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From the Chairwoman, Independent Redistricting Commission, submitting a supervisorial district reapportionment plan to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors pursuant to Section 3.01 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances, by recommending **REJECTION** of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in File No. 19-781, Milwaukee County issued an advisory referendum on April 7, 2020 to the people of Milwaukee County asking, “Should the Wisconsin Legislature create a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of Legislative and Congressional district plans and maps?”, to which 79.49 percent of electors voted “Yes”; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Supervisors created an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) in Section 3.01 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinance (MCGO), composed of six retired judges “in the interest of good government reform” in File No. 15-691, which the County Board of Supervisors amended in File No. 21-567 to account for extraordinary circumstances created by the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.01(2)(a) MCGO specifies the IRC shall comply with the following criteria:

- 1. Federal equal population mandates
- 2. Reapportionment criteria established by federal and State laws
- 3. Upholding minority voting rights pursuant to the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965
- 4. Drawing district boundaries which strive to maintain the integrity of existing neighborhoods and communities of interest

; and

WHEREAS, the IRC prioritized the criteria of Section 3.01(2)(a) MCGO in the following order:

- 1. Honoring the intent of the Voting Rights Act of 1965
- 2. Respecting municipal boundaries
- 3. Equalizing the population between districts within +/- four percent
- 4. Making the districts as compact as possible

42 ; and

43

44 WHEREAS, the IRC was mindful of the Wisconsin redistricting case, *Baldus v.*
45 *Members of the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board*, 849 F.Supp. 2d 840 (E.D.
46 Wis. 2012), particularly Section 3.5: Voting Rights Act Claim of Latinos; and

47

48 WHEREAS, since 2010, Milwaukee County has become more diverse and
49 integrated with the White majority of 2010 and before has become a plurality in 2020;
50 leading the IRC to draw nine White-majority districts, six Black-majority districts, two
51 Latino-majority districts, and one plural majority-minority district in Map E; and

52

53 WHEREAS, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 59.10 and the Wisconsin Counties
54 Association’s handbook, as an independent entity the IRC began the redistricting
55 process with a “clean slate” and made no considerations for incumbency nor the
56 political ideology or voting patterns of electors within the considered districts; and

57

58 WHEREAS, after due deliberation of six different maps drafted with the technical
59 assistance of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC),
60 the two finalists being “Map E” and “Map F”, the IRC by a vote of 5-1 determined “Map
61 E” to be most suitable based on the criteria of 3.01(2)(a) MCGO and the criteria
62 prioritization the IRC established; and

63

64 WHEREAS, Map E was submitted to the County Board of Supervisors as File
65 No. 21-898, where it was reviewed by the Committee on Judiciary, Safety and General
66 Services at its meeting on September 29, 2021; and

67

68 WHEREAS, the Committee on Judiciary, Safety and General Services discussed
69 Map E and expressed dissatisfaction with the recommendation based on several factors
70 including, but not limited to:

71

- 72 • Disregard for the addresses of incumbent County Supervisors
- 73 • The creation of an over-empowered and County-asset rich district along the
74 lakefront/downtown
- 75 • The inclusion of a portion of Zip Code 53206 in another district that do not share
76 the same communities of interest
- 77 • Desire to increase the percentage of Black voters in Black Districts

78 ; and

79

80 WHEREAS, the Committee on Judiciary, Safety and General Services voted
81 (vote 5-0) to reject the recommendation from the IRC to the Milwaukee County Board of
82 Supervisors; and

83 WHEREAS, at its meeting on October 1, 2021, the County Board of Supervisors
84 affirmed the recommendation of the Committee on Judiciary, Safety and General
85 Services and voted to reject the recommendation from the IRC (Vote 16-0); and
86

87 WHEREAS, the IRC held a meeting on October 1, 2021 to consider the feedback
88 provided by the Committee on Judiciary, Safety and General Services and took an
89 action to direct SEWRPC staff to modify Map E to reflect the aforementioned concerns;
90 and
91

92 WHEREAS, at its meeting on October 6, 2021, the IRC reviewed two new
93 versions prepared by SEWRPC including Maps H & J; and
94

95 WHEREAS, the IRC also heard testimony from several individuals expressing,
96 among other things, support for the Voting Rights Act, maximizing districts represented
97 by People of Color, and the desire to disregard the addresses of incumbent County
98 Board Supervisors; and
99

100 WHEREAS, at its meeting on October 8, 2021, the IRC reviewed a new Map K
101 and recommended to forward it to the County Board after authorizing SEWRPC to make
102 two changes; affecting Districts #7 (formerly District #5 in previous iterations) and #10,
103 and the boundary of Districts #9 & #17; and
104

105 WHEREAS, the Committee on Judiciary, Safety, and General Services, at its
106 Special Virtual Meeting of October 12, 2021, recommended **REJECTION** of
107 File No. 21-955 (vote 4-1); now, therefore,
108

109 BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the criteria and specifications in Section 3.01 of
110 the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances, Wis. Stat. § 59.10, and relevant
111 case law, the Independent Redistricting Commission hereby recommends Map K
112 (hereto attached to this file) to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors; and
113

114 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
115 hereby adopts Map K as the proposed redistricting plan for elections to the Milwaukee
116 County Board of Supervisors for elections beginning in 2022, and hereby authorizes
117 and directs the County Clerk and Office of Corporation Counsel, working in conjunction
118 with other staff as needed, to transmit the plan to municipalities in Milwaukee County to
119 develop local ward maps.
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123 10/12/21
124 s:\committees\2021\oct\jsgs special meeting october 12\resolution\21-955 irc proposed version k redistricting map no
125 edits.docx