

# NOTICE OF REFERENDUM

## Ashland County

April 6, 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the County of Ashland, on April 6, 2021, the following proposed Resolution R01-2021-1374 of the County Board of Supervisors will be submitted to a vote of the people:

### **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTTING A COUNTYWIDE ADVISORY REFERENDUM ON CREATION OF NONPARTISAN PROCEDURE FOR THE PREPARATION OF LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLANS AND MAPS**

**WHEREAS**, the Ashland County Board of Supervisors on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 passed a resolution calling for nonpartisan legislative and congressional redistricting maps; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 3 of the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Legislature is directed to redistrict state legislative districts “according to the number of inhabitants” at its next session following the decennial federal census. The legislature also reapportions congressional districts at the same interval pursuant to federal law; and

**WHEREAS**, there are numerous indicators that the citizens of Wisconsin are concerned about the practice of redistricting by whichever party holds the majority, because it may stifle political participation and competition, discourage collaboration and compromise, and lack the fairness necessary to our democratic process, by undermining the principle of one-person-one vote.

**WHEREAS**, the current procedure allows the legislature of the majority party to prepare redistricting plans and maps that may result in unfair partisan plans and maps, allowing the legislature to choose its voters rather than the voters choosing their representatives, which is commonly called gerrymandering.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Ashland County Board of Supervisors, in legal session assembled, does hereby approve that the following question be placed on the April 6, 2021 ballot as an advisory referendum question:

**“Question: Should the Wisconsin legislature create a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional district plans and maps?”**

**YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_**

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Corporation Counsel prepare a Notice of Referendum to be published by the Ashland County Clerk in accordance with statutory requirements;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution and the referendum shall be filed with the Ashland County Clerk no later than 70 days prior to the April 6, 2021, election at which the question will appear on the ballot.

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**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Clerk is directed to send results of the referendum to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Wisconsin League of Municipalities, all members of the State Legislature, and to each Wisconsin County Board.

**FISCAL NOTE:** There will be minimal cost to the County depending on the size of the ballot.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Ashland County Board of Supervisors hereby supports this resolution.

Signed at the City of Ashland, Wisconsin on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021.

The question will appear on the ballot as follows:

***“Question: Should the Wisconsin legislature create a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional district plans and maps?”***

#### EXPLANATION

A “yes” vote advises the County that you are in favor of a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of Legislative and Congressional district plans and maps.

A “no” vote advises the County that you are opposed to a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of Legislative and Congressional district plans and maps.

In the event that a majority of electors voting on the question listed above vote “yes” on that question, the County will be advised in favor of the action or policy described in the question; if a majority of electors vote “no”, the County will be advised against the action or policy described in the question. The referendum is advisory only. The results of the advisor referendum are not binding on the County or State of Wisconsin.

Done in the City of Ashland  
On January 27, 2021.



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Heather Schutte, Ashland County Clerk