

Clerk of Supreme Court - court rules

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**From:** Chris Casper [REDACTED]  
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CLERK OF SUPREME COURT  
OF WISCONSIN

A group of 54 retired judges wants the state's highest court to establish a new standard for determining whether a judge should be disqualified from a case after she/he has received a campaign contribution or other help. They are asking for an amendment to the state Constitution allowing the court to appoint a state Court of Appeals judge to serve in place of a Supreme Court judge who has been dismissed. They are also proposing new limits for campaign contributions, with a cap of \$10,000 for Supreme Court candidates, \$2,500 for Appeals Court candidates, \$1,000 for Circuit Court candidates and \$500 for Municipal Court candidates.

Since Citizens United our political scene is more blatantly corrupted and our congresses and judges appear to act on behalf of the highest bidder while our average citizenry is left to accept the burden of partisan decisions such as filthy drinking water, decimating wildlife, selling our personal information to the highest bidder. The list is almost endless. Wisconsin has been criticized for its lenient recusal rules and now ranks in the bottom nationwide for how it deals with judicial recusal. So our confidence level in our established institutions has been severely damaged.

The state Supreme Court has historically rejected calls for stricter recusal rules over the last decade. The court's conservative-leaning majority has defended the court's current rules and upheld laws passed by the Republican-dominated Legislature that has lifted caps on campaign donations. The court's conservative majority has largely dismissed criticisms that campaign donations are making judges more partisan.

In 2009, the court adopted recusal rules written by the Wisconsin Realtors Association and Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce that allowed judges to sit on cases that involved campaign donors. This is unacceptable.

I am writing to say I support the 54 judge's request on recusal laws. I see our rights trampled almost every day by a group that seems to have no oversight or consequences and we are left hanging. Money does talk & to deny it means either you are fooling yourself or you are lying.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on this.

Sincerely,

Christine Casper  
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