



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER #285

Relating to a Special Session of the Legislature to Ban Partisan Gerrymandering, Ensure Fair Maps For Future Generations

WHEREAS, Wisconsin is not a red state or a blue state, it is a purple state, and the state's maps should reflect that basic fact;

WHEREAS, in February 2024, fair legislative maps were enacted for the great state of Wisconsin, undoing more than a decade of Wisconsinites living under some of the most gerrymandered legislative maps in the United States of America;

WHEREAS, the bipartisan effort to secure fair legislative maps marked the first time in over 50 years that Wisconsin had fair legislative maps enacted through the legislative process rather than through the court;

WHEREAS, the fair legislative maps that were signed into law are responsive to the will of the people, avoid partisan bias, and increase the number of competitive legislative seats;

WHEREAS, in addition to signing fair maps into law, in February 2024, the Evers Administration also renewed its pledge to continue working to pass fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting in Wisconsin in order to guarantee that fair maps will always be the outcome when the state redistricts after each federal census;

WHEREAS, democratic principles are upheld when districts are adopted that reject partisan bias and instead achieve fair and effective representation for all residents of the state, and while Wisconsin has fair maps today, the state still does not have a nonpartisan redistricting process in place, which means there is no guarantee Wisconsinites will still have fair maps after the next U.S. Census;

WHEREAS, lawmakers should have to rely on the quality of their work, rather than the safety of their seats, and elected officials should have to listen to the will of the people and do what is best, not for their own political party, but for the people who elect them;

WHEREAS, people, state, and country should always come before politics and party, however, and all too often, politics can get in the way of those principles;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting be the law of the land in Wisconsin in order to guarantee that fair maps will always be the outcome when the state redistricts after each federal census, no matter who is elected to sit in the governor's office or what political party holds the majority in the Wisconsin State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, people should get to choose their elected officials, not the other

way around, so it is time Wisconsin prohibits partisan gerrymandering once and for all and enshrines that basic principle in the state constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONY EVERS, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State, and specifically by Article IV, Section 11 and Article V, Section 4 of the Wisconsin Constitution, hereby require the convening of a special session of the Legislature at the Capitol in the City of Madison, to commence at 12:00 pm on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, solely to consider and act upon LRB-6517/1 and LRB-6518/1, relating to a constitutional amendment to ban partisan gerrymandering.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this third day of March in the year of two thousand twenty-six.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Evers", is written over a horizontal line.

TONY EVERS
Governor

By the Governor:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sarah Godlewski", is written over a horizontal line.

SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State