



BRAD PFAFF **STATE SENATOR**

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Fair maps will bring decency back to our government

With the holidays approaching and families coming together, I'm reminded of a dinner table conversation I hear all too often, where one person says, "Why should I vote? Government never changes anyway."

If you find yourself on that end of the table, you're not alone. People are tired of unfair representation that prioritizes partisanship over common sense policies. Our communities work better when we bring our best ideas to the table and work together on a solution that works for everyone. Now, we have the once-in-a-decade opportunity to get fairness back to government by fixing our rigged political maps here in Wisconsin.

Looking at our district maps, you'll see that the legislative districts look more like spots on a dairy cow than neatly drawn borders. This is because the Wisconsin Republicans redrew our district maps in 2010 along political lines to win more elections by picking and choosing voters that benefit them. Rigging the game so your team wins isn't right. Growing up, we were raised to reward compromise, not division and exclusion.

Wisconsinites know that it doesn't matter which party is doing it; gerrymandering is wrong. A Marquette Law School poll showed that 72 percent of our state wants fair, nonpartisan maps, including 63 percent of Republicans. Of course, we don't always agree on everything, but regardless of our political beliefs, we can agree that it's time to unite our country by working toward our shared values instead of playing partisan politics. That's why I'm authoring a bill in the State Senate to create a legislative redistricting process that would prohibit using political affiliations or previous election results when drawing the maps. Unfortunately, that's exactly what is being attempted right now.

Instead of doing the right thing and letting a nonpartisan commission draw our districts, the legislative majority party is trying to jam through gerrymandered maps. This will make government more unresponsive and uncivil. Voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around. It was gratifying that last week, over 100 Wisconsinites responded by going to Madison to testify against the gerrymandered proposal and tell their legislators that it's time to restore fairness in our democracy. I stand with them.

The clock is ticking, and there's too much at stake. If we pass another rigged map that divides us further, it's another ten years before we can take up popular policies like BadgerCare expansion, lowering drug prices, and support for rural communities. I know that folks in the Coulee Region are tired of a government that doesn't listen. Fair maps will re-establish trust and confidence in our elected officials.

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Senator Brad Pfaff represents the 32nd Senate District, which includes La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford, and southern Monroe County.