is the intent of the Fitzgerald brothers.

1/9/2012
But it certainly comes as no surprise that one of the worst examples of the assault on voting rights for the elderly, young people and rural folks is found in Andy Jorgensen's Jefferson County.

Jorgensen is pushing back. "I question if this could be a calculated move, meant to make it harder for my constituents to get photo IDs that are now required for them to vote," says the legislator.

That's an appropriate question.

What's happening in Jefferson County looks like rank partisanship at its worst, a gaming of the process to confuse and disenfranchise voters who might not cast their ballots in the way that is preferred by the current Assembly speaker and Senate majority leader.

No one is ever going to accuse the Fitzgeralds, who famously violated the state's open meetings law in order to secure approval of the governor's anti-labor law, of embracing the spirit or the practice of transparency.

But the targeting of Andy Jorgensen and his constituents is transparently obvious and blatant in its disregard for the most basic democratic values.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

COMPANY: FITZGERALDS; DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

NEWS SUBJECT: (Government (1G080); Legislation (1LE97); Regulatory Affairs (1RE51))

REGION: (Wisconsin (1WI54); U.S. Midwest Region (1MI19); North America (1NO39); Americas (1AM92); USA (1US73))

Language: EN

OTHER INDEXING: (DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES; FITZGERALDS; SENATE) (Andy Jorgensen; Assembly; Assembly Speaker Jeff; Gov; Jorgensen; Leader Scott; Republican; Republican Whitewater; Scott Walker; Steve Nass; TARGETING JORGENSEN; Walker)

EDITION: ALL

Word Count: 566
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Every 10 years, legislative and congressional district boundaries are redrawn to account for population shifts reflected in the U.S. Census. It’s an important process that merits months of public deliberation and scrutiny.

But that’s not what happens in Wisconsin. Our state’s redistricting process is handled almost completely out of public view by the party in power and then, once challenged, it heads to the courts.

The plan just approved by the Legislature to remap Wisconsin’s political boundaries starting with the 2012 fall elections was drawn up in secret during much of the first half of 2011 by law firms hired by Republican legislative leaders at a cost to taxpayers of at least $350,000.

This plan was publicly released Friday, July 8, and got a single public hearing on July 13 in Madison. Then it was promptly passed by the Legislature and sent on to Gov. Scott Walker to be signed into law.

The process moved so fast that the Legislature had to change a state law that prohibited it from redrawing legislative and congressional district lines before local governments complete redistricting for city and county elected officials. Communities that have already completed this task must redo their maps to accommodate the state.

No matter which party is handling it, redistricting in Wisconsin is done mostly in secret by those whose jobs depend on the outcome. Other states do it differently.

Wisconsin is among 28 states that rely on the Legislature to handle redistricting and the
governor to approve or veto the final product. Nine states have commissions whose members are selected by the governor and other elected officials, and 13 states use a hybrid method where the Legislature and a commission or advisory council work together.

In Iowa, often cited as a model for redistricting reform, the state's nonpartisan Legislative Services Bureau draws three plans based on population equality, compactness, contiguity and the goal of keeping counties and cities intact. A five-member citizen advisory committee provides information to the bureau and conducts at least three public hearings.

The Iowa legislature has picked one of the nonpartisan agency's plans ever since this process was started in 1980, and none of the plans has been challenged in court. In signing this year's plan, Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad said his state's redistricting process "really gives the people an opportunity to choose their congressmen and their representatives and senators in a competitive system that isn't really designed to skew it in favor of one party or the other."

Another model of openness is Colorado, which uses an 11-member commission. Its members are picked by the General Assembly, governor and Supreme Court chief justice.

Between May and July this year, the commission held 11 public meetings and hearings in Denver and it scheduled 20 hearings around the state in August. The public may sign up for email updates, and summaries and audio recordings of the meetings are available.

In California, a 14-member Citizens Redistricting Commission consists of five Republicans, five Democrats and four independents. Its website includes interactive maps of proposed districts and offers a video that tells citizens why they should get involved. The commission scheduled more than 60 public meetings or hearings between April and August.

So Wisconsin has a number of models to change the way redistricting is handled. A good place to start is to find one that opens up the process to the people it affects.

Michael Buelow is research director for the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. He wrote this Your Right to Know column for the Freedom of Information Council, a nonprofit group dedicated to open government.

--- INDEX REFERENCES ---

COMPANY: SUPREME COURT OF NSW

NEWS SUBJECT: (Legislation (1LE97); Population Demographics (1P077); Government (1G080); Forecasts (1F011); Local Government (1L075); Regulatory Affairs (1RE51))

REGION: (Wisconsin (1WI54); Iowa (11085); North America (1NO39); U.S. Midwest Region

1/9/2012
Inside The Tea Party's Rising Influence

TERRY GROSS, host:

This is FRESH AIR. I'm Terry Gross.

