

**Comments regarding redistricting rule petition
Submitted to Wisconsin Supreme Court**

November 30, 2020

Laurie Cesar
3319 N Casaloma Dr #78
Appleton, WI 54913

Neither the courts nor congressional districts should be partisan. I firmly believe that gerrymandering is wrong. The residents of the state should choose their representation. The representatives should not under any circumstances choose their districts

Laurie Cesar
3319 N Casaloma Dr
Appleton, WI 54913

The petition submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty harmfully politicizes the Court - something that is certainly not needed in today's environment. The petition will exclude non-partisan groups from full participation and it will limit judicial transparency. This guidance undermines the judicial process is harmful to the public interest. The citizens of Wisconsin deserve to choose their representatives in the voting booth. The representatives should not be gerrymandering their districts in order to optimize which voters reside in them. This country is polarized enough. Our courts and voting districts should not be. Citizens are overwhelmingly voting in favor of independent, non-partisan and transparent redistricting. Please keep this in mind.

Bernice Popelka
1840 N. Prospect Ave., #514
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Gerrymandering undermines the democratic process of having equal representation in government and citizens' votes. The democratic process is needed for the good of citizens. It eliminates wars that occur in other places where people do not feel they have a voice. In the tradition of "Forward" in Wisconsin, a state that had a reputation as a leader in democratic processes, please provide an opportunity for an unbiased plan that will eliminate the evils of gerrymandering. Thank you.

Patricia Giese
204 Serenity Ct
Johnson Creek, WI 53038

Wisconsin Supreme Court
P O Box 1688

19 November 2020

Madison, WI 53701-1688

Re: Wisconsin Inst for Law & Liberty's petition

Dear Honorable Justices,

I don't know who the people are at the Wisconsin Inst for Law & Liberty but they do not speak for me, nor do I suspect, do they speak for the majority of Wisconsinites. I understand they are a conservative organization that promotes free markets, limited government, individual liberty & a robust civil society who "ride to the sound of guns" according to their website. Clearly, at least to me, they have no standing to dictate "how" disputes over electoral districts are resolved. We already have a legal process for those disputes to be heard and resolved. The current process might involve the Wisconsin Supreme Court making the final decision over a dispute, but from a citizen's viewpoint, I see no reason to skip the current steps in place to resolve any potential disagreements.

Seems to me that the people asking for this change in the current process and unhappy with the outcomes and therefore want to change the rules. In any dispute, one party is generally disappointed.

That doesn't mean that the process for resolving that dispute is broken or flawed.

Let the judicial process work, as it has without rushing to eliminate steps in the process that ensure that all parties are heard and that a record of their support or objections is created. Creating voting districts every 10 years after the US Census is complete should be a nonpartisan, administrative process but it isn't. You have the opportunity to avoid adding fuel to that fire by declining the petition from the people at Wisconsin Inst for Law & Liberty.

Sincerely,

Patricia Giese

204 Serenity Ct

Johnson Creek, WI 53038

Barbara Derenne

1671 Remington Ridge Way

De Pere, WI 54115

In all fairness, nonpartisan groups should have the opportunity to participate in the future of fair maps.

As a member of the League of Women Voters, who act on behalf of all voters, we deserve the right to be heard as well. Thank you.

Juli Ziemer Hacker

W250N8945 Hillside Road

Lisbon, WI 53089

We want a nonpartisan process for drawing up voting district maps

Mary Lee Waldsmith
N3658 Lux Lane
Stoddard, Wisconsin 54658

This rule limits every citizen's Constitutional right to fully participate in their right to vote!

Brian Post
711 N Canterbury Dr
Appleton, WI 54915

My understanding is that redistricting cases typically go through the federal court system. Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Wisconsin State Supreme Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Bev Kelley-Miller
W728 River Bend Dr
Kaukauna, Wisconsin 54130

I am a concerned citizen who votes in every election. I am concerned about the upcoming redistricting in Wisconsin. I understand it is complex and a difficult task of our government; it is fundamental to the principle of one person, one vote. Public confidence in our republic government is at an all-time low, especially with this last election in November with our own President saying there is voter fraud. As citizens, we depend on our government to have an open and transparent process.

In 2009, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided not to make a rule change to the current redistricting policy. In most states redistricting cases have gone through ascending levels of Federal courts. In Wisconsin, a petition was filed with a proposed rule change to take the disputed maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This shortened process will not allow for fact-finding by lower courts and may exclude any input from Wisconsin citizens or non-profit groups. It will eliminate transparency in the redistricting process.

