**A178C214\_240219LB\_C3005\_proxy.mp3**

[00:00:41] **Speaker 1** Final sound. Final sound. Final sound. Everybody good? Yes, yes. That's why I got a good balance back. Yeah. Yes. Audio back.

[00:00:51] **Unidentified** Are you on the back? On your back? Like on the back? Yeah. Good day. Let's.

[00:01:02] **Speaker 2** Turn that sign over to you. Not on your.

[00:01:07] **Unidentified** List. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes.

[00:01:23] **Speaker 1** And crazy. Now what? We're here. I could just see you guys. I. Think my heart rose. So.

[00:01:38] **Speaker 2** Much? And he.

[00:01:47] **Speaker 1** Does the right way for.

[00:01:49] **Speaker 2** Us because he.

[00:01:54] **Unidentified** Wants to. Hey, do you think you can keep it? Where? You.

[00:02:25] **Speaker 2** Thank you.

[00:02:27] **Speaker 3** What a Monday morning. Anyway, good morning and thanks everybody, everybody, for being here, folks. It's a new day in Wisconsin. And today is a beautiful day for democracy. Wisconsin. Of the 1869 days, I'm been proud to serve as their governor. Few have been as consequential as this one. This is an important day and historic day for our state and for every person who calls Wisconsin home. Today is a day that I believe will define our state's future. But before I get there, Wisconsinites, I want to begin with a little bit of history and 200 excuse me. 2009 on the eve of the 2010 U.S. census. Democrats had unified control of the executive branch and the majorities of both the houses both houses of the Wisconsin State Legislature heading into the 2010 elections. That Democrat trifecta was faced with a choice secure fairness for posterity, or wait and hold out for the possibility of retaining power for another decade. And we know how that story ended. In 2010, Republicans swept, swept control of the executive branch and both houses of the legislature, giving Republicans control over the map drawing process that went on to define our state for a generation. Republicans set up shop behind closed doors with high paid attorneys, made their Republican members sign secret secrecy pledges, and use technology and algorithms to draw some of the most undemocratic, gerrymandered legislative maps in the United States of America. And we know how that story ended. To Republicans who gerrymandered themselves into safe seats, have done irreparable damage to our state's traditions, our institutions, and our basic functions of government. Over the past decade, we've seen them so more division, obstruct basic government functions, and ignore the will of the people by refusing to even consider basic, commonsense policies that should easily earned bipartisan support. When I ran for this office in 2018, I promised I'd never stop. I would never stop working to right that wrong, to fight for an independent, nonpartisan redistricting process, to secure fair maps for Wisconsin. And if faced with a similar choice for for which Wisconsinites have spent a decade paying dearly to have the courage to do what is right, when that time came, and that choice is before us today. In December, the Wisconsin Supreme Court struck down Republicans most recently gerrymandered maps, ruling that they were unconstitutional and that no further elections could be conducted under those maps. Wisconsin currently has no legislative maps in place for the 2024 election. The court said that it would accept maps for them to consider, and that they would hire nonpartisan, independent experts to review the maps that were submitted to them. And here's what those experts said. Importantly importantly, the experts concluded the maps submitted by Republicans in the legislature and their right wing allies were both and I quote here, Partizan gerrymanders. So in other in other words, just more of the same. On the other hand, the experts reviewed the other four maps, one submitted by me as well as three others included. And again, I quote, the four other submitted plans are similar on most criteria. Also, they are nearly indistinguishable, they said. Last month, Republicans took up another set of gerrymandered maps to protect Republican gerrymandered income incumbents past them and send them to my desk. I kept my promise and I vetoed them. Like I said I would.

[00:06:42] **Speaker 2** But I tell.

[00:06:43] **Unidentified** Them, you don't.

[00:06:52] **Speaker 3** Then last week, Republicans passed the maps I submitted to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. And those are the exact maps before me today. They're my maps. Nothing more and nothing less. To me, the decision to enact these maps boils down to this. I made a promise to the people of Wisconsin that I would always try to do the right thing, and keeping that promise to me matters most, even if members of my own party disagree with me. Folks, that's what having fair maps means. It means elected officials actually have to listen and do what's best not for their own political party, but for the people who elect them. People, state and country should come before politics and party, or at least they always have and always will be for me. I'm Tony Evers, and I always try to do the right thing for our state. Wisconsinites want fair maps and Wisconsinites deserve a fair ramp. So today, Wisconsinites, I'm enacting fair maps for the great state of Wisconsin. This will be the first time in over 50 years that Wisconsin will have fair legislative maps enacted through the legislative process, rather than through the courts. These maps will take effect immediately after publication and will be in place for the fall elections, providing certainty for candidates and campaigns that are gearing up to circulate circulating nomination papers for this spring. I will also be asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to clarify that these maps will be in place for any special elections that occur between now and the fall. I'm apps that I'm signing today are fair, responsive and reflect the will of the people. And this is so important Wisconsin. So I want to make sure I explain what this means. First, these maps are fair. We're aiming to to make sure every party has a fair shake at winning the legislature. Under these maps, it's more likely that each party will win a majority of legislative seats when they earn the majority of their votes. Common sense. Second, these maps are responsive. Under these maps, we'll see more competitive contested races by making it more likely the legislative districts will flip from one party's control to another when voters preferences change. Every vote matters, and that's also good for a democracy. And finally, these maps reflect the will of the people.

