



COUNTY OF WAUSHARA

WAUSHARA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
209 SOUTH SAINT MARIE STREET
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WAUTOMA, WISCONSIN 54982-0300

ROBERT J. SIVICK
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

January 26, 2018

Deputy Clerk - Rules
Clerk of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin
Post Office Box 1688
Madison , Wisconsin 53701-1688

Re: RULE PETITION 18-01 - JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS

VIA ELECTRONIC AND UNITED STATES MAIL

Dear Sir or Madam:

My name is Robert J. Sivick and I am the Administrator for the County of Waushara. I have been informed the Wisconsin Supreme Court is considering Rule Petition 18-01 which among other things will dissolve the 6th Judicial Administrative District and reassign counties in that district to other existing districts. I am writing to express my opposition and to specifically address the proposed reassignment of Waushara County to the 4th Judicial Administrative District.

Presently Waushara County is in the 6th Judicial Administrative District along with the Counties of Adams, Clark, Columbia, Dodge, Green Lake, Juneau, Marquette, and Sauk. The 2016 U.S. Census Bureau population estimates for the aforementioned counties range from a high of approximately 88 thousand (Dodge) to a low of 15 thousand (Marquette). Waushara County fits into the middle of that group with a population of 24 thousand. Furthermore, the aforementioned counties are largely rural in nature.

Rule Petition 18-01 proposes reassigning Waushara County to the 4th Judicial Administrative District which would consist of Waushara and the Counties of Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Manitowoc, Marquette, Sheboygan, and Winnebago. This group of counties has a decidedly more urban composition as reflected by population estimates of 170 thousand (Winnebago) along with four other counties with more than twice the population of Waushara.

I concede the laws of the State of Wisconsin and standards for our justice system are uniform whether in densely populated Milwaukee or sparsely populated Florence counties. However, the particular needs and interests of rural jurisdictions vary

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greatly from urban counterparts due to rural demographics , specifically population density and poverty. Without being simplistic, placing Waushara County in a district where a majority of counties have more than twice and up to more than seven times its population, is not a good fit.

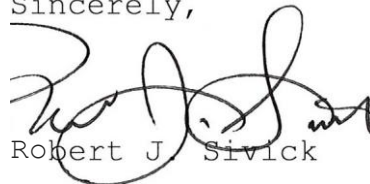
Within the last year an additional judge for the Waushara County Circuit Court was considered due to that court' s high caseload. I fear lumping rural Waushara County into a district with a more urban composition and jurisdictions with greater judicial resources will conceal Waushara' s dire need of additional judicial resources .

Finally, I respectfully request Rule Petition 18-01 be rejected or at least scheduled for a public hearing. I fervently believe in a strong and independent justice system as integral to democratic government and the rule of law. I respectfully disagree Rule Petition 18-01 will serve that interest and respectfully disagree with the conclusions reached in the accompanying Supporting Memorandum. I believe if Rule Petition 18-01 is not rejected a public hearing is imperative so citizens who support and are served by us at all levels and branches of government may voice their opinion on the matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration and if you need further information do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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Robert J. Sivick

CC: Honorable Randy R. Koschnick
Petitioner and Director of State Courts
Honorable Guy D. Dutcher
Judge of the Waushara County Circuit Court
Steven P. Anderson, Acting Waushara County District Attorney
Ruth Zouski, Waushara County Corporation Counsel
Melissa Zamzow, Clerk of the Waushara County Circuit Court
Members of the Waushara County Board of Supervisors
Marcie Rainbolt , Wisconsin Counties Association