



# Democratic Party of MONROE COUNTY

221 S. Water St., Sparta, WI / (608) 633-2674

FEB. 2024

## From Your County Chair

*by Mary Von Ruden*

February has arrived with the days getting closer to November, and we have a long way to go. I have Biden signs available at the office. It seems early but it's better than later.

The spring primary is April 2, 2024. We will be voting for local races, as well as in the presidential primary.

There are three candidates running to defeat Derrick Van Orden in the 3rd CD: Rebecca Cooke, Rep. Katrina Shankland, and Eric Wilson.. We need to vote out Derrick Van Orden, who deserves a "thank you for your service to our country," but not for disrespecting the communities he represents or our country. He was part of the January 6 attack on the Capitol. His abusive language and treatment of young people, and his refusal to apologize, is wrong.

Rep. Katrina Shankland will have coffee at Ginny's Cupboard on Saturday February 24th from 1:30 - 3:30. She is hoping people will come and ask questions and get to know her. Put it on your calendar. I am working with the other candidates to come to Monroe County also.

We need to get rid of Trump and Van Orden, and we can't do it alone. We need everyone to help, even if it's your neighbor or family. We have too much at stake to lose. We need to re-elect Senator Tammy Baldwin to the Senate in Washington DC.

We're looking for volunteers to help work on float for parades this summer. We also need people who can make phone calls and knock on doors. We have a group coming to pay for completing canvas packets. I will keep you posted. Make sure to keep checking our FB page, as I put news and articles on there often.

**You are  
invited to an  
event with**



**KATRINA  
SHANKLAND**

FOR CONGRESS



# **Coffee with Katrina in Monroe County!**

**Saturday, February 24th  
1:30 - 3:30 P.M.**

**Ginny's Cupboard  
127 N. Water St.  
Sparta, WI 54656**

**If you have any questions or to RSVP, email:  
[info@katrinashanklandforcongress.com](mailto:info@katrinashanklandforcongress.com)**

**PAID FOR BY KATRINA SHANKLAND FOR CONGRESS**

## Governor Evers Signs New Legislative Maps

Earlier this year, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that our current legislative maps are unconstitutional, as they have non-contiguous districts. They ordered new maps for the 2024 election.

Worried that the Supreme Court may select a map that is favorable to Democratic candidates, Republicans in the legislature passed the [maps](#) submitted to the Supreme Court by Governor Evers. The legislature rejected these same maps last year.

Earlier today, Governor Evers signed the new maps into law.

In other words, the Republican gerrymander of Wisconsin is almost over.

For Monroe County, there will be big changes. Under the new maps, Monroe County will still be divided into two Assembly districts: the 70th and the 95th. But instead of being divided horizontally, Monroe County will now be divided vertically. And the cities of Tomah and Sparta are now in different districts.

The 70th is currently represented

by Nancy Vander Meer, a Republican.

The 95th is currently represented by Jill Billings, a Democrat.

Currently, the lower half of Monroe County is part of the 96th district, represented by Republican Loren Oldenburg. However, under the new map, the 96th no longer includes Monroe County, and instead contains all of Vernon County and parts of La Crosse County.

Under the new map, Monroe County is also split into two State Senate districts: the 24th and the 32nd.

The 24th is currently represented by Patrick Testin, a Republican. He will be up for reelection in 2026. The 32nd is currently represented by Brad Pfaff, a Democrat. He is running for reelection this year.

We are hoping this is the final word on maps for the 2024 election. However, knowing the Republican Party, there's a chance someone will file a lawsuit in federal court, in the hopes that the US Supreme Court strikes down these new maps.

We will keep you updated.

## Three Candidates Running to Replace Derrick Van Orden

As of February 1, there are three candidates running for the 3rd Congressional District.

State Rep. **Katrina Shankland** has been a member of the Assembly since 2013. In [announcing](#) her candidacy, Shankland said, “We need a candidate who is battle tested, who has a proven track record of not only winning elections but outperforming the top of the ticket in those elections.”

[Rebecca Cooke](#) is a farmer and small business owner from Eau Claire. On her campaign website, Cooke writes, “I won’t solve all our problems overnight, but I’ll sure as hell try. We might not see eye to eye on everything, but I’m going to fight for this region’s future.”

