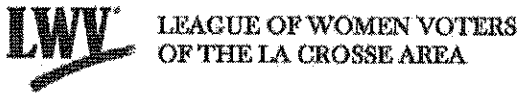


17-1618



November 29, 2017

To: Andrea Richmond, Chair, City of La Crosse Judiciary and Administration Committee  
Gary Padesky, Vice-Chair, City of La Crosse Judiciary and Administration Committee

From: Deborah Lutjen, President, League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area

CC: Patrick Brever, City Council Member, District 5

The League of Women Voters of the La Crosse area supports adoption of the resolution 17-1618 by the City of La Crosse: "RESOLUTION TO CREATE A NONPARTISAN PROCEDURE FOR THE PREPARATION OF LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLANS"

For over 40 years, the League of Women Voters (LWV) Wisconsin has advocated for fair voting districts. According to Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director LWVWI, "By creating an unprecedented number of safe districts, in which one party is assured victory, the current Wisconsin voting maps have created a serious breakdown in the legislative process. Where the majority party used to have to reach across the aisle to gain bipartisan consensus, now it can introduce and fast-track bills with no support from the minority party and only the bare minimum opportunity for public input. Majority lawmakers, most of whom are insulated in safe districts, can do this without fear of being held accountable by voters in the next election."

The LWV notes that gerrymandering is not a partisan issue--both the Democratic and the Republican Parties have gerrymandered electoral maps over the past 40 years in our country. Adoption of this resolution by the City of La Crosse is about doing what is right: promoting good government and defending democratic principles by insuring fairness for voters.

La Crosse, Trempealeau, Jackson, Monroe, and Vernon Counties are among Wisconsin counties that have adopted similar "Fair Maps" resolutions as a strategy to call on the Wisconsin state legislature to create an impartial, nonpartisan process for drawing our state's voting maps. We encourage the City of La Crosse to join with citizens across Wisconsin opposing the partisan gerrymandering that led a federal court to rule Wisconsin's electoral maps unconstitutional in 2016.

Apart from the Supreme Court of the United States ruling next year, it is imperative for Wisconsin to change the process regarding how voting districts are drawn after the decennial census. Whatever political party may be in power at the time, elected officials should not be able to pick and choose their voters. The People, voters, should determine election outcomes.