

Tales of the gerrymander, 2011

How the GOP strengthened its grip on state government.

Claiming 'Winnesota'

Freshman Republican Rep. Sean Duffy was bolstered with the addition of fast-growing, conservative St. Croix County to the 7th Congressional District.



Kind to Kind

Democratic U.S. Rep. Ron Kind was helped when the GOP created an arm connecting liberal Portage County and the already Democratic 3rd District, while also netting progressive-voting areas like Eau Claire and Wisconsin Rapids.



The Fitzgerald line

Anticipating the retirements of U.S. Reps. F. James Sensenbrenner and Tom Petri, GOP leaders Scott and Jeff Fitzgerald were the convenient recipients of a district line running between their homes, ensuring the brothers need not compete against each other for future congressional seats.



Ryan protection plan

To shore up U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan's dis-

trict, the GOP kept a toe in Ryan's Janesville, cut loose more of Democratic Rock County and added some of Waukesha County's most conservative suburbs.



Recall insurance

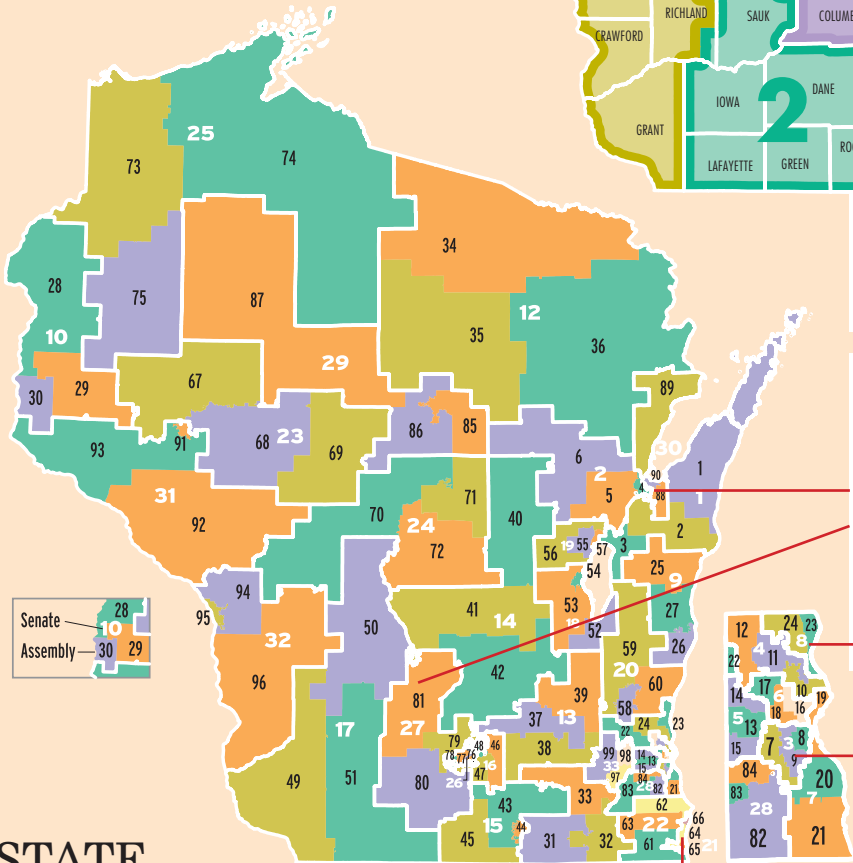
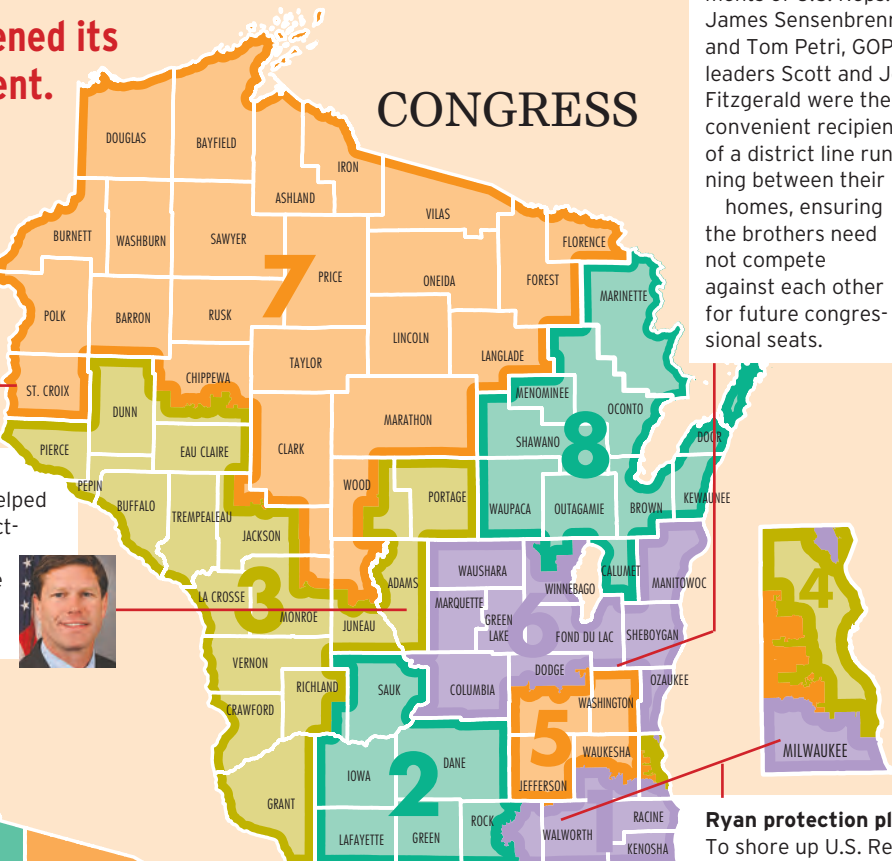
Senate recall challengers Fred Clark of Baraboo and Nancy Nusbaum of Brown County were drawn out of the districts they hoped to represent. If they had won they would have had to relocate before they could be reelected to the same seat.

Sen. Alberta Darling's 8th District jettisoned liberal suburbs like Shorewood, where the effort to recall her was launched.



Federal court orders redraw

As a result of a lawsuit by Voces de la Frontera, a three-judge panel ordered the 8th and 9th Assembly districts be redrawn to address the splitting of a Hispanic voting bloc and to comply with the Voting Rights Act.



Senate — 28
Assembly — 30 29

Urbanites corralled

The cities of Racine and Kenosha were packed into one Senate district while their respective counties were carved vertically to create a safe GOP district to the west that cut out longtime Democratic state Sen. Bob Wirth.

