

November 27, 2020

To the Honorable Members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on 20-03 Amendment to Wis. Statute 809.70 on Redistricting.

I am not an attorney and I have no experience, professional or otherwise, in the workings of the judicial system. I am merely an observer of it, an ordinary citizen who is, by that proud standard, deeply affected by that same judicial system in my daily life, and one who is deeply concerned with the treasure of an independent judiciary established by the U.S. Constitution and the power of “We the People” to govern ourselves. I am deeply concerned about the very real threat to that awesome and sacred ideal of self-government that is represented by the 20-03 Amendment to Wis. Statute 809.70 on Redistricting.

I refer to the insidious tendency and very real movement of those who hold political power over others to amass more and more power in their own hands in order to influence the lives, control the actions, and limit the freedoms of those millions of human beings whom they govern. This threat to the governing process of “We the People” is self-evident in one specific element of our political system: the power to limit and even destroy the sacred democratic power of the common person like me – the power of the vote – through the exceedingly partisan process of gerrymandering.

Grotesque distortion of voting districts, intentionally designed to destroy the voting power of great numbers of ordinary citizens like myself, is in my view a cancer on democracy. It limits and prohibits the life-giving energy of the very soul of a democracy by cutting millions of human beings out of the process that gives democracy its ingenious power to self-govern: the vote.

This amendment’s proposed rule change would put the power to decide on all redistricting cases into the hands of as few persons as possible, namely the honorable members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and in this way is antithetical to the democratic ideal of self-government by “We the People.” It would put the Supreme Court where it does not belong: namely, in the middle of a highly partisan process of controlling, influencing, and even destroying the lifeblood of our democracy – the vote of the people.

The genius, the power, and the sanctity of the democratic process lies in the distribution of power in a fair and equitable manner into the hands of many rather than into the hands of the few. This resolution is inimical to that sacred ideal. It is tantamount to strangulation of the will of “We the People” by taking the awesome power of interpreting the law away from the many honorable and intelligent *deciders of justice throughout an independent court system* and placing it into the hands of a few. This is the very definition of autocracy. It is a toxic poison, a cancer, and the antithesis of the democratic process of self-government by the “We the People” which is safeguarded by an independent, non-partisan judiciary composed of many qualified people organized and governed by many critical layers of judges, of regulations, and of checks and balances concerning due process and review and redress of grievances.

I urge the Court to reject this proposed amendment in favor of the sacred ideal of an independent and complex judiciary system, and preserving the Supreme Court’s role as the *ultimate* deciders of justice – not its *initial* deciders. For it is the Supreme Court’s role to pass judgement on the judgements of those many honorable and intelligent deciders of justice throughout the legally-established court system.

Sincerely,

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