Listen to the citizens of Wisconsin. You have the capability of decreasing politicization of the Court and increasing citizen trust in the process. Now is the time to take into consideration the great interest in

favor of nonpartisan redistricting. Fifty-four of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 counties have passed referendums in favor of nonpartisan redistricting. All of the referendums have passed 100% of the time when we Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote.

Ensure our votes count one person, one vote. We need bipartisan redistricting NOW!

Sincerely,
Bev Kelley-Miller
W728 River Bend Dr.
Kaukauna, WI 54130

Allen Pincus
7836 Lakeview Road
Barneveld, Wisconsin 53507

The WILL petition, in Section 5(b), requires only that the political parties be heard by the Court in any dispute over the maps. It does not allow room, explicitly at least, for other parties that have a longstanding interest in this issue to be heard. Redistricting is not simply a dispute between the political parties. The public has shown, through passing advisory referenda in 28 counties, and through 51 county boards passing resolutions supporting non-partisan transparent redistricting, that they want to be heard on this matter.

Andrew Adamski
W2407 Hofa Park Rd
Seymour, WI 54165-9503

At a time of massive political partisanship, we all need to take steps to reduce the divides we see. The current climate in Wisconsin is a perfect example of how the people's voice is misconstrued in the legislature. When one party receives less than 50% of the vote but is then allowed to represent 66% of the population, we are left with a skewed misrepresentation of democracy. The constitution and the founding fathers laid out a system that allows for the people to be properly represented and it is the Judiciary's responsibility to uphold these values and precedents. Please, do your part to ensure the will of the people is heard and applied.

Aaron Day
959 La Croix Ave
Green Bay, WI 54304

If this rule change is to take place, it will further limit the ability of the public to provide input on the process. I feel all stakeholders, not just party representatives, should continue to have an opportunity to influence this process. The rule change request is clearly politically motivated, and so should be denied in favor of the current process that uses an independent, non elected federal judge.

Aaron Yonda
1810 Fordem Ave., Apt 13
Madison, WI 53704

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Amanda Peterson
301 S Main St
Oregon, WI 53575

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin,

We are writing on behalf of the Unity of Madison Social Justice Ministry. We are a group of individuals that meets monthly to collaborate and work on social justice issues. Many of us are involved in larger groups that focus on a variety of issues. One of those issues is non-partisan, legislative redistricting or fair maps. We recognize that if legislators can choose their voters, they have the power to keep themselves in power indefinitely and are not required to listen to the pleas of the people they supposedly represent. If legislators are not beholden to their constituents, we cannot make progress on any issues of interest to the people. Fair maps are essential to social justice issues. We have several concerns about the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) petition asking the Supreme Court of Wisconsin to take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation.

First, the petition seeks to limit the parties with standing to political parties only. When legislative maps are drawn in an unfair manner, it is the people who lose. Legislators have even been unresponsive to voters of their own political party. There are many groups that deserve standing in future redistricting litigation, including unions, issues groups, and fair maps groups, regardless of having or lacking political party affiliation. Indeed, these groups are the primary way the public has any input to the Court.

Second, the Justices of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin are elected, sometimes with help from political parties. Skipping the lower courts to decide on redistricting legislation will have the effect of politicizing the issue and making the Court's decisions appear partisan. Avoiding the appearance of impropriety is essential.

Third, this process change limits the Court's ability to review information revealed during the fact-finding phases as the case proceeds through the lower courts. This also has the effect of limiting the people's ability to challenge or review issues with the legislative maps. Challenges that could potentially be ironed out before it comes to the Supreme Court will not get the chance to be resolved, wasting both taxpayer money and the Court's time.

Fourth, this process sets an unfair precedent. Why should this issue, above all others, be rushed directly to the Supreme Court of Wisconsin? All issues before the courts should be decided swiftly and with due process. This petition is asking you to prioritize speed at the expense of due process when, in fact, they are both important parts of an efficient, effective judicial system.

We respectfully ask that you deny the WILL petition and maintain the process for redistricting litigation so that the people have input, the lower courts continue to provide due process, the Justices of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin maintain non-partisanship, and basic fairness is upheld.