[Eric Wilson](#) is a 30-year-old graduate of UW-Madison. His campaign website states that he “will advocate for accessible health care, quality education, economic growth, sustainable farming practices, and policies that uplift and empower all residents.”

The fall primary will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. The winner of that primary will face Van Orden in the November election.

**A reminder that the Monroe County Democratic Party does not endorse candidates in a primary. We may promote events for candidates, but that is an offer we extend to all primary candidates.**

## Help Us Keep Our Office Open and Well Supplied

The Monroe County Democratic Party relies on donations from its members. We don’t hold fundraisers or yearly picnics like some counties, and we don’t make you pay for yard signs or campaign literature.

If you’d like to help support us, please consider donating via [ActBlue](#) or by mail: MCDP, 221 S. Water Street, Sparta, WI 54656

Checks can be made out to “Monroe County Democratic Party.” Please include your profession when you donate, for reporting purposes.

Any amount is greatly appreciated! Thank you!

## Two Dem Candidate Running for 7th Congressional District

The 7th CD is the largest district in the state of Wisconsin. Beginning along the Lake Superior shoreline, the 7th CD stretches all the way down to the northeastern corner of Monroe County. The 7th CD is currently represented by Tom Tiffany, a Republican.

Two Democrats have declared their candidacy for the 7th CD.

The first is [Kyle Kilbourn](#). A resident of Oneida County, Kyle's vision for the 7th CD includes policies that "transcend partisanship, emphasizing good governance and civic engagement for a more equitable society."

According to his campaign site, he also believes in "strengthening our community by supporting working families and promoting a sustainable, prosperous future" and prioritizing "the unique needs of rural areas," with a focus on "environmental stewardship and enhancing the quality of life."

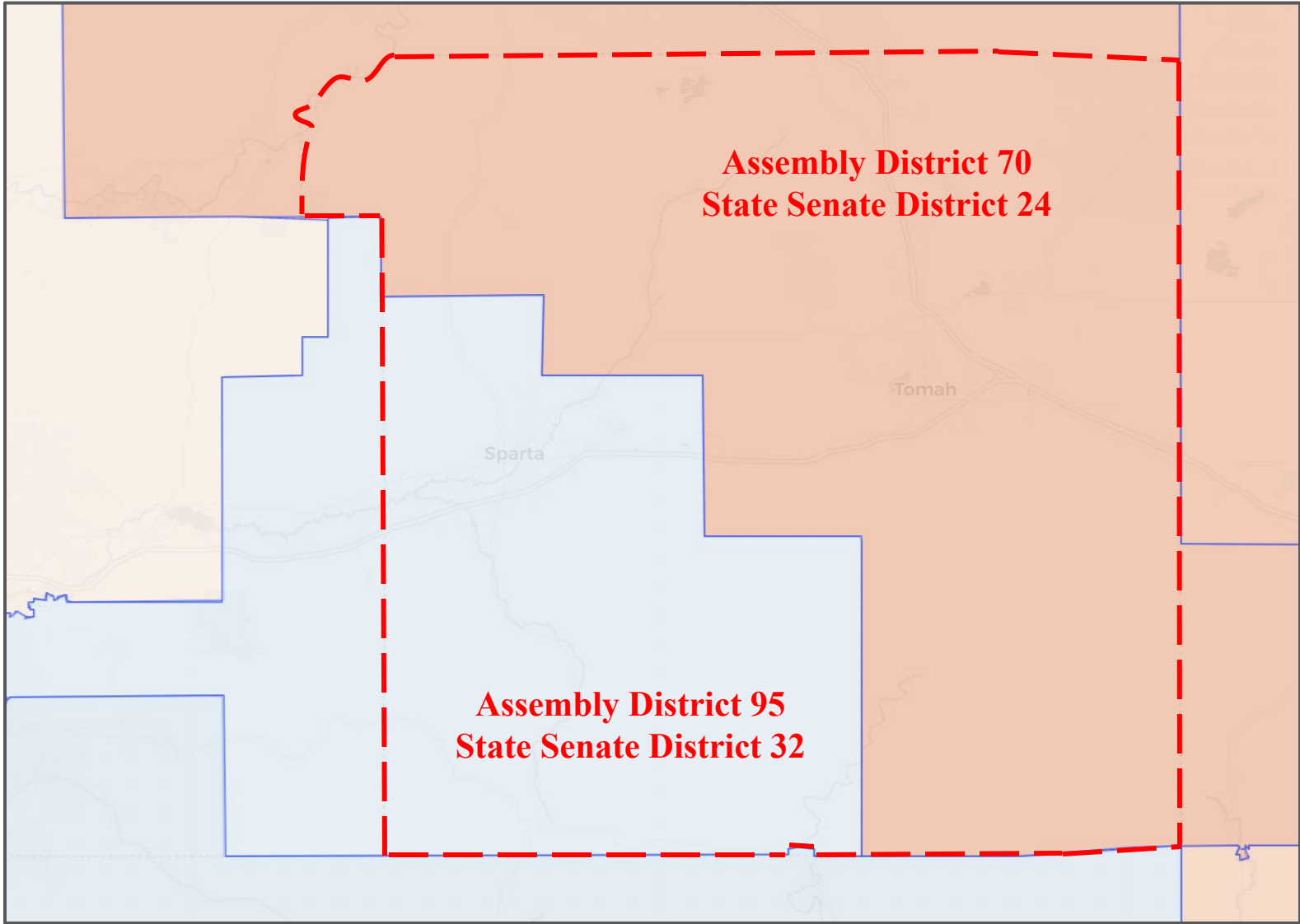
The other candidate is [Elsa Duranceau](#). Born and raised in Merrill, Elsa is a graduate of UW Madison and served in the US Air Force. According to her campaign site, she will "fight for our rights to privacy and bodily autonomy, including women's right to abortion as healthcare," supporting farmers with "effective programs and policies," and funding "that supports qualify, affordable child care."

