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'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.

1/9/2012
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/n5thzg) 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/o9K0VI) 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.

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

COMPANY: RIVERSIDE ADVISORS LLC; RIVERSIDE; SUN PRAIRIE; AP OOO; RIVERSIDE CO (THE); LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY; FINAREF SOCIETE DE FINANCEMENT POUR L'EQUIPEMENT FAMILIAL SA; ATLANTIC PROJECTS LTD; ADAMPAK LTD; MADISON INVESTMENT ADVISORS INC; ASHUTOSH PRESSINGS

NEWS SUBJECT: (Violent Crime (IVI27); Social Issues (ISO05); Sports Law (ISP70); Crime (ICR87); Government (IGO80); Regulatory Affairs (IRE51))

INDUSTRY: (Entertainment (IEN08); Sports (ISP75))

REGION: (Wisconsin (IWI54); North America (INO39); U.S. Midwest Region (IMI19); USA (1US73); Americas (IAM92); Illinois (IIL01))

Language: EN

OTHER INDEXING: (AP; BOHNE; BON; BON IVER; COLLISION; DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE; EDS: UPDATES; ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD; LAU; MADISON; PRAIRIE; RIVERSIDE; RIVERSIDE THEATER; RONALD LAU; SENTENCE; STATE DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE; STATE PATROL; SUN PRAIRIE; TOURISM; TV; WISCONSIN STATE PATROL) (Andrew Nelson; Angela Hinze; Democrats; Dorothea Watson; Evans; Gloria Evans; Gov; Howard Payne; Justin Vernon; Latest Wisconsin; Madison; Mark West; Payne; Prosecutors; Scott Walker; Tom Barrett; Vernon; Walker; West; Winnebago Co.; Wisconsin) (StateDistribution)

KEYWORDS: (g)

Word Count: 1041
7/22/11 AP ALERTWI 08:31:22
END OF DOCUMENT
Here is the latest Wisconsin news from The Associated Press.

MILWAUKEE _ 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.

(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 (1GO80); Regulatory Affairs (1RE51))

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

1/9/2012
July 22, 2011

Suit argues **redistricting** maps are unconstitutional

Patrick Marley
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

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 (1LO75); Regulatory Affairs (1RE51); Business Management (1BU42); Business Lawsuits & Settlements (1BU19))

REGION: (Wisconsin (IWI54); North America (1NO39); U.S. Midwest Region (1MI19); USA (1US73); Americas (IAM92))

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.
Assembly passes maps redrawing 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 (1GO80); Public Affairs (1PU31); Political Parties (1PO73))

REGION: (Wisconsin (IWI54); 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
END OF DOCUMENT

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.

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---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

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

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/Edwards, 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 (1S005); Public Affairs (1PU31); Minority & Ethnic Groups (1MI43); Government (1GO80); Regulatory Affairs (1RE51))

REGION: (Wisconsin (1WI54); North America (1NO39); U.S. Midwest Region (1MI19); U.S. Southwest Region (1SO89); USA (1US73); Americas (1AM92); Texas (1TE14); Ohio (1OH35); North Carolina (1NO26); U.S. Southeast Region (1SO88))

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-

1/9/2012
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.
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 (R-Green 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 (D-Green 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.
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.

1/9/2012
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.

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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 ----
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.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

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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.

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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 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.
Unlimited campaign spending corrupts

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
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.

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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 (1GO80); Public Affairs (1PU31); Political Parties (1PO73))

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