

RESOLUTION R-30-11

A RESOLUTION RELATING TO REDISTRICTING

Introduced by Alderman Krueger

WHEREAS, the decennial census of 2010 has been received by the City of Menasha; and

WHEREAS, the principal of one-person, one-vote requires a municipality to adjust its ward lines and aldermanic districts so as to ensure as close as possible equal representation; and

WHEREAS, the interests of the City of Menasha are to conform it's wards with Winnebago and Calumet Counties Supervisory Districts; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin law requires municipalities with a population of less than 35,000 to combine wards for the purpose of municipal reporting of election results only if the municipality has adopted a resolution authorizing that combination; and

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2011 the City of Menasha Common Council held a workshop to readjust the ward boundaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Menasha City Clerk shall report election results for all elections by Wards 1,2, 3 and 4, Winnebago County Supervisory District 2; Wards 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Winnebago County Supervisory District 1; Wards 10, 11, 12 and 13, Winnebago County Supervisory 3; Wards 14 and 15, Winnebago County Supervisory 4 as per the attached map to the Winnebago County Clerk.
2. The Menasha City Clerk shall report election results for Wards 16 and 17, Calumet County Supervisory District 8 as per the attached map to Calumet County Clerk.
3. The City shall be divided into 8 Aldermanic Districts with one Alderman representing each District.
4. The polling places shall be established for Wards 1, 2, 4, and 7 as Menasha Senior Center, 116 Main Street; Wards 5, 6, 8, and 9 as Banta School, 328 Sixth Street; Wards 3, 14 and 15 as Jefferson School, 105 Ice Street; Wards 10, 11 12, 13, as Clovis Grove School, 974 Ninth Street; Wards 16 and 17 as Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, 1305 Plank Road.
5. The City Attorney shall prepare Ordinances establishing Wards and Polling Places for the City of Menasha consistent with this Resolution.

Passed and approved this 14th day of July, 2011.

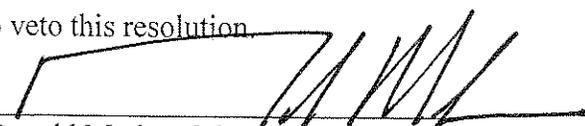
Donald Merkes, Mayor

ATTEST:

Deborah A. Galeazzi, City Clerk

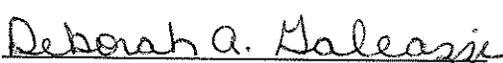
By signing this section the Mayor invokes his right to veto this resolution.

Dated this 15th day of July, 2011.



Donald Merkes, Mayor

ATTEST:



Deborah A. Galeazzi, City Clerk



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Donald Merkes
Mayor, City of Menasha
Phone: 920-967-3600
dmerkes@ci.menasha.wi.us

MAYOR VETOS REDISTRICTING PLAN

MENASHA, WI – July 15, 2011. The Menasha City Council approved a redistricting plan Thursday evening, following rejecting a map created by the redistricting committee that the council appointed June 6. Following the rejection of the committee created map the common council held a special workshop creating its own plan which includes eight aldermanic districts and seventeen wards. The common council drawn plan retains each of the current aldermen in their current district, where the committee drawn plan anticipated two current aldermen residing in district two. District eight located in the city's Calumet County growth corridor would have no incumbent living in the district in the committee created plan.

This morning, Mayor Merkes announced that he will veto the plan drawn by the common council, even though the council likely has the votes to override the chief executive's veto. The mayor stated that he "will not endorse a plan that will lead to the disenfranchisement of residents living on the east side of the community".

The Common Council recently approved a plan to construct nearly 200 new housing units in the vicinity of Lake Park Villas, and substantial development potential occurs elsewhere in district eight as drawn by the council. By contrast there is almost no residentially zoned property within Winnebago County for potential growth, and trends over the past ten years have shown decreasing population. There are questions as to why the council would create a plan where the district in the growth area is larger than five of the eight districts and substantially the same as another. Only one district is larger and that district has a proposed student housing project that could substantially increase its population as well.

The proposed plan also creates additional ballots in two districts due to crossing county supervisory district lines. The creation of additional ballots could create additional confusion at the polls, and will create additional costs of up to \$1,000 per election without benefit to the community.

Any redistricting plan needs to look at the long term best interests of the community. Priorities stated at the last meeting were to create a map that is: simple, compact, as equal as possible in population, without unneeded costs, following statutes, and providing equitable representation. It is my belief that the plan approved by the council does not provide equitable representation through the life of the plan, and incurs unnecessary cost; therefore, I have vetoed the plan.