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## Sparta Office Hours

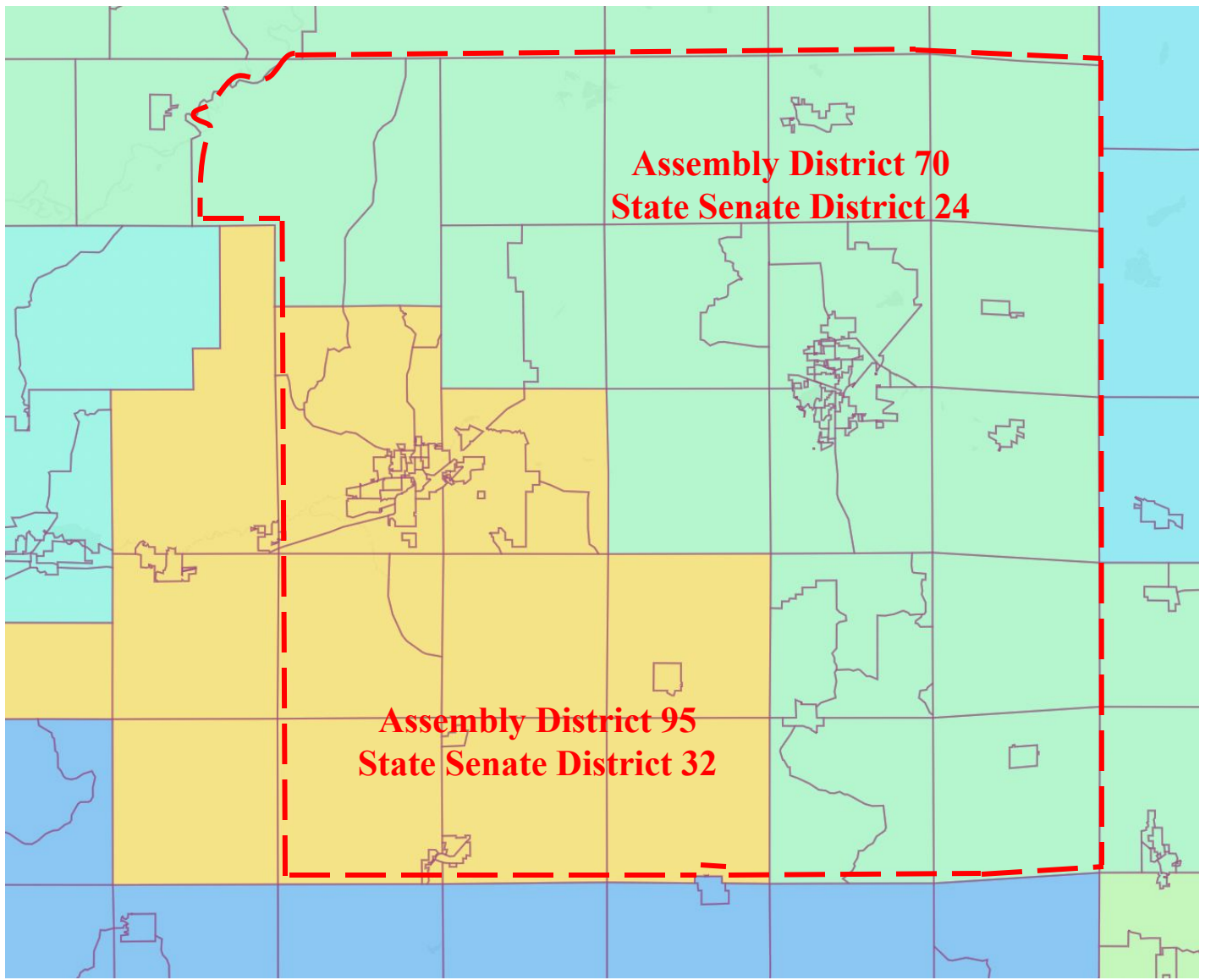
Our office at 221 S. Water Street in Sparta is open six days a week, Monday through Saturday, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

