



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2019

Contact: Representative Jodi Emerson

608-237-9562

## Representative Jodi Emerson Statement on Legislative Priorities

*“Focus on a Fresh Start for Wisconsin”*

MADISON – On Tuesday January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Representative Jodi Emerson (D-Eau Claire) and her Democratic colleagues announced their 2019-2020 session legislative priorities with a focus on establishing a fresh start for the state of Wisconsin. Amongst the priorities were redistricting, lame duck sessions, open meetings and open records and campaign finance.

*“One of the topics I heard over and over again during my campaign was how we need fair maps in Wisconsin. I firmly believe that voters should pick their elected officials instead of having elected officials pick their voters. You can’t have good policy without good government,”* said Rep. Emerson.

Gerrymandering, unchecked campaign finance laws, and a government that operates behind closed doors have led to extreme politicians and extreme policies. Wisconsinites have a constitutional right to be fairly represented by their elected officials, regardless of their political affiliation. Wisconsin’s gerrymandered maps have marginalized the voices of thousands of Wisconsinites over the course of the past eight years. In 2018, Wisconsin Assembly Democrats received 200,000 more votes than Assembly Republicans statewide, yet only hold 36 seats while Assembly Republicans hold 63 seats.

*“I am proud to stand with my colleagues in support of democracy. In order for our democratic system to function, elections must be decided based on who has the best ideas, not who has the deepest pockets or who gets to draw the maps. The agenda Assembly Democrats rolled out today reflects Wisconsin values of fairness and equal opportunity, and I look forward to a robust debate over these issues during the upcoming session,”* said Rep. Emerson.

###