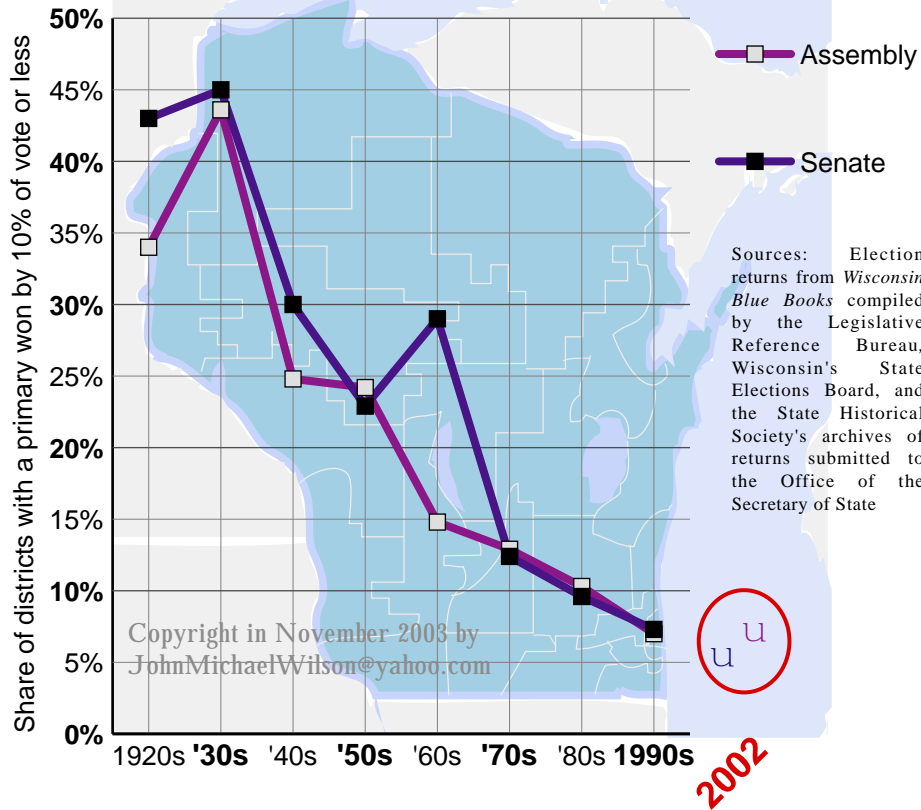


Have primaries for state legislators failed in WI?

Few Hot Primaries

Districts with Close Primaries



By John Michael Wilson, November 2003 – Despite igniting many hot contests early on, Wisconsin's primaries for Senate and Assembly seats, especially since the 1970s, have largely become rituals for rubber-stamping the nomination of candidates – usually incumbents – who rarely face strong challengers within their party.

Note: Elections are grouped by “redistricting decade;” close primaries are won by margins of ten percent of the vote or less; and, except for the 1990s, this graph reflects each decade's average share of districts per election with at least one close primary of either the winner or first or second runner-up in the general election.