If you'd like to stop by but want to make sure someone is there, feel free to call the office phone at (608) 633-2674.



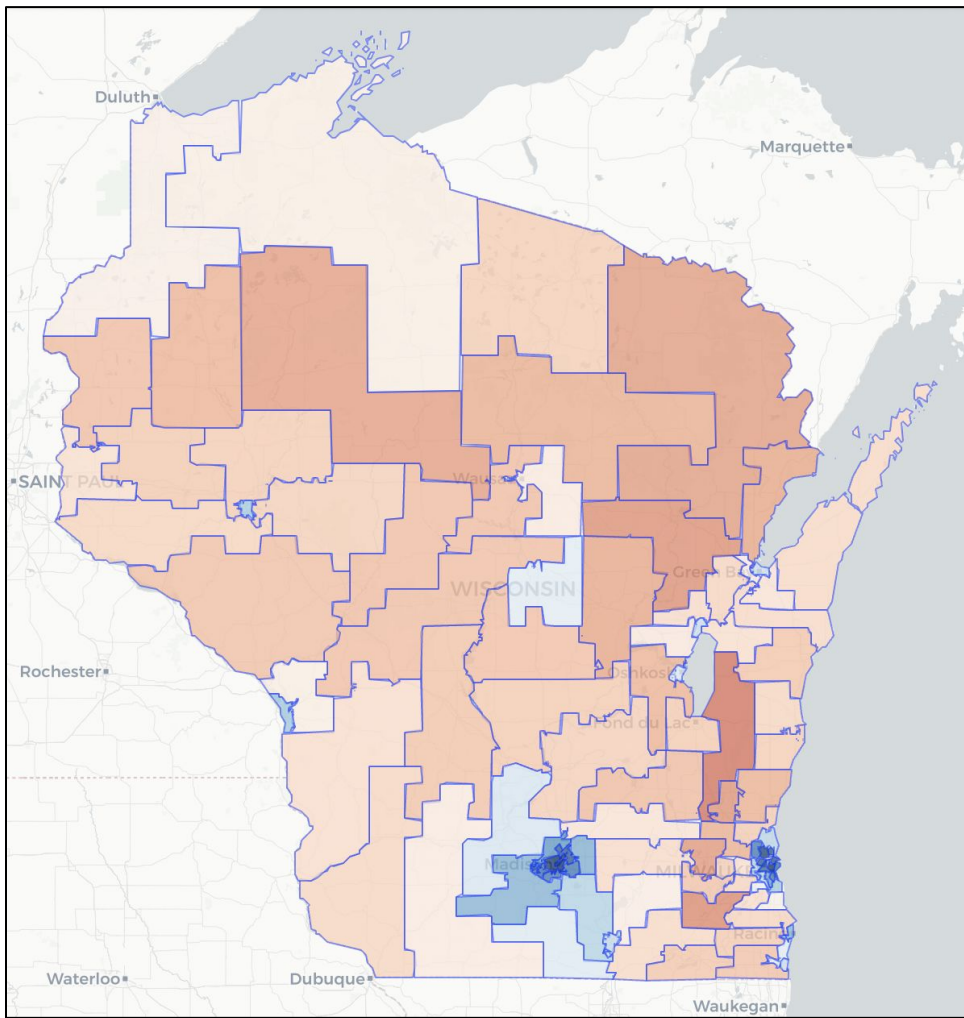
An official map hasn't been released yet. This map was created by John Johnson of Marquette Law School, and posted online. We added the red lines to show the border of Monroe County. Based on this map, here are the districts in which residents of Monroe County now live. Once we have an official map from the state, we will include any updates or corrections in our next newsletter.

