



## Wisconsin Educators for Fair Maps

As teachers, and educators in our state, we write about the urgent need to bring fairness into the redistricting process. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike regard gerrymandering as a serious issue in our democracy, and that when executed in a partisan fashion, it undermines the integrity of elections.

The current maps manipulate election districts for unfair partisan gain, entrenching political power rather than allowing voters a choice in representation. To put it in teachers' terms, the maps received a grade of an F from The Princeton Gerrymandering Project. If our state politics were a classroom, it seems it would be an out of control kindergarten class where compromise and collaboration are out of the question.

We believe that a well-functioning democracy makes our nation stronger. Our community is best served by a system where all people can speak and be heard, and where no one loses an opportunity to make a meaningful choice. In 2020, policies such as voting absentee, ballot drop boxes, and early voting, pushed Wisconsin's voter turnout to one of the highest levels in our state's history. When a larger demographic was able to choose their form of access, more of our neighbors and fellow Wisconsinites participated in our electoral process.

A broken democracy has detrimental impacts for both our nation and our children. It is heartbreaking to hear our bright students in civics class say, "But nothing ever seems to change. Why should I vote?" Of course we tell them being involved in your democracy is your duty as an American, and getting involved is how things will change. But alas, they are not entirely wrong when we have a state legislature that has all but guaranteed their reelection.

At this critical juncture in our state's history, and in the redistricting process, decision makers have an imperative role to play in ensuring we are all treated with the same fidelity. To restore trust, the maps that will be implemented must be more competitive so either party has a relatively equal chance of winning an election. You deserve it, your constituents and community deserve it, and your state deserves it. More importantly, we are watching, and our youth are watching – the young minds of the future of Wisconsin. Let's do right by them and make them proud!

Sincerely,  
Concerned Teachers of Wisconsin

Elizabeth Donnelly Wingert  
Michael Jones  
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Steve Books  
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Madison

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Madison  
Stoughton  
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Fitchburg  
Lake Mills  
Sun Prairie  
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Rice Lake  
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Racine  
Madison  
Madison  
Oregon  
Burlington  
Lancaster  
Sun Prairie  
Sun Prairie  
La Crosse  
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Wilson  
Lyons  
Menomonie  
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Stoughton  
Fitchburg  
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Madison  
Watertown  
McFarland  
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