

Carrie Janto - Fwd: Request to extend public comment time for Rule Petition 17-06

From: Julie Rich
To: Carrie Janto
Date: 4/17/2018 10:23 AM
Subject: Fwd: Request to extend public comment time for Rule Petition 17-06

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>>> Gretchen Schuldt <gretchen@wjiinc.org> 4/13/2018 2:49 PM >>>

Ms. Rich,

The Wisconsin Justice Initiative is formally requesting an extension of the public comment period related to Rule Petition 17-06. The hearing is scheduled for May 16; the comment period closed April 4.

A public comment period that lapses well over a month before a public hearing on a particular matter likely minimizes participation. People's attention is elsewhere – on other things going on in their lives or on other matters of more immediate concerns. In the case, the April 3 spring election – including a contested seat on the State Supreme Court – received significant attention and was of interest.

Unfortunately, closing the comment period just one day after the election may well appear to the public to be a deliberate gambit by the Court to reduce public input into this very important matter. This impression can only be exacerbated by the Court's publication of the official hearing notice on April 5, a day *after* the comment period closed.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court should seek to engage the public in vital matters related to the fundamentals of justice, such as the Sixth Amendment right to effective counsel. The steps the Court has taken relating to Rule Petition 17-06, unfortunately, has the opposite effect: the Court is discouraging full public participation.

For those reasons, we request that the comment period be officially re-opened until May 9, 2018.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Schuldt
Executive Director

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