Assembly District 95/ Senate District 32	Assembly District 70/ Senate District 24	
Town of Angelo Town of Jefferson Town of Leon Town of Portland Town of Ridgeville Town of Sheldon Town of Sparta Town of Wells Village of Cashton Village of Norwalk Village of Melvina City of Sparta	Town of Adrian Town of Byron Town of Clifton Town of Glendale Town of Grant Town of Greenfield Town of La Grange Town of Lafayette Town of Lincoln Town of Little Falls Town of New Lyme	Town of Oakdale Town of Scott Town of Tomah Town of Wilton Town of Wellington Village of Kendall Village of Oakdale Village of Warrens Village of Wilton Village of Wyeville City of Tomah



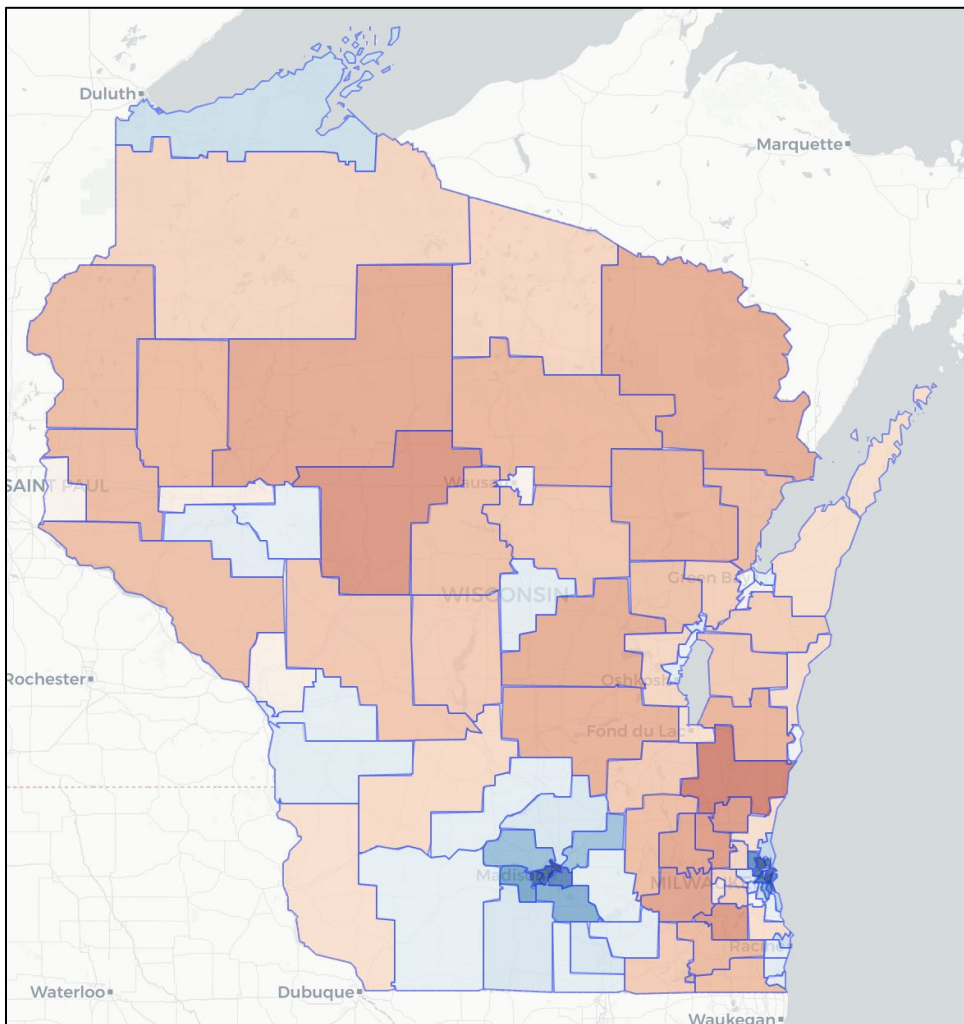
Another version of the new district maps. This map was created by [Dave's Redistricting](#). We added the red lines to show the boundaries of Monroe County.

