



## Assembly Republicans Introduce Redistricting Proposal

On September 12, Assembly Speaker Vos announced a redistricting proposal aimed to preempt changes to the state legislative districts by the Wisconsin State Supreme Court.

**Assembly Bill 415**, authored by Representative Oldenburg (R-Viroqua), creates a process similar to the redistricting procedure in the State of Iowa.

Under the legislation, the nonpartisan **Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB)** would draw legislative maps based on guidelines set by the state statute. After LRB proposed its map, the legislature would have the opportunity to make “corrective amendments.” If this process failed, LRB would repeat the process with a second map. If the second map were to fail, LRB would draft a third map which the Legislature could change as they viewed appropriate.

The legislation passed the State Assembly by a 64-32 vote, but has not yet been acted on by the State Senate. Speaker Vos has touted the bill as an alternative to a long and expensive court process over redistricting that has drawn controversy surrounding Judge Protasiewicz. The bill has drawn criticism from Democrats and the Governor’s office, with Governor Evers stating that the proposal is “bogus.”



## Proposal to Keep Major League Baseball in Wisconsin Released

GOP legislators introduced a \$614 million proposal to fund repairs and renovations at American Family Field, home to the Milwaukee Brewers.

The bill (**AB 438** and **AB 439**) is funded with a mix of public funds—coming from the state, City of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee

County—and private funds, coming from the Brewers. The proposal would extend the Milwaukee Brewers lease, keeping the team in Wisconsin until at least 2050.

Assembly Speaker Vos described the bill as a “win for Wisconsin” and commented on the potential costs to the state and local economies if the Brewers were to leave the state. Likewise, the Governor’s office issued a statement that Governor Evers looks forward to reviewing the proposal and finding a way to ensure the Brewers remain in Milwaukee for the next generation.

A public hearing on the proposed legislation is set for October 5 at State Fair Park in Milwaukee.



## Head of Wisconsin Elections Commission Rejected by Senate, but Status Remains Unclear

Following her rejection by the Senate, the conflict over Megan Wolfe serving as Elections Commission Administrator turned legal. Attorney General Josh Kaul **filed a lawsuit** asserting that Senate Republicans’

actions to remove Wolfe have no legal basis. The vote to remove Wolfe passed along party lines, with all 22 Republicans voting to remove her.

Additionally, Kaul requests in the suit that the commission has no duty to appoint a new administrator while Wolfe occupies the position; furthermore, Kaul claims that the Legislature has no power to appoint a replacement.

Wolfe indicated she will continue serving as the Elections Commission Administrator until a court determines how to proceed. This issue stems from the commission’s actions regarding nominating Wolfe again for the position and whether that process was done properly. The commission voted 3-0 in June to give another four-year term to Wolfe; however, all three Democratic members abstained. This created controversy surrounding whether or not Wolfe was formally nominated, therefore eligible for a confirmation vote by the full State Senate.



## Child Care Issues Remain Top of Mind for Governor and State Lawmakers; Little Agreement Over How to Proceed

Childcare has been at the forefront of both the Legislature and Governor’s agenda in recent weeks. Governor Evers called a special session on

September 20 urging the Legislature to pass a \$1 billion child care package that would extend COVID child care programs, create a paid family leave program, and send funds to the University of Wisconsin.

The Legislature met as required by law but has taken no action to this point. However, the special session remains “open,” meaning the Legislature can now take up their own child care proposals.

The Assembly introduced a package of bills relating to child care that would create a loan program for child care providers, lower the minimum age of child care workers, and increase the number of children a child care worker is able to supervise.

Evers called most of the bills “ridiculous” but acknowledged that there may be something worthwhile in the package. Governor Evers has twice proposed extending the Child Care Counts program, which provides additional funds to state daycare providers, but the legislature has shown little support for continuing the program.

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## Questions?

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [Eric J. Petersen](#) or [Kyle Christianson](#) via email or at 608.256.5223.



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