The battle over the debt ceiling may be over, but Congress remains deeply divided. My guest, Robert Draper, has been reporting on the debt ceiling battle for the book he's writing about the House of Representatives. Last month he profiled the Republican whip in a New York Times magazine article titled "How Kevin McCarthy Wrangles the Tea Party in Washington."

Draper points out that the 87 new Republican members of the House constitute more than a third of the 239-member Republican caucus and are the reason the GOP is now in control of the House.
Nearly 40 percent of them are self-styled, quote, "citizen politicians" who have never held office and rode into Washington on the Tea Party wave. Draper says they and their Tea Party backers constitute the most formidable power block on Capitol Hill. Draper is a contributing writer for the New York Times Magazine and is the author of the 2007 book "Dead Certain: The Presidency of George W. Bush."

Robert Draper, welcome back to FRESH AIR.

Mr. ROBERT DRAPER (Author): Thanks for having me.

GROSS: So John Boehner says he's happy in that Republicans got 98 percent of what they wanted. How would you describe the mood on the Democratic side and the Republican side of the House now?

Mr. DRAPER: Well, let's start with what I think would be the victors' side, which would be the House Republicans. And they are taking, I think, a well-deserved victory lap while the Democrats are in a state of near total dejection.

I think what's clear - Boehner may be exaggerating for effect to say that they got 98 percent of what they wanted. They got a lot of cuts. They managed to keep revenues off the table in this debt ceiling deal. But most of all, I think what they've done is dramatically shift the ethos in Washington.

You know, you'll recall that in January of this year, President Obama's State of the Union address talked about reinvesting in America so as to quote-unquote win the future. That's where we were at the - at least where the Democrats wanted us to be at the end of January. Six months later, all that's been talked about is how much and where to slash government spending.

So that's a victory for the Republicans, but to paraphrase Benjamin Franklin, it's a victory if you can keep it. And we can get to that in a minute.

But as for the Democrats, I think the sense of anger and betrayal and dejection was best personified by the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Emanuel Cleaver, who tweeted a couple of days ago that this debt deal was, in his view, a sugar-coated Satan sandwich.

Now, what you need to know about Cleaver is that he is this extremely mild-mannered guy who almost never speaks up at Democratic caucuses, very much sort of keeps his cards close to his vest, and who's a minister and in fact gives invocations in Democratic caucuses.

But he's also represented the Congressional Black Caucus in meetings with the president and clearly feels like his coalition, his constituents, were sold down the river by a president who - and I think this sentiment is viewed across the boards by Democrats - a
president who was outfoxed at the negotiating table.

So it's not just a feeling that we lost. It's a feeling that we're not sure if we can trust the titular head of our party.

GROSS: So a lot of distrust now between Democrats and the president.

Mr. DRAPER: And President Obama, yes.

GROSS: So you said - you used the quote this is a victory if you can keep it - with the Republicans. What are you referring to about not keeping it?

Mr. DRAPER: Well, what I'm referring to is whether or not they can recognize a victory when it's in their grasp. There were in fact a number of defections in the Republican ranks from this bill, and about half of the people who voted against the bill who are Republicans were freshmen.

Now, many of them did vote for it but were not satisfied with it, and the context in which we need to view what took place with the debt ceiling deal is what happened several months beforehand, when the House was coming up with a continuing resolution that would fund the government through the middle of September.

And House Republicans were pushing for $100 billion in cuts from what President Obama had proposed. They didn't get that, and they felt that ultimately, ultimately it was a very fatiguing ordeal. It lasted months, and they wanted to get it past them and move on to bigger issues such as the budget.

But they felt that they had not been well-served at the negotiating table by Speaker Boehner. So it remains to be seen whether this chapter ends with particularly the freshmen Republicans having more confidence in Speaker Boehner or if there's going to continue to be this tension within the Republican conference between the more senior members in leadership and freshmen who - many of whom came to town not really caring whether they got re-elected, feeling that if they did not do the people's will, they would deservedly be thrown out and replaced by someone who would, who feel a sense of mission and feel quite impatient.

GROSS: One thing that kind of baffled me was that I understand, like, FreedomWorks and other groups like that were pressuring the Tea Party Republican freshmen to hold firm and not compromise. But at the same time, we have groups like the Chamber of Commerce, which endorsed a lot of Republicans, and other business groups that have traditionally backed Republicans who it seems to me would have a vested interest in saving the economy, in preventing America from defaulting, in preventing America's credit rating from being lowered because that would - seems - it seems that would be very bad for business.
So at the last minute, the Chamber of Commerce started making public statements and exerting pressure, but I was surprised that there weren't more business groups like that earlier making public statements and publicly pressuring Republicans to prevent America from defaulting.

Mr. DRAPER: As best as I can tell, Terry, it's because - they didn't do it earlier because they didn't think it would be necessary earlier. I mean, there - it is true that a lot of these freshmen campaigned vowing not to raise the debt ceiling under any circumstances, but I think that a lot of these business groups assumed that once they got into office, once they were educated by House leadership, that they would come around very quickly on that.

