

Resolution No. 16-0620

**To Conduct Countywide Advisory Referendum on Creation of
Nonpartisan Procedure for the Preparation of Legislative
and Congressional Redistricting Plans and Maps**

WHEREAS, the Iowa County Board of Supervisors on April 16, 2019 passed a resolution calling for nonpartisan legislative and congressional redistricting maps; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IV, 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, there are numerous indicators that the citizens of Wisconsin are concerned about the practice of redistricting by whichever party holds the majority, because it may stifle political participation and competition, discourage collaboration and compromise, and lack the fairness necessary to our democratic process, by undermining the principle of one-person-one vote.

WHEREAS, the current procedure allows the legislature of the majority party to prepare redistricting plans and maps that may result in unfair partisan plans and maps, allowing the legislature to choose its voters rather than the voters choosing their representatives, which is commonly called gerrymandering.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iowa County Board of Supervisors, in legal session assembled, does hereby approve that the following question be placed on the November 2, 2020 ballot as an advisory referendum question:

Question: Should the Wisconsin legislature create a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional district plans and maps?

YES _____ NO _____

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Corporation Counsel prepare a Notice of Referendum to be published by the Iowa County Clerk in accordance with statutory requirements;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution and the referendum shall be filed with the Iowa County Clerk no later than 70 days prior to the November 3, 2020 election at which the question will appear on the ballot.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is directed to send results of the referendum to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Counties Association and the County's State Representatives.

FISCAL NOTE: There will be a cost to the County.

Respectively submitted by the General Government Committee.