# Milwaukee County Independent Redistricting Committee on 2021-10-06 6:30 PM - VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
# This meeting will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center:
# https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

**Meeting Time: 10-06-21 18:30**

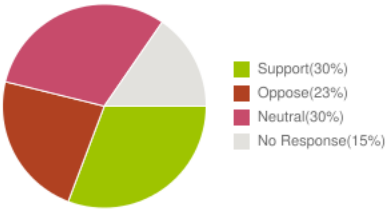
## eComments Report

| Meetings | Meeting Time | Agenda Items | Comments | Support | Oppose | Neutral |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Milwaukee County Independent Redistricting Committee on 2021-10-06 6:30 PM - VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING This meeting will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center: https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx | 10-06-21 18:30 | 13 | 13 | 4 | 3 | 4 |

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



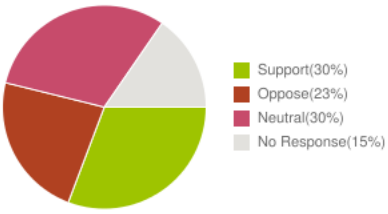
**Milwaukee County Independent Redistricting Committee on 2021-10-06 6:30 PM - VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING**
**This meeting will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center: https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx**
**10-06-21 18:30**

| Agenda Name | Comments | Support | Oppose | Neutral |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 HRA21-414 An update from the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission on Redistricting Maps Version H and Version J. (INFORMATION ONLY) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 HRA21-358 Public Comment Regarding the Proposed District Maps. *Testimony Will Be Limited to 2 Minutes Per Speaker. (INFORMATION ONLY) | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 4 HRA21-415 Discussion and possible approval of a final (2nd) redistricting map for consideration to submit to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (Redistricting Map versions G, H, or J). (ACTION ITEM) | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 5 HRA21-300 eComments submitted to the Milwaukee County Independent Redistricting Committee via the County Legislative Information Center (CLIC). (INFORMATION ONLY)<br><br>*The Office of the County Clerk collects eComments submitted via CLIC, and appends these official public records to HRA File No. 21-300 at the conclusion of each meeting. | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

## Sentiments for All Agenda Items

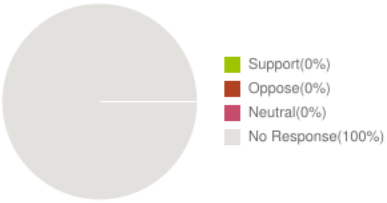
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

### Overall Sentiment




**Agenda Item: eComments for 2 HRA21-414 An update from the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission on Redistricting Maps Version H and Version J. (INFORMATION ONLY)**

Overall Sentiment




**Robert Hullum**
Location:
Submitted At: 6:10pm 10-06-21

(Submitted by Elyzabeth Smith)

Dear Independent Redistricting Committee,

I do not support the consideration of incumbency for County legislative districts. The voters should choose their politicians, and not the politicians choosing their voters. The Milwaukee County Board should stop hiding behind “racial equity” concerns when in fact they are just trying to make it easier to get reelected. If the Board rejects these independently drawn maps, they are no better than the Republicans in Madison who they criticize for gerrymandering. We the voters deserve better.

Yours sincerely,

Elyzabeth Smith
1332 E Randolph Ct, Milwaukee, WI 53212

(Submitted by Kari and Kaushik "Neil" Chakrabarti)

We support fair maps

(Submitted by Roberta Locher)

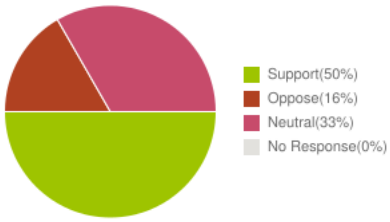
Hello,

I just want to voice my support for focusing the redistricting process exclusively on making the maps fair and equitable. Please do not let political bias and ease of re-election for certain parties or officials influence the way lines are drawn. Everyone deserves the right to have their vote count equally and I implore you to be impartial in this vital task.

Thank you for the work that you do.

Sincerely,
Roberta Locher
District 6 resident

Overall Sentiment




**Scott Spiker**
Location:
Submitted At: 7:14pm 10-06-21

I did notice that the new maps--H and J--do break up one neighborhood somewhat curiously in the southwest corner of District 8 (next to District 17). Why not take the W Ramsey Ave border between 8 and 17 all the way west to S 27th St? This wouldn't change the populations of 8 and 17 unduly, yet it would avoid splitting up the Goldman Park neighborhood, which is between 27th St (western border) and the freeway (eastern border), and Ramsey Ave (northern border) and College Ave (southern border. Just a thought. I'll make do either way. Thank you. -Scott Spiker, Alderman of the 13th District of the City of Milwaukee

**Felesia Martin**
Location:
Submitted At: 6:49pm 10-06-21

Map H meets the criteria of the Voting Rights Act 1965 ensuring no dilution of the minority vote. Map H respects the AAPI/AA/IP minority communities which should be a critical consideration. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 must be the first consideration. While no map will be perfect but with tweaking Map H we can ensure responsible black representation as well as other minority voters. Thank you, Honorable Judges for your time and efforts. Your willingness to hear and act upon the feedback from the community. I will say, I prefer the District numbers of current District Maps be used in maps moving forward to ensure clarity to the public. I am, respectively, adamantly opposed to the map proposed by Judge Kessler (Map G?). Having 53206 included in the wealthiest district in MKE County is unconscionable. Again, I strongly support Map H which yields strong voting percentage of minority groups.

