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CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

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As a network of over 60 nonpartisan nonprofit organizations in Wisconsin, we write to express our opposition to the rule change requested by WILL regarding legal challenges to redistricting. The proposed change would rush a process that deserves a thorough and comprehensive review from as many stakeholding parties as possible. Such a review should involve development of a record, including evidence and testimony, as well as review by multiple courts.

We are also concerned that adopting this rule risks increasing the politicization of the Court and decreasing public trust in the Court as a legitimate institution. Inserting itself in this area of partisan conflict so early, and thoroughly, threatens to give the impression the Court is a political branch rather than a neutral arbitrator of conflict between political actors. This is less of a concern in federal court, where judges are appointed for life.

As a non-partisan group, we are concerned that the proposed rule only considers partisan interests. While political parties are given standing to present maps before the Court, non-partisan groups and voters impacted by the new districts may be excluded. It is extremely important that civic groups have the same opportunity, especially as they've been involved in litigation around this issue in the past.

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Wisconsin Voices is a network of over 60 statewide nonpartisan nonprofits, collectively working together to build a better democracy. We envision a Wisconsin where every person has the means, motivation, and freedom to fully participate in a just democracy that provides opportunities for all people to thrive.