That proved not to be the case, and a rather dramatic thing happened about 10, 11 days ago, something like that. A week and a half before the vote on the Boehner plan, then following that, what ultimately became the debt ceiling deal, in the House Republican conference they brought in an economist, a Republican economist named Jay Powell, who is a specialist on debt ceiling issues.

And he gave a presentation to show everyone in the Republican conference just what would happen with the money after August 2nd. He basically did a step-by-step on how - demonstrating quite graphically how money would run out, how there were not only no guarantees that, say, the troops would be paid, but a great likelihood that they would not. And that this guy, Jay Powell, was brought in when he was is a measure of how concerned the Republican leadership was that a lot of the more conservative members, certainly including the freshmen, weren't buying the notion that a default was going to be a grave thing, and they certainly weren't buying the Tim Geithner August 2nd deadline.

And I think that part of what crept into this was a view that if the White House says it, it must be untrue, and if anyone else echoes the White House, then they're essentially, you know, in cahoots with the White House.

And indeed this guy Jay Powell got a harsh reception from some Republicans in that conference who thought that his figures were biased. He's a Bush Republican. And so, yeah, I think it took a very long time for a lot of these guys to come on board, and it was not so much that they were default deniers, that they believed that nothing would happen, but they believed that whatever would happen would not be nearly as egregious as the White House was painting it.

GROSS: Well, that leads to something I've been wondering all along. Did the Republicans play an incredible game of brinksmanship, or were there enough members in, like, say, the Republican House who really didn't care about the possibility of not raising the debt ceiling, who really didn't care about America defaulting on our debt, who really didn't care about a lowering of the credit rating?

Mr. DRAPER: Well, I think that the vast majority of House Republicans did care. They did see the consequences of failing to raise the debt ceiling, whether those consequences
would come into effect on August 2nd or two weeks later or a month later.

Nonetheless, they had twinned the devastation of failing to raise the debt ceiling with the devastation that they believed would arise if significant financial reforms did not take place, significant reforms in the way government goes about its business spending-wise.

And you heard that in a lot of these Republican conferences, where every time – and this was done partly as a negotiating tool. I mean, it's - though John Boehner had very early on described failure to raise the debt ceiling, he described this in a conference as the equivalent of Armageddon, and Paul Ryan believed this as well, the budget committee chairman, Kevin McCarthy, the majority whip, and the majority leader, Eric Cantor, they all believed this. But they also believed that to start out by saying, well, look, obviously we have to raise the debt ceiling would be tantamount to forfeiting their negotiating position.

All along, they seemed to realize that President Obama was not going to allow the United States of America, on his watch, to lose its AAA rating. He would not allow America to default on its obligations. And that essentially became the brinksmanship, as you've described it.

I think there was a lot of sweating near the end, but I think all along there was a belief on the part of the Republicans that President Obama would play ball at the very end because he would have no choice.

GROSS: Do you think that President Obama had more negotiating room than he took advantage of?

Mr. DRAPER: It's hard to say. I mean, when you go back to, for example, the Biden talks, which were sort of - there were, as you know, several iterations of talks, and beginning in early May a group would meet in the Blair House across the street from the White House, headed by Vice President Joe Biden, and it had some representatives from House Republicans and Senate Republicans, as well as the same for Democrats.

And in these negotiations they would talk theoretically about revenues, but the Republicans would never specify. And when Eric Cantor was asked, okay, so we have talked about, you know, corporate subsidies or subsidies for oil companies and closing loopholes, which of these are you least unwilling to go forward with, which of them do you hate the least, Cantor would never commit. While at the same time, the Democrats were discussing some things that at least in theory they'd be willing to face up to regarding Medicare, not Medicare benefits but other aspects of Medicare and Medicaid, and Social Security.

And so the Republicans never showed their cards. I should say, by the way, that the Democrats showed a little bit of their cards sort of at the insistence of Vice President Biden, who wanted to keep the negotiations going, was sort of - and was hoping that this would encourage the Republicans.

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Now, as to whether or not President Obama could have leveraged a stronger deal for the Democrats that would have put revenues on the table, it's hard to say. All we know is that at least the House Republicans didn't seem to be giving an inch on that.

GROSS: You're writing a book about the House. So I'm wondering if watching how the House dealt with, you know, passage of this debt ceiling deal, if a lot of members of the House now admire President Obama for his willingness to compromise with them or if they just see him as weak and easy to take advantage of.

Mr. DRAPER: I haven't seen any sign of admiration for President Obama in the Republican camps. If anything, there is a belief that President Obama was not always good on his word at the negotiating table.

There was this suggestion that another $400 billion in revenue should be considered that President Obama sort of sprung on Speaker Boehner, which he felt was untenable, given how - the difficulties he was having in his Republican conference to convince them to accept any kind of revenue package.

