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A resolution by Supervisors Sartori and Nicholson, requesting and urging the Wisconsin State Legislature to create a nonpartisan process for Congressional and Legislative Redistricting Plans, by recommending adoption of the following:

**AN AMENDED RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, in the State of Wisconsin (the State), legislative and congressional district boundaries are drawn by the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, historically, legislative and congressional redistricting plans in the State have been subject to partisan influence more focused on increasing the hold of political party seats than serving the State-wide interests of residents; and

WHEREAS, on November 21, 2016, the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin (the Court) ruled that the 2011 State Assembly District map constituted an illegal partisan gerrymander; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2017, the Court ordered the State Legislature to draft a new redistricting plan to be adopted and signed into law by November 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, it is the position of Milwaukee County (the County) that any redistricting plan created to achieve partisan gains by either political party is improper and unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, according to the Brennan Center for Justice and Loyola Law School, currently six states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, and Washington) employ independent redistricting commissions to draw State and Federal legislative district maps with regulations limiting direct participation from elected officials; and

WHEREAS, in March 2016, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors adopted File No. 15-691, which directs that any new redistricting plan for the County supervisory districts shall be developed by an Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC) comprised of retired judges, to redraw supervisory districts in the best interest of the citizens of the County; and

WHEREAS, the redistricting policy for the County also provides a 60-day comment period for community groups to have input on the IRC members, and designates resources to the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to provide technical assistance and map drafting services to the IRC; and

WHEREAS, the nonpartisan elements of the County’s adopted redistricting policy could potentially be translated on a State-wide level; and

46 WHEREAS, the litigation surrounding the fight against the State's district map  
47 has been a burdensome cost to taxpayers; and

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49 WHEREAS, since the redistricting process in 2011 through June 14, 2017, 17  
50 counties (Clark, Chippewa, Dane, Door, Douglas, Dunn, Jackson, Jefferson, Langlade,  
51 Lincoln, Marinette, Outagamie, Portage, St. Croix, Taylor, Walworth, and Wood) have in  
52 March 2017, Lincoln County adopted a resolutions demanding that the State Legislature  
53 create a nonpartisan procedure for preparing legislative and congressional redistricting  
54 plans; and

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56 WHEREAS, the State Legislature should make it a priority to create a  
57 nonpartisan process for developing district maps, and consider options including an  
58 independent redistricting panel and public input to best serve the interests of State  
59 residents; and

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61 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of  
62 June 16, 2017, recommended adoption of File No. 17-423 as amended (vote 4-1); now,  
63 therefore,

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65 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County (the County) requests and urges the State  
66 of Wisconsin (the State) Legislature to create a nonpartisan process to develop  
67 legislative and congressional redistricting maps; and

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69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County urges the State Legislature to  
70 consider objective options and practices such as an independent redistricting  
71 panel/commission to redraw district maps that going forward, would prohibit the  
72 consideration of voting patterns, party information, incumbents' residence information or  
73 demographic information in drawing the maps (except as required by the United States  
74 Constitution), in order to ensure nonpartisan distribution and to remove the self-interest  
75 of lawmakers affected by the redrawing of district lines; and

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77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board authorizes and directs Office of  
78 Government Affairs staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Counties  
79 Association, the Wisconsin Town Association, the Wisconsin League of Municipalities,  
80 each Wisconsin county, and all State Legislators, and to the Governor.

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