RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CREATION OF A NONPARTISAN PROCEDURE FOR THE PREPARATION OF LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLANS

Committee Action: Common Council October 26, 2021

File Number:	R-160-2021	**Date Introduced:**	October 26 2021

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3 of the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Legislature is directed to redistrict state legislative districts "according to the number of inhabitants" at its next session following the decennial federal census. The Legislature also reapportions congressional districts at the same interval pursuant to federal law; and,

WHEREAS, because state and federal legislative redistricting is controlled by the majority party at the time of the redistricting, legislative and congressional plans in Wisconsin have been subject to partisan influence that puts the desires of politicians ahead of the electoral prerogative of the people. Redistricting to achieve partisan gains is improper, whether it is done by Republicans or Democrats; and,

WHEREAS, a panel of federal district court judges ruled that the redistricting done in Wisconsin in 2011 was unconstitutional. Legal fees in defense of the 2011 redistricting cost taxpayers in excess of $4 million, and,

WHEREAS, the state and congressional districts belong to the citizens of Wisconsin and not to any legislator, interest group or political party, the redistricting process should not be a tool used by those in power to protect and bolster their power, but should be designed with the best interest of Wisconsin's democracy and its citizens; and,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's historical practice of redistricting by the majority party in each legislative chamber is an outdated practice that stifles political competition, discourages compromise, ensures continued control by the party in power, and lacks the transparency necessary to reinforce citizens' faith in the democratic process; and,

WHEREAS, there is a critical need at this time to restore trust, compromise and fair competition in Wisconsin politics.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Stoughton hereby insists the State Legislature, during this current redistricting process following the 2020 federal census, to pass legislation that creates a fair, nonpartisan and transparent procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional redistricting plans; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the process promotes more accountability and transparency and prohibits the consideration of voting patterns, party information, and incumbents' residence information or demographic information in drawing the maps, except as necessary to ensure minority participation as required by the U.S. Constitution; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Stoughton advocates for an amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution giving the responsibility of legislative redistricting to a nonpartisan commission; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin League of Municipalities, and current representatives of the State Legislature.

Council Action: ☐ **Adopted** ☐ **Failed** **Vote** _____

Mayoral Action: ☐ **Accept** ☐ **Veto**

_____

Tim Swadley, Mayor Date

Council Action: _____ ☐ **Override** **Vote** _____