Assembly District 95/ Senate District 32	Assembly District 70/ Senate District 24	
Town of Angelo Town of Jefferson Town of Leon Town of Portland Town of Ridgeville Town of Sheldon Town of Sparta Town of Wells Village of Cashton Village of Norwalk Village of Melvina City of Sparta	Town of Adrian Town of Byron Town of Clifton Town of Glendale Town of Grant Town of Greenfield Town of La Grange Town of Lafayette Town of Lincoln Town of Little Falls Town of New Lyme	Town of Oakdale Town of Scott Town of Tomah Town of Wilton Town of Wellington Village of Kendall Village of Oakdale Village of Warrens Village of Wilton Village of Wyeville City of Tomah



← The current map of State Assembly districts, which was passed in 2022.

Even though Wisconsin is a 50-50 state, which Biden won by only 30,000 votes in 2020, Republicans represent 64 out of 99 Assembly districts, or 64%.

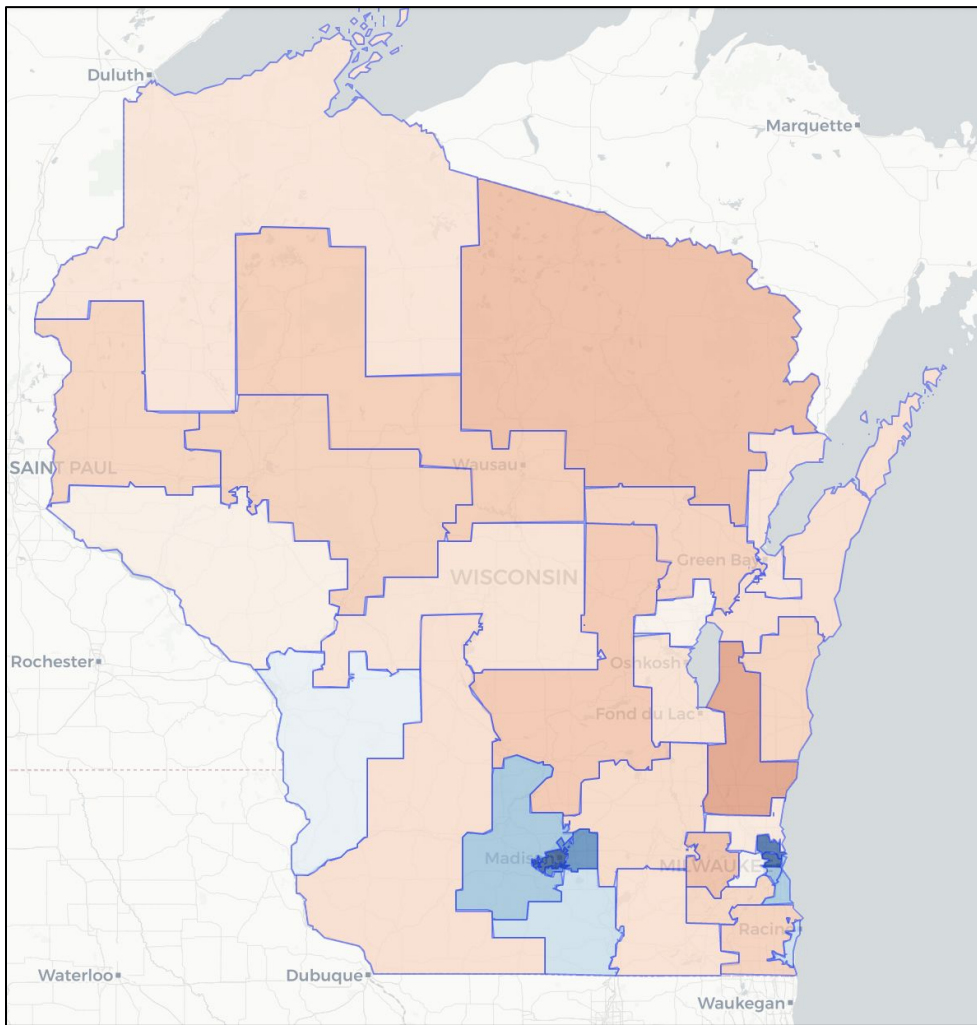


← The new map of State Assembly districts, which was passed by the legislature earlier this year.