No, I don't see that any of them have viewed Obama's willingness to compromise as a virtue. I think that they recognize it, but they don't see this as something to be admired or even to be emulated. I think that if anything they've calculated it as a kind of weakness.

GROSS: If you're just joining us, my guest is Robert Draper, and he's a contributing writer to the New York Times Magazine. He's writing a book about the House of Representatives. He recently profiled in the New York Times Magazine the House majority whip, Kevin McCarthy.

Let's take a short break here, and then we'll talk some more about the House and the debt ceiling deal. This is FRESH AIR.

(Soundbite of music)

GROSS: My guest is Robert Draper, and he's writing a book about the House of Representatives. He's been reporting on what happened in the House during the debt ceiling deal. He's a contributing writer to the New York Times Magazine and in July profiled Kevin McCarthy, the House majority whip. The article in the New York Times magazine was titled "How Kevin McCarthy Wrangles the Tea Party in Washington."

I'm interested in the split, if there is one, between the leadership in the House, the Republican leadership in the House, and the people at the far end of the Tea Party, the people at the Tea Party who voted against this deal, who are totally unwilling to compromise.

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I mean, the people who won't compromise, some of them are people who don't see themselves as career politicians. They see themselves as here to take a stand and never compromise.

Boehner, who is the speaker of the House, I mean he's not only a career politician, he had tears in his eyes when he became the House speaker because it was such a kind of lifelong goal for him.

So do you have any sense of what it's been like for him, a career politician, to deal with people in his party, under his leadership, who refuse to compromise?

Mr. DRAPER: Well, it's been a challenge, but he's also viewed it as an opportunity. You know, for example, a few months ago, well before the debt ceiling debate began in let's say May, previous to that, Boehner was telling colleagues who are close to him that he viewed the impending debt ceiling debate as an historic opportunity to force dramatic concessions from a Democratic White House.

So he from the outset saw the Tea Party freshmen as something that he could leverage. Now, that does not mean that they have not given him heartburn from time to time, and there was a moment during the continuing resolution debate when a number of the short-term continuing resolutions were being voted against by a lot of freshmen that he stood up in a conference and he said he felt like he had been abandoned, causing one of the freshman, Raul Labrador from Idaho, to say excuse me, I feel like we are the ones being abandoned.

And so there has been this - there has been this tension. It has inured to Boehner's benefit from time to time, and I think also Boehner's temperament has very much aided him. You know, he's not a hothead. He tends to be very, very patient. Actually, temperamentally, he has much more in common with Barack Obama than either of them would care to admit.

And - but at the same time, he is aware that if he doesn't pay attention to the Tea Party freshmen, that he's not going to be speaker for very long. He, after all, was around - Boehner was elected in 1990, among the so-called Gang of Seven, these sort of seven rabble-rousers, reformers, and Boehner himself fashioned himself a reformer back then, anti-earmark, et cetera.

In 1994, Gingrich came into power, the sort of so-called Gingrich revolution. The Republicans took control of the House for the first time in 40 years. And Boehner became one of the House leaders. He saw just a few years after that how the back-bench members of the House, of the Republican House, revolted against Gingrich and effectively forced him out of the speakership.

Boehner is aware that that sort of thing can happen, and he has to be concerned about it.

You know, on the other side you have these freshmen who, as you've said, Terry, are not of the mood to compromise on things. They - in fact, I was at a town hall with one of them, a
Texas congressman named Blake Farenthold, and Farenthold mentioned the word compromise, and immediately someone stood up, while others were sort of yelling, someone stood up and said we didn't send you there to compromise.

And you know, that kind of sentiment has really resonated, you know, throughout the freshman class. They feel like compromise is a dirty word, that there's no real - you know, that doesn't necessarily mean that they view the Democrats as the enemy, but I think they do view sort of backroom deals as anathema to what brought them to Washington to begin with.

GROSS: Do you think some of them are changing now that they've been in office for a few months and actually seeing how politics get done, how bills get passed?

Mr. DRAPER: Sure. Some of them - they're evolving in different directions. It's interesting. Of course, you know, some of these congressmen, freshman congressmen, have districts that are along the Mississippi River. The Mississippi River has undergone, you know, terrible flooding over the last several months.

And so now those congressmen have become very reliant on federal aid and federal agencies such as FEMA in ways they would have never imagined before.

You also have, for example, Sean Duffy, who - from Wisconsin, a former county prosecutor and former lumberjack and former star of the proto-reality TV show "The Real World." Duffy occupies this - a congressional seat in Wisconsin that for 40 years was held by Democratic appropriations chairman David Obey.

Duffy won with huge Tea Party support in 2010, but he has since come to realize that his district is still a Democratic district. It may be kind of a blue-dog Democratic district, meaning more fiscally conservative and - but still, you know, with a strong labor component to it.

And so he has had to - he has had to traverse this political minefield when it comes to things like the funding of health care, public radio for that matter, and other benefits.

