

County of Kenosha

Board of Supervisors

Resolution No. _____

Subject: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RULING INVALIDATING STATE LEGISLATIVE MAPS AND ORDERING NEW ONES			
Original <u> X </u>	Corrected <u> </u>	2 nd Correction <u> </u>	Resubmitted <u> </u>
Date Submitted: _____ Date resubmitted: _____			
Submitted by: Supervisor Leah Blough and the Legislative Committee			
Fiscal Note Attached: <u> </u>		Legal Note Attached: <u> </u>	
Prepared By: Supervisor Leah Blough			

WHEREAS, The act of voting is at the heart of a representational government; and

WHEREAS, For a representational government to be appropriately functional and responsive, voters must be active citizens with meaningful choices; and

WHEREAS, This requires not only an opportunity to exercise their voices but also a fair and equitable chance to have those with whom they agree garner a majority; and

WHEREAS, Both political parties must be held accountable to ensure legislative districts have a fairly equal amount of voters and that all voters in all districts have an equal say in the political process; and

WHEREAS, The recent 2 to 1 ruling by the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin in the case of *Gill v. Whitford*, said the Wisconsin Legislature's 2011 re-drawing of the Wisconsin State Assembly districts violated both the First Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment because it aimed to deprive Democratic voters of their right to be represented; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the 2 to 1 ruling, the Federal Court ordered the Wisconsin State Legislature to draw new maps by November 1, 2017, to be ready in time for the November 2018 election cycle; and

WHEREAS, The State of Wisconsin, representing the Elections Commission, has appealed this ruling and the Republicans in the Wisconsin Legislature has voted to retain outside counsel to represent them as "friends of the court" at taxpayer expense in any such appeal; and

WHEREAS, The State of Wisconsin has already spent over 2 million dollars of taxpayer money to defend the maps found to be unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, The Kenosha County Board of Supervisors, as elected representatives of the people, have a responsibility to ensure that all voters should be able to choose their representatives and not the other way around; and

WHEREAS, The Kenosha County Board of Supervisors also has a responsibility to call upon elected officials at all levels of government to be conscientious stewards of taxpayer money;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the County Board of Supervisors supports the 2 to 1 ruling of the United State District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin to have the State Legislature draw new maps by November 1, 2017, to be ready for the November 2018 election cycle and opposes any further appeal of the same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the County Board of Supervisors calls for the process of drawing new maps to promote more accountability and transparency and that it prohibit the consideration of voting patterns, party information and incumbents' resident information or demographic information in drawing the maps, except as necessary to ensure minority participation as required by the U.S. Constitution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the County Board of Supervisors finds that adoption and support of this ruling will ensure that all voters have an equal say in the political process and will save the needless expenditure of taxpayer dollars on expensive legal fees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the County Clerk is instructed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Scott Walker, Attorney General Brad Schimel, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and Kenosha County's representatives in the Wisconsin State Assembly and Senate.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leah Blough

Approved by:

Legislative Committee:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Excused</u>
<hr/> Boyd Frederick, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<hr/> Dayvin Hallmon, Vice-Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<hr/> Andy Berg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<hr/> Erin Decker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<hr/> John Franco	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<hr/> John Poole	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<hr/> Michael Skalitzky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>