



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of Dane

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TTY: Call Wisconsin Relay 7-1-1



November 22, 2020

Wisconsin Supreme Court
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

RE: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to Redistricting

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court,

The proposed rule changes by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) in Petition 20-03 are adverse to the values held by Wisconsinites in ideals of allowing for citizens to have their voices heard. In 2016, the Dane County Board of Supervisors adopted an Ordinance Amendment, 2016 OA-32, which created a nonpartisan independent citizen Redistricting Commission that would oversee a map drafting process that:

- Is independent, impartial and fair;
- Is accountable and transparent;
- Meets all state statutory deadlines;
- Fully engages the public, including an opportunity to submit maps for commission consideration; and
- Includes early and ongoing communication with municipal clerks for input throughout the process.

We are currently going through the above process and allowing our residents to have their voices heard on what they want their representation to look like.

We are concerned that WILL's proposed changes to redistricting throughout the state rush the process and do not allow for independent review by a committee of experts. Previously, this Court has considered and rejected adopting a rule on this topic and we ask that you reject WILL's proposed changes now.

WILL's proposed changes increase the possibility of politicization of the Court and decreases public trust in the process. Allowing the process to go through the courts will allow the Court to remain a neutral arbitrator of conflict between political actors.

WILL's proposed changes would only allow for consideration of partisan interests rather than those of individual Wisconsinites and civic groups that can provide for knowledge about their regions and how certain redistricting of areas would affect them.

Lastly, WILL's proposed changes decrease transparency in the redistricting process and would allow the Court to bypass consideration of any views by groups other than elected officials and/or political parties.

We believe it is important for Wisconsinites to be fairly represented in Dane County and would ask that the proposed rule changes by WILL be rejected and allow all Wisconsinites the opportunity to have their voice heard in this process.

Thank you for your consideration of the undersigned members of the Dane County Board of Supervisors' comments.

Sincerely,

Melissa Ratcliff, District 36

Michele Doolan, District 28

Analiese Eicher, District 3

Kate McGinnity, District 37

Sarah Smith, District 24

Alex Joers, District 9

Julie Schwellenbach, District 20

Andrew Schauer, District 21

Yogesh Chwala, District 6

Pat Downing, District 30

Holly Hatcher, District 26

Blaire Adkins, District 16