-- 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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