



612 W. Main Street, #200  
Madison, WI 53703

Phone: (608) 256-0827  
[www.lwwwi.org](http://www.lwwwi.org)



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To: Wisconsin Legislature

Re: Legislative Statement to Oppose SB 488 and AB 415

The solution for Wisconsin's voting districts entails taking the map-drawing process out of the hands of partisan players and giving the responsibility to a nonpartisan, independent commission. The current maps have undermined Wisconsin's long history of governing leadership. Years of bad practices have fueled the hyperpartisan governing that prevails.

The process of proposing this bill has violated all the good practices of passing legislation: bipartisan authorship, consideration of diverse viewpoints, deliberation by committees, and public hearings. Instead, this bill has been developed by a narrow group, and rushed through to votes by the full Assembly without adequate deliberation and public hearings. The next Census is not until 2030. Legislators have the time to hear from the voters, to work with the many advocates of democracy, to engage all elected officials, and to secure support from Wisconsin's most rural communities and largest metropolitan areas.

Necessary guardrails to ensure fair maps are not present in this bill. A supermajority of Legislators is necessary to approve any proposed district map so that Wisconsin can once again have a Legislature that represents the people—all the people—not just the few.

The people of Wisconsin deserve better.