You also see someone like Renee Ellmers from North Carolina, who came to Washington, D.C. as a total outsider. I mean, even the Republicans didn't know what to do with her. The national Republican - she's a nurse, a former intensive care nurse, who decided to run. The National Republican Congressional Committee didn't give her any money, didn't help her out, and so she came in without any connections at all.

But she has - and won largely on the, you know, on the strength of Tea Party support, but she has since then fallen in line with leadership, has become a favorite of leadership, is a ubiquitous Fox TV presence, and you know, stands a good chance of becoming the Debbie Wasserman-Schultz of the Republican Party, which no one would have predicted.
But you also see - you know, I mentioned Blake Farenthold before. Farenthold came in with a willingness to compromise, and now, you know, he feels like that when he comes back after the summer, that he'll be doing far less of compromising.

And it's a very - this group of 87 freshmen is anything but monolithic. And they all have their peculiarities owing to their particular districts.

GROSS: Robert Draper will be back in the second half of the show. He's a contributing writer for the New York Times Magazine and is writing a book about the House of Representatives. I'm Terry Gross, and this is FRESH AIR.

(Soundbite of music)

GROSS: This is FRESH AIR. I'm Terry Gross back with Robert Draper, who has been covering the debt ceiling battle for the book he's writing on the House of Representatives. Draper profiled the House majority whip in a New York Times Magazine article last month the titled "How Kevin McCarthy Wrangles the Tea Party in Washington." Draper is a contributing writer for the magazine. He's also the author of the 2007 book "Dead Certain: The Presidency of George W. Bush."

In your profile of Kevin McCarthy, you wrote that on the night of President Obama's inauguration, McCarthy told Republicans let's not act like the minority. Let's challenge them on every single bill and on every single campaign. Did that kind of lay down part of the strategy that was used in the debt ceiling deal?

Mr. DRAPER: Yes it did. I mean they - it was strength in numbers and the refusal to give any ground. And where we saw it first was just a few days after Kevin McCarthy uttered that, which was - he said that on the night of Obama's inauguration. And it wasn't long after that the vote on the stimulus took place and all Republicans in the House voted against it and they stood very strong in opposition to it and they believed that was a statement.

Thereafter, McCarthy is this interesting guy. He's only been in the House for a couple of terms himself and he has a very sunny disposition, kind of a quintessential Californian stereotype, but he's an extremely competitive guy. And he has - he along with Eric Cantor, have really, really held the line in the opposition. They've been very aware of how indisposed the freshmen are to any kind of compromise and they've decided to use that as leverage.

And so, yes, I think that the predicate was laid very, very early on that this was going to be a winning, that this was going to be a winning Republican strategy.

GROSS: In your profile of McCarthy you wrote that he tried to convince the Tea Party members of the House to go from a position of no on the debt ceiling to a position of yes.
if. If what? And what was McCarthy's strategy of convincing the Tea Party people who were refusing to compromise?

Mr. DRAPER: Well, the whip does not possess the tools that previous whips did. In the past you could induce someone to vote a particular way by awarding them an earmark or something for their district. I don't think any - not only are earmarks banned now so that can't be done, but I also don't think that even doing something like saying we'll give you a new committee assignment or something would pass muster because there are vigilant, you know, bloggers who would immediately say this guy sold out his vote for - in exchange for X, Y, Z.

So instead what McCarthy has had to do is to bring them into the process early. And he's had these listening sessions where they bring in experts and they sort of brainstorm and he basically invests them in the legislative process.

During freshman orientation in the middle of November, just a couple of weeks after all these guys were elected, McCarthy did an informal poll and all but I think one or two were willing to raise the debt ceiling under any conditions, so he knew he had his work cut out for him. And so then it became conditions based.

And they began to - the one condition that came up over and over was a balanced budget amendment and that seemed to be an unlikely one, given that it would need to not only pass both the House and the Senate, but it would also have to be passed by a majority of, a super majority of the United States.

But he ultimately decided to turn that into a virtue. He insisted on and got a balanced budget amendment brought to the floor in the form of this cut, cap and balance. And that basically staked out a Republican position that this is really what we want. And, you know, though in the end the deal that was cut was cut with - Boehner signed on late but it was hatched basically by Vice President Biden and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

I don't think that they would've gotten to that point had the Republicans in the House not staked out such an un-equivocating position in the far right. And that was something that McCarthy very much enabled.

GROSS: So if McCarthy was the chief recruiter for the midterm elections, are many of the freshmen beholden to him?

Mr. DRAPER: Beholden is not the right word. But they do have a bond with him, Terry, to the degree that they do not with Boehner. And it isn't limited to just what took place on the campaign trail. The whip's job is to sort of, you know, grow the vote by constantly having your, constantly touching members as the verbiage goes. And so it's McCarthy who has more day-to-day contact with the members and what they're thinking, what they're up to, what their needs are than anybody else.
And McCarthy thinks more like they do because he's a little bit younger. He's not a Capitol Hill fixture like John Boehner. He also actually lives in—he sleeps in his office like a lot of those guys do, and they all in the afternoon and evening time hangout in the majority whip's office in the Capitol. And to the point where, as I mentioned in the story, the panorama almost looks like a frequent flyer lounge of all these guys in their sort of, you know, disheveled coats and ties sipping on glasses of wine and looking at Fox News and reading briefing papers.