Sincerely,

Barbara Benson
Rymii Kaio
Ellen Magee
Beverly Mazur
Joy A. E. Morgen
Amanda Peterson
Jeanie Verschay
Rev. Evin Wilkins

Agnes Welsch
407 Elm Ave W
Menomonie, WI 54751

Honorable members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court

I am commenting on the petition to require the Supreme Court take jurisdiction over future redistricting litigation. This allows political parties to be heard in disputes about district mapping, but could exclude citizen groups who in the past have had input into the disputes.

This will result in harmfully politicizing the court, excluding nonpartisan groups from full participation. This rule also provides insufficient transparency measures. Transparency is an important part of all branches of government in our democracy.

Thank you.
Agnes Welsch

Alan Beardmore
W7094 County Road Y
Monroe, Wisconsin 53566

Fair maps are essential to democracy.

Abbey Rhodes
4009 Towne Lakes Circle APT 9308
Grand Chute, WI 54913

As a citizen of Wisconsin, I am asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to retain the current redistricting process and reject the recently proposed rule change to bypass lower courts and escalate disputed maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Redistricting is a complex and difficult task, and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person, one vote. It should never be rushed. The proposed rule change shortens the process and will not allow for fact-finding by lower courts. Further, the change may exclude any input from citizens or non-profit groups, and it will eliminate transparency in the redistricting process during a time where maintaining trust in our basic institutions is paramount.

Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Please retain the current redistricting process in 2021 to promote transparency and participation in our Wisconsin voting maps.

Thank you,
Abbey Rhodes

Bernadette Hohl
8588 East County Rd L
Bennett, USA 54873

I oppose Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

This proposed rule would pre-rig the process for the drawing of legislative and congressional district maps and would likely lead to another gerrymander in Wisconsin.

Also, this proposed rule was submitted by the rightwing Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL), and it has the following flaws:

First, it would jump any legal challenge to redistricting immediately to the Wisconsin Supreme Court rather than let that challenge work its way through the courts in a normal fashion. The establishment of a record at the lower court level would enhance transparency and enable the citizens of Wisconsin to grasp the evidence in the case and the competing arguments as they wend their way through the courts.

Second, nonprofit public interest organizations and concerned citizens could get aced out of any hearing on redistricting maps before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The WILL petition, in 9S9e9c9t9i9o9n9 959(9b9)9,9 9r9e9q9u9i9r9e9s9 9o9n9l9y9 9t9h9a9t9 9t9h9e9 9p9o9l9i9t9i9c9a9l9 9p9a9r9t9i9e9s9 9b9e9 9h9e9a9r9d9 9b9y9 9t9h9e9 9C9o9u9r9t9 9i9n9 9a9n9y9 9d9i9s9p9u9t9e9 9o9v9e9r9 9t9h9e9 9m9a9p9s9.9 9l9t9 9d9o9e9s9 9n9o9t9 9a9l9l9o9w9 9r9o9o9m9,9 9e9x9p9l9i9c9i9t9l9y9 9a9t9 9l9e9a9s9t9,9 9f9o9r9 9g9r9o9u9p9s9 9l9i9k9e9 9o9u9r9s9 9t9h9a9t9 9h9a9v9e9 9a9 9l9o9n9g9s9t9a9n9d9i9n9g9 9i9n9t9e9r9e9s9t9 9i9n9 9t9h9i9s9 9i9s9s9u9e9 9t9o9 9b9e9 9h9e9a9r9d9.9 9R9e9d9i9s9t9r9i9c9t9i9n9g9 9i9s9 9n9o9t9 9s9i9m9p9l9y9 9a9 9d9i9s9p9u9t9e9 9b9e9t9w9e9e9n9 9t9h9e9 9p9a9r9t9i9e9s9.9

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Michael Shogren
8588 East County Rd L
Bennett, WI 54873

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Amy Head
302 7th Avenue
New Glarus, WI 53574

Please keep map making transparent and citizen engaged.

Anne Schoenemann
205 Yarrow Hill Dr
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

Do not change the laws and policies that follow the steps of a democratic prices to create fair mps in Wisconsin.

Susan Adams
703 Milwaukee Rd

Beloit, WI 53511-5611

This guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process.

Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Susan Adams
703 Milwaukee Rd
Beloit, WI 53511-5611

I oppose the proposed amending of WIS. STAT. §809.70 [Rule petition 20-03] for the following reasons. This guidance that the Law and Liberty group wrote is partisan; it is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. District maps should go through the whole judicial process, not be brought up immediately to the Supreme Court. Don't rush the process. People need a chance to respond.