**Dora Drake**
Location:
Submitted At: 6:37pm 10-06-21

We need to have maps that protect black voters, Hispanic voters, and Asian voters against maps with voter rights violations. Since the majority of the populations are people of color, we need to create maps that maximize representation for people of color while balancing against economic power, and voter behavior.

I oppose the H Map because there 10 white districts and 6 black districts, which is unacceptable because it does not reflect the black population.

I oppose Map J because even though it is better, District 13 should include Glendale area like it is for Map H. In Map J, the black population in Brown Deer should be included in district 2 as well. Lastly, District 4 in Map J should go south instead of North & West. Because it will open up more possibilities of black representation on the Northside.

**Michael Dunst**
Location:
Submitted At: 4:17pm 10-06-21

I believe that we should place our trust in the redistricting committee to create new fair maps. There is a reason why we appointed and agreed to place these people on the committee in the first place, which is that they are good at what they do, can be trusted to put our County above politics, and will produce high-quality legislative

maps. Any opposition to maps they produce should be as a result of pragmatic concerns (possibly including election administration or complexities involving districts overlapping too many other administrative boundaries) and not of political will.

**Rita Hayen**
Location:
Submitted At: 12:47pm 10-06-21

I submitted comments on the following issue in support of Map H.  This map best represents natural community divisions. Map H allows  for County representation that likely has more in common with constituents and supports grouping areas of the County that likely have more common issues, and community issues/concerns.

I encourage approval of Map H.

**Robert Hullum**
Location:
Submitted At:  2:49pm 10-05-21

(Submitted by Joanne Lange)

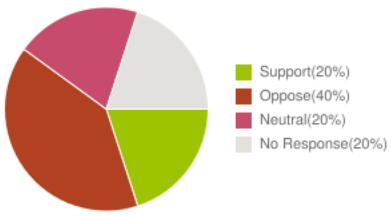
To all Committee members:

I have been following the issue of redistricting throughout these past ten years and all the efforts to bring Wisconsinites fair maps.  It is frustrating to know that your vote doesn't count for those of us that reside in Congressperson Fitzgerald's district,  formerly Sensenbrenner's district.  We exercised our right and duty to vote but we knew our voting choices would not prevail in many elections. Now is the time for fair maps to be created. Those in office should not be able to choose maps that protect their being in office.  We expect fairness.

Joanne Lange
9991 W. North Avenue
Wauwatosa

**Agenda Item: eComments for 4 HRA21-415 Discussion and possible approval of a final (2nd) redistricting map for consideration to submit to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (Redistricting Map versions G, H, or J). (ACTION ITEM)**

Overall Sentiment




**Warren Enstrom**
Location:
Submitted At:  2:03pm 10-06-21

Map H is the only map that includes compact districts that do not defend incumbents. Map G is way too similar to the current districts and defends incumbents inherently, and map J similar has issues with being too close to the current maps -- for example, district 4 is not compact whatsoever and is thus suspect in terms of how it is composed. I strongly support map H.

**Rita Hayen**

Location:
Submitted At: 12:42pm 10-06-21

I am submitting a comment in support of Map H. Both my husband and I have reviewed the maps produced by the IRC, with special inretest in how the NE county is formatted. We prefer Map H because we believe this map best represents areas of the county with a mix of living conditions (rural and city like), population, and political views. This map also appears to better represent city areas and natural boundaries among communities. This boundary respect tends to also support better representation of citizens by their County Board members.
We support approval of Map H.

**Kate Mackay**
Location:
Submitted At: 11:04am 10-06-21

This version of the redistricting map is bad. There's obvious gerrymandering. State Fair Park included with part of Walker's Point via Marquette University? Third Ward included with the northwest side? Heck, why isn't downtown it's own district? It looks like you're trying to dilute POC voices and that's terrible.

**Craig Romanowski**
Location:
Submitted At: 4:17pm 10-05-21

My name is Craig Romanowski and I am a resident of Milwaukee County. Thank you for considering my comments below.

I favor Version H with Version J being a close second. I like how compact both maps are. I would be in District 11 in H and J and the new District 11 makes more intuitive sense than the current District 17. It appears to be a combination of Greenfield and Greendale though with some of the oddly shaped northern portions of Greenfield taken out (e.g. the "island").

Some interesting points were brought up in past meetings regarding prioritizing incumbency. My opinion is that if the county is to prioritize incumbency then the current map should be given the same intense scrutiny as the proposed maps. If incumbency is prioritized then any flaws with the current map will be inadvertently preserved unless they are identified and mitigated.