And so McCarthy has become the nexus of all activity for them. And that proved to be crucial in the debt ceiling debate because he really did have to work a lot of these guys over. But working them over no longer is the form of coercion or even inducement but instead talking them through what their needs were and in turn explaining, you know, how badly they were needed for this particular vote.

GROSS: So Kevin McCarthy, who you profiled in the New York Times Magazine...

Mr. DRAPER: Yeah.

GROSS: ...and is the Republican whip in the House, he lives in his office. What does that represent to him, the importance of living in his office? And there's a bunch of freshmen living in their office now. So how has that changed the climate in the House to have all these...

Mr. DRAPER: Well, a lot of freshmen are doing it because they don't want to be, you know, attached to, you know, Washington. They don't want to own a piece of real estate and become Washington. Others are doing it because, frankly, they don't have much money.

Kevin McCarthy does it really out of practicality. He works all the time in the whip's office and it's where a lot of the freshmen are. And so essentially he just sort of crashes, you know, where he is.

I think that what it has meant is that there is this kind of squadron of freshmen who all cling together in the evening time because they see each other in the House gym in the morning when they're taking their showers and exercising. They see each other basically before they go to sleep and coalitions have formed as a result of that. And so it's been helpful to McCarthy also to be very, very close to that action and to be able to influence, you know, whatever those coalitions are up to.

GROSS: Do the offices have a dorm-like atmosphere now?

Mr. DRAPER: Not exactly. I mean you do see these guys pad out of their dorms, you know, early in the morning, you know, holding their toothbrushes. But it's not like there are, you know, food fights or loud music or anything like that.

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GROSS: In talking about the Republican whip, Kevin McCarthy, and how he uses his persuasive abilities to get people in line, before the Boehner bill, the bill that failed, McCarthy showed a clip from the Ben Affleck film "The Town," which is about bank robbers and Jeremy Renner is the co-star. In the scene that he played, Affleck says to Renner, I need your help. I can't tell you what it is. You can never ask me about it later and we're going to hurt some people. And then Renner says whose car are we going to take?

So, you know, that got played on like late-night comedy shows and people were really picking up on the we are going to hurt some people line. So do you have any sense of how that played among Republicans and how the clip played and what McCarthy intended to communicate by playing it?

Mr. DRAPER: Yeah. Well, sure. For starters, they loved it. They loved the clip though it did not ultimately bring a gale force of affirmation toward the Boehner deal at that point in fact. At that stage what was being called the Boehner deal was, barely had more than 100 Republican votes and it didn't get much more as a result of that. For entertainment value and sort of saliency about teamwork it got a lot of applause.

McCarthy does this a lot. Not so much the clip, though the NRCC sometimes puts in clips like from the "Gladiator" and others to begin Republican conferences. But McCarthy's ongoing theme has been about teamwork. And he constantly uses, you know, he'll sort of trades one metaphor for another. When he runs out of them then he falls back on the movie "Braveheart." But basically McCarthy's whole deal has been to sort of promote team unity, and particularly, again, among freshmen who've come to town with no particular allegiances to the speaker or even to the Republican Party as a whole.

But no, there was no, you know, consternation, no handwringing in House Republican circles that oh, this notion that someone might get hurt is a bad thing to say. I mean they got the joke if others didn't.

GROSS: And the joke was?

Mr. DRAPER: Well, the joke was that, you know, we're going to deal a hurt to the Democrats. We're going to, you know, we're going to be - that this is a package that's going to be really, really tough on what Democrats want but we're going to hold firm and we're going to stick together.

GROSS: So how do you think the debt ceiling deal the way it played out affected the relationship between House Speaker John Boehner and Republican leader Eric Cantor in the House?

Mr. DRAPER: Their relationship has been tenuous to begin with because Cantor clearly wants to be speaker of the House some day. And Cantor also has been far more aggressive in - even though for example, Cantor had asked for earmarks in the past and Boehner has always been against earmarks. It was Cantor who insisted on an earmark moratorium back in the fall of 2010 when Boehner himself was only talking about revisiting the subject of banning
So Boehner is ever aware of Cantor's ambitions. And those ambitions, of course, extend beyond the majority leader himself to his entire staff who would also like to see him at the top, and so there's always been tension between them. But they worked this deal pretty well together. There were some moments along the way where for example, Eric Cantor learned while he was involved in Biden talks that Boehner was having meetings at the White House. That apparently got him upset.