Worst of all this guidance doesn't allow non-partisan groups access to the process and secondly it says the court can disregard the processes and requirements in the rule itself. This makes no sense. I am concerned that this guidance will not allow me as a member of the League of Women Voters – or Common Cause or as a citizen of any other non-partisan group to challenge gerrymandering that is likely to occur as it has in the past. We NEED to be included so that democracy can flourish.

As it is now, one party or the other gets into power and chooses their own voters. As a result, voters lose interest in even voting unless it is for a state-wide race. This very court is partisan; it is very distressing; please don't make it any worse! This whole process should be changed but we have no chance of changing it without a chance to actually vote for our representatives, rather than the other way around.

Susan E Adams

Addison Filiatreux
213 river st
Hudson, Wi 54016

Please make maps fair. Neither party should be drawing lines because it has resulted in slanted and biased elections. It isn't about Republican or Democrat. It is about making sure every vote counts and people feel enfranchised versus disenfranchised.

Adel Korkor
2301 Sun Valley Drive, suite 200
Delafield, WI 53018

Please do not approve a modification to state statute 809.70 regarding redistricting challenges in the courts. We live in a highly partisan country now and transparency and process are increasingly important. This issue is of particular concern and any modification would make the Supreme Court appear to be engaging in political influencing. Keep the WI Supreme Court honest and unbiased.

Ann Knapstein
457 Togstad Glenn
Madison, WI 53711

We the people should have a fair voting system! Please stop Gerrymandering maps and let all voters be heard.
Please, please, listen to the people!

Noreen Holmes
1213 26th St S
La Crosse, WI 54601

As a Wisconsin American I value a nonpartisan, transparent redistribution process. Please don't diminish my vote.

Alex Hendrick
6380 County Line rd
Mineral Point, WI 53565

America was founded on the principle that the people of a country could govern themselves. With fair representation and the ability to be heard before the law on issues that pertain to their lives they are able to do just that. The proposed rule change that takes redistricting disputes directly to the state supreme court hampers the ability of a large part of the public to be heard while concentrating the fate

of their representation in the hands of the few. It is patently unAmerican to allow changes that remove the hands of the governed from the levers of self governance.

Joyce Frohn
425 Congress
Oshkosh, WI 54901

This rule change would make the Court more partisan and lacks transparency. We need more groups looking at new maps, not fewer.

Joyce Frohn
425 Congress
Oshkosh, WI 54901

This rule would lead to a more partisan Supreme Court. It also has little transparency. This leads to a lack of trust and more partisan fighting.

Ashley Foxborn
2817 Milwaukee St.
Madison, WI 53704

Litigation should go through fact finding in lower courts where public, nonprofits and others can also weigh in. By going directly to the Supreme Court, all that is waived and only political parties have opportunity to testify. The Supreme Court should NOT be changing the rules so that people and smaller organizations are being left out the debate.

Andrew Mazur
2717 milwaukee st, Apt 3
Madison, WI 53704-5155

I oppose WILL's petitioned rule. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Aimee Ogden
6501 Piedmont Rd
Madison, Wisconsin 53711-4030

This proposed change goes against the public interest and disrupts the process of creating fair maps that Wisconsin needs. Disallowing non-political parties from challenging districting also takes away the voice of the citizens of Wisconsin who should be able to advocate for our own interests, and the Court should not have the option of setting aside the rules established for the creation of fair maps. We as citizens should be able to choose our elected representatives not the other way around,

Ann Ingham
2081 Apache Ct
Grafton, Wisconsin 53024

Dear Supreme Court Justices,

How can this be? How can our state and country be in such jeopardy in regards to the due process of hearing the voices of the people. Our democracy is of, for, and by the people. Why is it the seeming mission to bypass the process to bypass that?

I ask you to reject the proposed changes in the process for considering fair maps. I live in Ozaukee County and was beyond disheartened when I reached out to my county executive for Grafton, pleading with him to please consider allowing the fair maps question to be allowed on the ballot in the upcoming election, only to NEVER receive a reply. I reached out again, no reply. People attended the meeting and spoke in a clear, calm, matter-of-fact manner about the importance of allowing the citizens to vote and allow their voice to be heard. The result? No. No to our voices being heard.

How can this be?

The same is true for the current results of the Presidential election. Why is the will and desires of the people being ignored? This country was built on the foundation of equal and fair representation.

