



# Dane County Board of Supervisors Monthly Update July 2020

## Board recognizes racism as public health crisis

The resolution recognizes that race is a social construct and institutional and structural bias have resulted in racial inequities that affect individual and population health, social, economic, and educational outcomes. A growing body of research shows that racism is a social determinant of health. In Wisconsin, the highest death rates exist for African Americans and Native Americans, at every stage in the life course, and the infant mortality rate for infants of non-Hispanic black women is the highest in the nation. The Wisconsin Public Health Association passed a resolution declaring that racism is a public health crisis in Wisconsin and is committed to taking action. Several other units of local governments, non-profits, and community organizations have already signed on. If the County Board approves the resolution, Dane County will also sign on declaring racism as a public health crisis.

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## Applicants needed for Redistricting Commission

Dane County Board Chair Analiese Eicher and Dane County Clerk Scott McDonell invite the public to apply for a position on Dane County's Redistricting Commission. The 11-member commission will be appointed this summer by Chair Eicher and Clerk McDonell. Under Section 59.10 of the Wisconsin Statutes, county governments in Wisconsin must create new county board district boundaries every ten years, immediately after the federal census. Anyone interested in applying for the Dane County Redistricting Commission needs to complete an application available on the Dane County Planning and Development Department's website: <https://www.danecountyplanning.com/Projects/Redistricting>. Applications need to be received by July 31, 2020.

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## Board seeks opinion from members of public on board size

While the 2020 Census is under way, the Executive Committee of the County Board has started discussions on the redistricting process that will follow the release of the census data in March/April 2021. In order to determine the lines of each district in the redistricting process, the Board needs to either reaffirm or change the number of districts into which Dane County is divided—meaning how many supervisors are elected to the County Board. The decision to keep the Board the same size, increase, or decrease it, is typically only done once in ten years per state statute. The responses the Board receives between now and the beginning of this August will be compiled and shared with the County Board's Executive Committee for consideration at its August 13, 2020 meeting. Click the 'LEARN MORE' button to participate in the survey.

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