And there were also times where Cantor was in active dialogue with the Republican Study Committee, which is the sort of in-house conservative organ for the Republicans and which was very much opposed to the Boehner deal that was being struck in these past weeks because they didn't feel like it went far enough. Cantor was in constant dialogue with them and that had some of Boehner's allies quite nervous about what Cantor's intentions might be.

But I think they came out of this okay. I mean they again, there's plenty for the Republican leadership to feel good about. I mean they don't have wrapped around their collar the consequences of failing to raise the debt ceiling. They don't have a default deal. But instead they have this package of deep cuts, which frankly are not as deep as first appear and the conservatives who voted against it are certainly mindful of that. But still basically, as I said at the beginning, they now have - they're now very much the definers of what the ethos in Washington is and so there's plenty to celebrate all the way around.

GROSS: If you're just joining us, my guest is Robert Draper and he is a contributing writer to The New York Times Magazine. He recently had an article about how Kevin McCarthy wrangles the Tea Party in Washington. McCarthy is the Republican whip in the House. Draper is also the author of "Dead Certain: The Presidency of George W. Bush." He's now writing a book about the House of Representatives.

Let's take a short break here and then we'll talk some more. This is FRESH AIR.

(Soundbite of music)

GROSS: If you're just joining us, my guest is Robert Draper. He's a contributing writer to The New York Times Magazine. He recently profiled Kevin McCarthy, who is the Republican whip in the House. He's also the author of "Dead Certain: The Presidency of George W. Bush."

Let's talk a little bit about Grover Norquist, who is the head of Americans for Tax Reform. This is a group that is basically opposed to any form of taxation. And Grover Norquist is famous among other things for the no tax pledge that he's gotten most Republicans in office to sign. All but six of the 240 Republican members of the House, and all but seven of the 47 Republican senators have signed the pledge. Norquist came up with the no tax pledge in 1986. And I'm wondering how much of the no compromise, we're against
Mr. DRAPER: I think you phrased it right in the last part of what you said, Terry, that is to say I think that it's coincidental to it. But I have heard almost no one reference Grover Norquist among a House Republicans except when they're saying that they frankly don't care whether they sign the pledge or not, that their decisions have no basis and they've said that convincingly.

I think that, you know, far more of worry to them is that if they do anything that would be perceived as heading towards the center or God forbid, the left, that they will face a primary opponent. And there are already some members of the so-called Tuesday Group, the moderate Republicans in the House, who are facing such challenges. And those again, are not triggered by a sudden disavowal of Grover Norquist tax pledge.

I mean I do think that the ethos that Norquist is part of is influential on the Hill. But I don't think, I think that breaking Grover Norquist's pledge is the least of their worries.

GROSS: What kind of postmortems have you heard Democrats in the House doing?

Mr. DRAPE R: Well, I think that I actually spent yesterday on the Hill talking to a lot of Democrats. And I think they're trying to find something positive to say about this deal but basically they feel a real disappointment in it and more profoundly with President Obama. What they want, if there's any victory for them is that they've managed to keep as a result of this deal the politically winning issue of Medicare. That this deal does not involve tinkering with Medicare entitlements, at least it doesn't seem to.

Now there's this so-called trigger in it that if this supercommittee set up as a result of this deal fails to produce a certain number of $1.2 trillion in reductions then there is an across-the-board slashing of funds for everything from defense programs to entitlements. But the Democrats for now at least can feel sanguine that the issue that they believed is the reason why they picked up an extra district in New York, Medicare is something that they can ride possibly to victory.

And what we're hearing and seeing, I mean you saw it in the news conference yesterday after President Obama talked about this deal that had just been passed in the Senate in which he was just signing, that right after that there was a pivot to a press conference that Nancy Pelosi had, the Democratic minority leader. And all she did was talk about jobs. And that's what Obama will talk about now too. And so the problem, of course, for Democrats is there's really nothing they can do in the way that they want to do it relating to jobs. They can't pass a mini stimulus. There is no other sort of federal project that could possibly pass muster in the House. And so all they can really do is sort of talk about initiatives and highlight the Republicans failure to act on those initiatives.

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Now to some degree I think that's going to work pretty well for them since basically the Republican's view is that the best way to create jobs is for the government to stay the hell out of the way and to create basically a climate that's amenable to job creation. That's a lot less tangible and it's a lot harder to point to positive results than it would be to establish, you know, a federal works project, for example. So the Democrats will be working the Republicans over pretty heavily over this. But how well they'll be able to pivot after this defeat remains to be seen.

GROSS: Now you are in the process of writing a book about the House of Representatives. Why is that your new subject?

Mr. DRAPER: Well, I've decided when I saw the midterm elections that the House was now going to become relevant. That it was going to be the point of the spear for the Republican Party against the Obama administration. And even more to the point, that with these 87 freshmen who are coming in, many of whom did not possess legislative experience, many of whom felt they were on a sense of mission and really didn't care whether they got reelected or not, that there was going to be even less compromise. That this was going to be sort of divided government on steroids.