As things stand, Version G and the current map is much less compact and it is not clear to me why the current map (e.g. District 17, which spans four municipalities) was drawn the way it was. That makes G a distant third place for me.

Regarding the lack of public comment, anecdotally most people I know know little of redistricting or how it impacts them. This is even more of a problem at the county and local level; there are many articles out there speaking of the state-level redistricting fight but few that address the county and city levels. Further, some excellent points were brought up in past discussions that were not covered by the metrics at Dave's Redistricting. What resources are there to learn about what to look for in county redistricting?

Thank you for your time,
Craig Romanowski

**Robert Hullum**
Location:
Submitted At: 3:07pm 10-05-21

(Submitted by Gisela Zelenka-Drysdale)

Honorable members of the Independent Redistricting Committee:

Thank you for serving on this very important committee.

I write to express my very strong support for non-partisan, fair and independent maps free of political influence or interference. Maps should not protect incumbents or any particular party.

Most sincerely,
Gisela Zelenka-Drysdale
Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County, WI

(Submitted by Douglas Drysdale)

Honorable members of the Independent Redistricting Committee:

Thank you for serving on this very important committee.

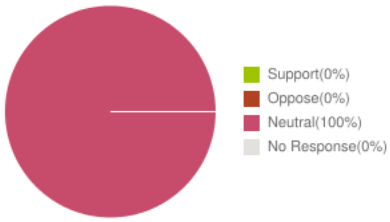
I write to express my very strong support for non-partisan, fair and independent maps free of political influence or interference. Maps should not protect incumbents or any particular party.

Most sincerely,
Douglas Drysdale
Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County, WI

**Agenda Item: eComments for 5 HRA21-300 eComments submitted to the Milwaukee County Independent Redistricting Committee via the County Legislative Information Center (CLIC).**
**(INFORMATION ONLY)**

***The Office of the County Clerk collects eComments submitted via CLIC, and appends these official public records to HRA File No. 21-300 at the conclusion of each meeting.**

Overall Sentiment




**Robert Hullum**
Location:
Submitted At: 4:12pm 10-06-21

(Submitted by Peter Rickman)

I write to you to state my opposition to version E of the draft district maps for the County Board of Supervisors.

Alongside encouragement to reject version E, I voice my support for comprehensive district maps that better reflect the people of our County. As of my own most recent review of the available files, version G seems to best express this. I ask that you support map version G because it accounts for the geography of people, places, and communities of interest in Milwaukee County.

Before offering my views, let me provide some context. I have been involved in elections and advocacy at the County level (as well as at the State, City, and School District levels) here in Milwaukee for the better part of a decade, due to my work as a union and community organizer. Somewhat significant parts of this experience center on increasing civic participation and other parts have focused on understanding and moving the electorate as it has been in order to achieve an outcome. In addition to this democracy work, I have worked in most every neighborhood of Milwaukee County in my work as a union and community organizer, becoming quite familiar with its contours. I believe that this work provides a depth of knowledge and perspective to validate the views offered

here.

Draft map version E appears to prize contiguity, municipal boundaries, and district boundary shape over all else. While in some cases these concepts may best defeat gerrymandering and foster democratic representation, in the case of Milwaukee County and its Board of Supervisors, preferencing these actually defeats the most important priority, ensuring the people of our county are represented with a fair and accessible democratic process.

Draft map version E lumps together disparate neighborhoods and populations in such a way that in practical reality will disenfranchise Black and Hispanic residents. Drawing district boundaries on the map without regard to other factors, like voting patterns and electoral contest realities only reinforces the historic barriers to adequate representation. In addition, draft map E fails to account for the human geography of neighborhoods, community similarities and dissimilarities, and actual interests.

While not perfect, draft map version G far better reflects actual people, geography and communities in Milwaukee County, fostering a greater likelihood of adequate representation and democratic participation. In accounting for these priorities, draft map version G also factors in the practical realities of the democratic process such that it seems far more likely to empower historically disenfranchised people like Black and Hispanic folks.

Draft map version G better groups like with like amongst communities of interests, inclusive of the human geography that matters. In this map, each district seems to capture as best as possible a grouping of people with commonality such that the diversity of and actual views, inclusive of demographic traits like race, ethnicity, income, education and the like, will be reflected on the County Board of Supervisors. None of the other draft maps yet have achieved this critically important purpose.

In fact, the boundaries of map version G that look the least contiguous and compact may be its best features in providing for remarkably well-crafted districts on the basis of interest community and human geography, leaving contiguousness for the districts where such priority does not invalidate other critical notions of democratic representation in district map line-drawing.

As a person deeply experienced in County governance through elections and advocacy and as a person intimately familiar with the human geography of Milwaukee, I strongly support draft version G, particularly over version E (and seemingly over H and J, for the same reasons). I encourage you to move forward with draft map version G because it reflects the communities of interest and human geo