One political scientist who's studied this map [predicts](#) that anywhere from 11 to 17 GOP districts could flip in 2024.

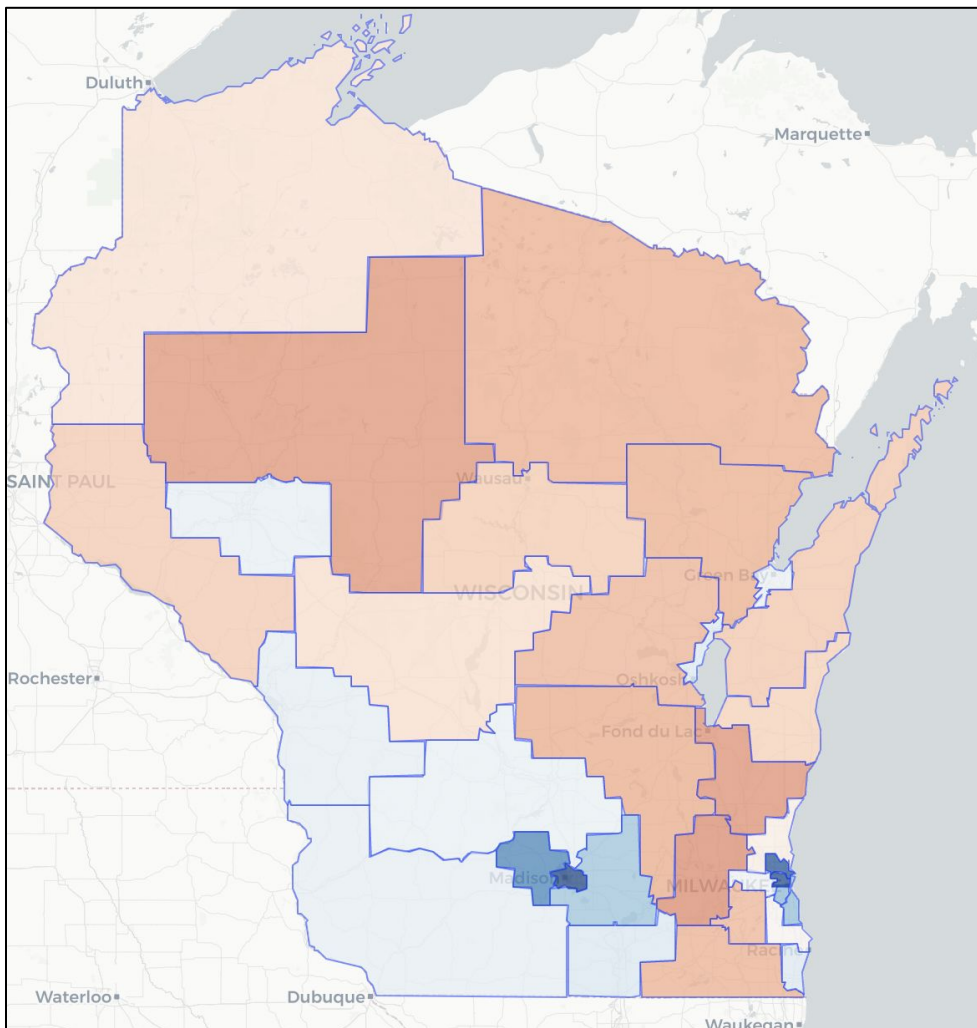
*These maps were created by John Johnson of Marquette Law School, and posted on [rpubs](#).*





← The current map of State Senate districts, which was passed in 2022.

Even though Wisconsin is a 50-50 state, which Biden won in 2020 by only 30,000 votes, Republicans represent 22 out of 33 senate districts, or 66%.



← The new map of State Senate districts, which was passed by the legislature earlier this year.

One political scientist who's studied this map [predicts](#) that 4 to 7 districts currently held by the GOP could flip by 2026.

*These maps were created by John Johnson of Marquette Law School, and posted on [rpubs](#).*