



August 11, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity for the League of Women Voters of Dane County to speak at this first meeting of the City of Madison Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee. My name is Caryl Terrell, speaking on behalf of the League. I reside at 19 Red Maple Trail, Madison. Our statement is in support of expediting the timeline for drawing ward and district maps.

The League of Women Voters of Dane County is involved in community education on the importance of fair, transparent, non-partisan maps for redistricting. League members are following the work of this committee, the Peoples' Maps Commission, the Dane County Non-Partisan Redistricting Commission and the city, village, or town where they reside.

The League of Women Voters believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. Every vote should count. Using maps that have been drawn purposely on partisan grounds should not be allowed. To meet this standard, new maps based on the 2020 Census must be available before the first local elections in 2022.

Around the State, County Boards, Municipalities and other legal jurisdictions know their boundaries. They can begin now to draw maps for consideration and adjust these maps once the 2020 Census apportionment data is available.

We urge this committee to expedite your work developing non-partisan, transparent and fair maps for the City of Madison. Expediting timelines was recommended in the August 6, 2021 Memo from Dane County Clerk Scott McDonell and Dane County Board Chair Analiese Eicher. Your staff has provided you with a proposed expedited calendar on your agenda, titled "Revised 8.06.21 estimated Timeline for Madison's 2021 Redistricting Process."

Transparency and public participation are important in drawing fair maps. We suggest you invite residents to submit their own ward maps with narrative about their Community of Interest. Another way to receive public input is by using maps submitted by Madison residents to the Peoples' Maps Commission and to the Dane County Non-Partisan Redistricting Commission.

Thank you for considering League input.