



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: Aug. 3, 2011

TO: The Honorable Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, County Executive

RE: Statement on County Board File 11-364 regarding redistricting

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As with the earlier version the County Board passed in April, I am returning unsigned the newly modified redistricting plan the board approved last week.

The plans are very similar, as is my reason for not supporting them: The intent of the process has appeared to be to preserve the status quo, and with multiple supervisors retiring, the board easily could have streamlined by several more seats.

I am pleased that since its initial plan, the board did hold additional public hearings and created a second predominantly Hispanic district. But the board should have gone much further in responding to taxpayer concerns by further reducing the number of districts.

Based on the board's vote and debate, I believe the board would likely override any veto. While I will not hesitate to veto board actions when needed, a symbolic veto of the board's redistricting plan would accomplish nothing while also threatening the cooperation needed for us to truly reform county government for the benefit of taxpayers.

The board has the opportunity now to prove critics of this plan wrong by working diligently and effectively to address the significant problems facing county government. Taxpayers will ultimately judge this redistricting not on the number of supervisors but on how the board functions and what it accomplishes.