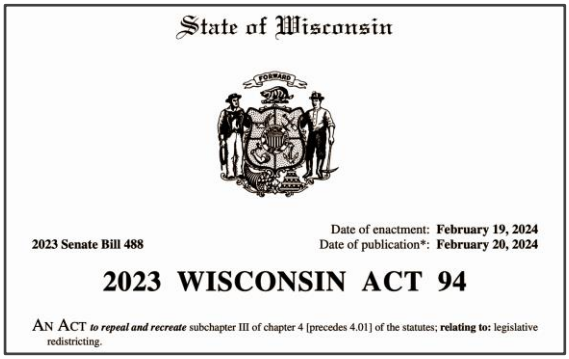
Evers Signs New State Legislative Maps With Republican Support

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State of Wisconsin

2023 Senate Bill 488

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2023 WISCONSIN ACT 94

AN ACT ***to repeal and recreate*** subchapter III of chapter 4 [precedes 4.01] of the statutes; **relating to:** legislative redistricting.

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers secured a major political victory with his recent signing into law of new legislative district maps after the state Supreme Court ruled in December of last year that the Legislature's current maps were unconstitutional. Republicans, who hold large majorities in both the Senate (22 GOP to 10 DEM) and Assembly (64 GOP to 35 DEM), reluctantly approved Governor Evers' maps. No amendments or changes were made in order to avoid the risk of a liberal controlled 4-3 Supreme Court imposing much more unfavorable maps on Republicans. The Legislature had sent the Governor a version of his maps with some modifications, only to have him veto the plan because they weren't identical to his original proposal.

Democrats, many of whom had voted against the Governor's maps, ironically praised the signing of the new district maps as a significant political victory. The Legislature has been firmly under Republican control for more than a decade, even as Democrats have successfully won 14 of the past 17 statewide elections at the ballot box. The new legislative districts mark a milestone in over 50 years that redistricting has passed the Legislature and was enacted by a governor rather than through the courts. Facing a daunting mid-March deadline from the state Elections Commission for new maps to be in place, Republicans were left with no options and were forced to support the Governor's map. They will now compete to maintain their majorities this fall on the campaign trail where some have speculated that one or both houses could flip.

Under the new maps which will be in effect for the August primary and November general election, Republicans continuing their majority control in the Assembly and Senate is no longer guaranteed, but they still hold slight advantages going into this fall's elections, primarily because they have more incumbents. But the impact of the new maps have created more highly competitive seats than what exists today. Democrats are almost certain to gain seats in both houses as a result, but it remains an uphill battle for Democrats to flip both houses in 2024. Some of this will depend on candidate recruitment, ability to raise money, and how much of an impact Biden and Trump will have from the top of the ticket. Also under the new maps, there are 15 incumbents in the Assembly who are paired and will be forced to run against another incumbent and 6 such incumbent pairings in the Senate. Only one of the Assembly pairings would pit one Democrat incumbent against another one. In the Senate, the only Democrat pairing includes an incumbent who has already decided not to run this fall.

Here is the Assembly *Old Map v. New Map* pathway to gaining the majority in 2024 for both parties:



For the GOP...

Win all the SAFE and STRONG GOP seats	46
Win 4 of 9 HIGHLY COMPETITIVE seats	+4
	50

For the Democrats...

Win all the SAFE, STRONG, and LEAN DEM seats*	44
Win 6 of 9 HIGHLY COMPETITIVE seats	+6
	50

Here is the Senate *Old Map v. New Map* pathway to gaining the majority for both parties:



For the GOP...

Win all the SAFE, STRONG, and LEAN GOP seats	15
Win 2 of 6 HIGHLY COMPETITIVE seats	+2
	17

For the Democrats...*

Win all the SAFE, STRONG, and LEAN DEM seats**	12
Win 5 of 6 HIGHLY COMPETITIVE seats	+5
	17

Aside from the state legislative maps, the Wisconsin Supreme Court had also been asked by Democrats to take up a challenge to the state's congressional district lines which the Legislature did not take action on. The court rejected taking the case and therefore the current eight congressional districts will remain in place for the fall elections. Republicans currently hold six of eight congressional seats and the Third Congressional District in Western Wisconsin is the only seat up for grabs.

A detailed overview of the newly enacted legislative maps and congressional maps are available to view below:

Wisconsin State Assembly
Wisconsin State Senate
Wisconsin Congressional Map