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 55) 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.

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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, D-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/large/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.

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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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