

1 By Supervisor Taylor

2 File No. 14-

3 **A RESOLUTION**

4 Establishing a policy directing that any new redistricting plan involving the
5 Milwaukee County Board of Supervisory districts shall be developed by an Independent
6 Redistricting Panel that redraws supervisory districts in the best interest of the citizens
7 of Milwaukee County.

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10 WHEREAS, in accordance with Wisconsin State Statutes, Milwaukee County is
11 required to redraw its Supervisory Districts following the Federal Decennial Census; and
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13 WHEREAS, previously the Milwaukee County Supervisory District redistricting
14 process was conducted by the Milwaukee County Board Staff, allowing for potential
15 conflict, controversy and conflict of interest – notably during the 2010 redistricting
16 process which resulted in a lawsuit against the Milwaukee County Board; and
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18 WHEREAS, due to the fact that the next redistricting process is not required until
19 after the 2020 census, and will be implemented after the 2016, 2018, and 2020
20 elections, reforming the process and making it more independent at this time presents a
21 great opportunity for Milwaukee County; and

22 WHEREAS, a survey commissioned by the Minnesota League of Women Voters
23 found that over two-thirds of participants of all political beliefs, ages and locations
24 favored depoliticizing and redesigning the redistricting process so that the responsibility
25 and decisions of redrawing the maps are made in an impartial and independent manner;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, there is a growing reform movement by state and local
28 governmental units all across the country to depoliticize the redistricting process and
29 remove the self-interest of lawmakers affected by the redrawing of district lines (which
30 often result in convoluted district boundaries); and
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32 WHEREAS, examples of this trend of redistricting reform efforts include:

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- 34 • California's State and Federal legislative redistricting, which is performed by an
35 independent citizens panel
 - 36 • The Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission
 - 37 • The Alaska Redistricting Board
 - 38 • The Hawaii Reapportionment Board
 - 39 • The Idaho Redistricting Commission
 - 40 • The Missouri Apportionment Commission
 - 41 • The Montana Redistricting Commission

- 42 • The New Jersey Redistricting Commission
- 43 • The Washington State Redistricting Commission
- 44 • New York's upcoming 2014 referendum to create a 10-member Redistricting
- 45 Commission
- 46 • The Tomkins County (NY) Independent Redistricting Commission
- 47 • The Salt Lake County (UT) Redistricting Commission
- 48 • The proposed Monroe County (NY) Redistricting Commission
- 49 • Suffolk County (NY) Non-partisan Reapportionment Committee for Re-drawing
- 50 Partisan County Legislative Districts
- 51 • New York City's Autonomous Districting Commission
- 52 • San Diego County (CA) Independent Redistricting Commission of Retired Judges
- 53 • City of Austin (TX) Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (CD10-1)

54
55 ; and

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57 WHEREAS, several new factors lend themselves to reforming the way the
58 Milwaukee County Board performs the redistricting process, including the awareness of
59 the improved redistricting developments elsewhere in the nation, the opportunity for
60 Milwaukee County to adopt and implement a new redistricting plan upon authorization
61 from the Wisconsin state legislature and the governor, heightened citizen interest and
62 attendance at past county redistricting hearings, and increased interest in the
63 community regarding reforms in Milwaukee County government; and

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65 WHEREAS, it is in the interest of good government reform to propose an
66 Independent Milwaukee County Redistricting Panel for the purpose of developing a
67 redistricting plan for Milwaukee County supervisory districts that is in the best interests
68 of all of the citizens of Milwaukee County; now, therefore,

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70 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors endorses
71 the formation of an Independent Citizen Redistricting Panel to develop a redistricting
72 plan, present such a plan at required hearings and recommend it to the County Board
73 for consideration and passage; and

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75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Independent Citizen Redistricting Panel's
76 redistricting plan shall comply with the following criteria: 1) federal equal population
77 mandates, 2) redistricting criteria established by federal and state laws, 3) maintenance
78 of voting rights of Hispanic and African American citizens as guaranteed in the federal
79 Voting Rights Act of 1965, and 4) producing a map that consists of compact districts
80 that take into account the integrity of existing neighborhoods and communities of
81 interest within Milwaukee County without regard to incumbent supervisors' residences;
82 and

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84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the citizen redistricting panel should be
85 composed of eight members, be appointed by the County Board Chairperson and be
86 composed of an appointment from the following organizations:

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- 88 1. A retired judge as the appointed Chairperson chosen from candidates
89 nominated by the Milwaukee County Chief Judge
90 2. A faculty member of the Marquette University Law School
91 3. A faculty member of the UW-Milwaukee School of Public Administration
92 4. A representative of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
93 5. A representative chosen from candidates nominated by the Milwaukee Urban
94 League
95 6. A representative from nominations submitted from the Public Policy Forum
96 7. A representative chosen from nominees submitted by the Intergovernmental
97 Cooperation Council of Milwaukee County.
98 8. A member chosen from nominations by the League of Women Voters
99 ;and

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101 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that other than the independent technical
102 assistance requested and chosen by the by the Chair of the Panel and the input
103 solicited from citizens at meetings and public hearings held by the redistricting panel, no
104 employee of Milwaukee County or their family members or intermediary thereof, current
105 or former aides, lobbyists, or current or former political party staffers, current or former
106 elected officials, nor contributors, volunteers or staff of any candidate for county
107 supervisor shall be appointed as a member of the Panel or provide any guidance or
108 direct or indirect communication to the Independent Redistricting Panel outside of the
109 public hearing process; and

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111 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Milwaukee County shall provide an accessible
112 meeting space, adequate funding for the Panel to complete its tasks in a timely manner,
113 and financial support to hire appropriate independent technical assistance as
114 determined by the chairperson of the Independent Citizen Redistricting Panel to carry
115 out its objective.