[00:09:51] **Speaker 2** Thank you. That's right.

[00:09:53] **Speaker 3** Under these maps, the people will be able to elect Republican majorities or Democrat majorities, or even split the legislature if they want. But the most important part is Wisconsinites decide that's how elections should work. Wisconsin. When I promised, I wanted fair maps, not maps that are better for one party or the other, including my own. A damn moment in Wisconsin is not a red state. It is not a blue state. Wisconsin is a purple state. And I believe our maps should reflect reflect that basic fact. I believe, as I've also said, often said, that the people should get to choose their elected officials, not the other way around. And under the maps I'm signing the day, I'm making good on that promise. This is a great day for Wisconsin and there's much to celebrate. And we're not going to stop here. I and we are going to continue to fight for fair, independent and nonpartisan redistricting process for Wisconsin. If the people Wisconsin vote to send Democratic majorities to Madison this November, I'll tell you right now, one of the first orders of business and our first 100 days together will be enacting a fair, independent and nonpartisan redistricting. So, yeah. You know. Today is a victory. Not for me or any political party, but for our state and the people of Wisconsin who spent a decade demanding more and demanding better of us as elected officials, including many of the people here behind me today. So thank you. And now, if I can find my way to the desk, let's sign some fair maps for Wisconsin. Woo woo! Case anybody was wondering. My voice is struggling today.

[00:12:01] **Speaker 2** You sounded so sharp to say. Thank you.

[00:12:06] **Speaker 3** All right, let's make sure is kind of. When we come back 94. I haven't heard you doing it after. Oh, we're going to do that after questions. Again.

[00:12:57] **Speaker 2** Stamford, Connecticut. Again. Thank you. Governor. Thank.

[00:13:02] **Unidentified** Thank you all for being here. Thank you.

[00:13:08] **Speaker 3** Okay, I'd be glad to answer any questions people might have.

[00:13:12] **Speaker 2** I know challenges, math. And so you've done amazing work.

[00:13:15] **Speaker 3** I'm sorry. Can you say that again?

[00:13:17] **Speaker 2** You're a federal judge in federal court in Massachusetts.

[00:13:22] **Speaker 3** No, I. I'm not concerned about any challenge. I believe we will, we will prevail in any challenge. I'm thinking that that's a small risk, but, if it is, we'll take it on and win.

[00:13:36] **Speaker 2** Governor, what do you make of the Democrats? A majority of Democrats on board here?

[00:13:42] **Speaker 3** Yeah. You know, that's the great thing about democracy, folks. Sometimes, you know, people people are different, opinions on various things. And, I just accept that I, my goal is to make sure that the will of the people is the law of the land.

[00:14:00] **Speaker 1** What's your response to Democrats who said this.

[00:14:02] **Speaker 2** Process should have stayed in the.

[00:14:03] **Speaker 3** Court? Well, the way it works, primarily is to go through, the legislative process, which we did here today. And I think it's a successful process.

[00:14:15] **Speaker 2** Governor, did you consider vetoing.

[00:14:19] **Speaker 3** No, but I did spend a lot of time talking to the folks that that had differences of opinion and listen to them. And, you know, they made good arguments. But I felt at the end of the day, this is the right thing to do for the people of Wisconsin.

[00:14:34] **Speaker 2** Why are you a state Supreme Court two? Do you want the state Supreme Court to revisit the congressional maps?

[00:14:40] **Speaker 3** Yes. That would be preferable.

[00:14:42] **Speaker 2** Yes, ma'am. Yeah. And why did you ask for why you to ask the court to make sure the maps are. For?

[00:14:52] **Speaker 3** Yeah, we have to get that. Figure it out. It's not clear right now, and there definitely will be an election sometime soon, I hope. So we need to we need to we have a we have a vacancy now, and we have to have it filled. And that vacancy may cause another vacancy and that may. So we have to get that figure it out. And the Supreme Court should be able to help us with that.

[00:15:14] **Speaker 2** What do you wait for for the special election to leave your seat in?

[00:15:19] **Speaker 3** Good question I. I would I hope that they respond quickly so that we can get that that election taken care of as quickly as possible for people, people of Wisconsin or people that that Senate district deserve to have an elected representative.

[00:15:36] **Speaker 2** Would you also like is in a fight for a potential recall effort against your boss?

[00:15:41] **Speaker 3** To me, it doesn't matter. The. Yes, I think we. Yes. I think that's the same maps, the maps that exist now under this, signing of the bill, should reflect should be reflected in the, any and it whether it's a recall election or a special election.

[00:16:01] **Speaker 1** Last question.

[00:16:04] **Speaker 2** Governor. What just what would tighter majorities mean for governing next session?

[00:16:09] **Speaker 3** Great question. The I think. Having the ability to have to find a middle ground on a lot of things I think is really important. You know, there are some things that I care about such, you know, and this is a bit a bit of a stretch, but I care about, Medicaid expansion. I have to, but I, I have I have to believe there is at least one Republican in the House or the or the Senate that agrees with us on that and hope, you know, then maybe we could find a solution there. So I think having having it, you know, we're a purple state. We have to operate as I think we operate here as what happens out state. And I said it in my comments, is that that that is critically important, that the work here is reflective of the people that vote and live in the state of Wisconsin. It's pretty simple. It's democracy.

[00:17:12] **Speaker 2** Thanks, everyone.

[00:17:12] **Speaker 3** Thanks again.