

RESOLUTION #2-R-21

TO CONDUCT CITY WIDE ADVISORY REFERENDUM ON CREATION OF NONPARTISAN PROCEDURE FOR THE PREPARATION OF LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLANS AND MAPS

Submitted by: Alderperson Denise Fenton – District 6 and Alderperson Vered Meltzer – District 2

Date Submitted: 1-20-2021

Referred To:

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; and

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; and

WHEREAS, 72% of Outagamie County residents voted yes in the fair maps referendum held on April 3, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Appleton Common Council passed Resolution #3-R-20 on March 4, 2020 in support of a transparent non-partisan redistricting process for the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Woodford signed a proclamation on July 6, 2020 designating July 9, 2020 as Nonpartisan Redistricting Day to encourage all voters in the City of Appleton to learn more about the harmful effects of gerrymandering on our democracy and to urge our state legislators to pass legislation that creates a fair, nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional redistricting plans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Appleton, does hereby approve that the following question be placed on the April 6, 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 City Attorney prepare a Notice of Referendum to be published by the City Clerk in accordance with statutory requirements;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution and the referendum shall be filed with the City Clerk no later than 70 days prior to the April 6, 2021 election at which the question will appear on the ballot.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is directed to send results of the referendum to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Wisconsin League of Municipalities, and all members of the State Legislature.