And so that we would be seeing, you know, the House has historically been - it was set up to be the institution that best captured the passions of the American public. And we've seen that now, you know, to the Nth degree as sort of there's been one wave election after the next. And it may be that the period that we saw most recently until 1994, where the Democrats held onto power for 40 years will never happen anymore; that there will be this constant switching between Democrats and Republicans as the emotional spasms of the American public are exacerbated by the blogosphere and, you know, what they see on cable television. And that the changing of hands in the House of Representatives will be Exhibit A of that. And so I thought it was an interesting moment to sort of capture that. And frankly, I thought also that, you know, for entertainment value the House, which has always been a lot more bawdy, a lot more raucous than the Senate would now even more closely resemble the World Wrestling Federation.

GROSS: Well, give us an example from the past few weeks that you think more closely resembles the World Wrestling Federation.

Mr. DRAPER: Actually, to me one of the more remarkable distinctions between the House and the Senate took place about a week and a half ago when a number of Tea Party freshman decided when to Cut, Cap And Balance Bill was passed in the House in a strictly party line vote and then moved over to the Senate. These Tea Party freshman, about 15 of them or so, decided they were going to march over to the Senate and look the Senate in the eye and defeats senators, to talk to senators and say, you know, you need to vote for this balanced budget amendment, it's important.

Now, of course, the Senate is controlled by Democrats and so that was unlikely to take place. But to see like these Republicans who came over from the House floor which has an atmosphere that is more like a high school cafeteria, you know, during lunchtime, to go
over then to the Senate that is almost like a priesthood, incredibly quiet where everyone is sort of murmuring. And these freshmen Republicans, who seemed almost like these, you know, uncouths who had walked, who managed to barge into a country club, then, you know, stood there, you know, in the back and some of them approached some of the senators but it was clear that they were far from their element.

In the other way though, the House, which is always, you know, been much noisier and all of that, you hear all of this chanting and booing and hissing. It's always been that way since 1789 when the House decided to throw its doors open to the public, something that the Senate didn't do for many years but is that much more so now and the contrast was particularly evident a week and a half ago.


We'll talk more after a break.

This is FRESH AIR.

(Soundbite of music)


So in the end, in the whole process of the debt ceiling deal, who held the most power? Was it the Tea Party?

Mr. DRAPER: Yes. Yeah. They didn't get all that they wanted and so the victory they got is maybe one that they won't keep. But they managed - I mean there's an awful lot of quote/unquote "sensible," you know, "people." Republicans, conservatives, independents, all sorts of economists who said that any sustainable course that we take, economically speaking, is going to have to involve revenues. The Tea Party wouldn't hear of it. The House conservatives wouldn't hear of it. And low and behold revenues, which I think the House leadership might have but for the strong presence of the Tea Party and the Tea Party freshman consider lo and behold that stayed off the table from the beginning all the way to the end. So with that as a benchmark then certainly that's a result of the Tea Party's influence.

GROSS: You use that World Wrestling Federation analogy - that sometimes the House looks more like a World Wrestling Federation. Sometimes it seems like the House is so divided and then America is so divided. I wouldn't call it a civil war but that there are divisions that are getting deeper and deeper and that America is getting more and more
divided, and that is just so look so evident in how the debt ceiling deal finally got done.

So having spent a lot of time, you know, watching the House for the book that you're writing about the House, how deep do you think the divisions are in America now?

Mr. DRAPER: Well, I think they're very deep and getting deeper every time a congressional map is redrawn, Terry. Because what redistricting has done, and this is sort of the big untold story - I mean people write about redistricting, but basically it has turned America into two Americans, Democratic Party America and Republican Party America; that every time there is a census and then on the basis of that congressional districts are revisited, that whoever happens to be in power in particular states draws these districts that are most favorable to them.

And in this case most of, in most cases the states are controlled by Republicans. And so they will redden the districts, all the districts they can. And then in part by doing that, what Democratic votes are left over they dump into a district that was already Democratic to begin with and make it that much more blue. So what we're seeing in part with these Tea Party freshman and with others who for that matter, safe district members from the Congressional Black Caucus, are those people who are calcified or their worldview is codified by the district that they inhabit. And so basically what that does is leave no appetite for compromise because you have politicians who come to Washington who come from districts that are much more ideologically rigid as a result of redistricting than would've been in the past. So I think going forward, no, I don't see any increased appetite for compromise. If anything I see a formula that's going to further polarize America.

GROSS: Robert, do you have any idea when your book about the House is going to be published?

Mr. DRAPER: Yes. It'll be out in May of next year.

GROSS: Well, I look forward to reading it. Thank you so much for talking with us.

Mr. DRAPER: My pleasure.

GROSS: Robert Draper is a contributing writer The New York Times Magazine. You can find a link to his magazine article on House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy on our website, freshair.npr.org, where you can also download podcasts of our show.

I'm Terry Gross.

We'll close with the song from Tony Bennett who is 85 today. We wish him a happy birthday.

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