I've had my teacher union ripped away from me, leaving me with literally no voice. As a state, we are unable to have a fair election, again leaving me with no voice. I've reached out to Glenn Grothman, Robert Brooks, Alberta Darling, Jim Ott, and Ron Johnson. Crickets. No reply (save one canned response from Grothman). Now, I will yet again have even more of my voice silenced should you vote in favor of the proposed changes.

I implore you as a state supreme court to maintain the rule and order of our democracy. Allow the facts, people, and backstories to be represented fairly and accurately. Do not vote in favor of changing the rules for determining the processes of fair maps.

With respect and gratitude for saving the voice and will of the people to be fairly represented,

Ann Ingham

JAMES WILKEY
6225 E 17th ave
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

Overreach

Andrew DeGuire
6054 N Kent Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

As an informed and engaged citizen, there are a few key constitutional principles that I believe need to be upheld:

- Equal protection under the law
- One person, one vote
- A nonpartisan judiciary that balances and protects the needs of all citizens

Redistricting is a primary example of the importance of all of these principles and it should never be rushed. Public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process, and requires that we allow full participation of citizens, whether that be through the legislature or a nonpartisan organization.

In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed.

Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony, when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

In my voting districts (State Assembly 23rd and State Senate District 8), district lines were a significant issue when it came to the election. They are currently very precise, demonstrating that the process was managed to limit the input of certain groups in order to support one party's goal. I am requesting that we respect the principles outlined by our Constitution to allow for equal opportunity for input on the redistricting process.

Waukesha County Fair Maps Coalition Team Leaders: Anne Johnson, Lena Eng, Lisa Conley, Jane Speer, Carl Lock, Sue E. Konkol, Vicki Aro-Schackmuth, Mary Ann Biederwolf Johnson
518 Lac La Belle Drive
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

We are writing to express our opposition to the WILL/Jensen Petition for proposed rule change Wisconsin Statute 809.70.

Our state and country is in the grip of historic levels of political polarization and unrest. At the same time, we are facing a worldwide pandemic that has claimed over 250,000 lives nationally and is shattering our economy. All this is the backdrop for growing social and racial unrest. Many wonder and worry, how can we move forward together as a democracy?

Despite these challenges, something positive and powerful is happening in our communities. People are becoming more aware and engaged in the democratic process. We saw historic levels of voter turnout in the November elections. People want their voices to be heard.

Waukesha County Fair Maps Coalition is just one example of people coming together at the local level to build communities that are committed to overcoming political polarization. Waukesha County Fair Maps Coalition is comprised of individuals who are registered as Republicans,

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Arthur Anderson
1285 N 124th St
Elm Grove, WI 53122

I oppose the WI Supreme Ct being allowed to take jurisdiction on redistricting matters. All parties should be allowed to plead their case about redistricting matters, not just political parties. Also, allowing the WI Supreme Ct to simply disregard the proposed rules and come up with their own, if they

wish to, is unfair and improper and will lead to serious questions about political influence and transparency. Finally, Plaintiffs should be allowed to plead their case in federal courts, if necessary, to make sure their grievances are heard!

April Kain-Breese
2425 W. Cortland Drive
Appleton, WI 54914

I am a lifelong resident of Wisconsin. I value clean and ethical government, but I have seen erosion in the past 20 years or so, and sometimes I really don't recognize the state I used to think of as "squeaky clean." Polarization and politicization of public discourse and policy-making has increased dramatically. Today I am writing regarding the proposal to send the next draft of legislative redistricting directly to the Supreme Court without the opportunity for thorough review and comment from the general public and public interest groups.

Every vote must count! When redistricting is rushed and there is no opportunity for general public input into the process, then our confidence in government is reduced. We don't need any further erosion in this area!

In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed.

The Supreme Court is a separate branch of government from the legislature and the executive. It should not be overtly influenced or subjected to politics. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Andrea Kaminski
360 W Washington Ave, Unit 515
MADISON, WI 53703

I oppose the Rule Petition filed by Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, seeking to amend the Wisconsin Statutes to allow parties in redistricting lawsuits to request that the Supreme Court take jurisdiction of original action on such cases. This would circumvent the normal process and rush the review of maps. Also, while the proposed rule requires that political parties be heard by the Court, it does not give the

same rights to nonpartisan groups that traditionally have challenged gerrymandered maps on behalf of their members. The proposed rule thus serves the interests of political parties over those of voters in our elections. Such a shift away from serving the interests of the citizens of our state is unconscionable.

Agnes Surbaugh
3189 100th St
Frederic, US-WI 54837

Something as important as district lines should be determine by a non-partisan committee. I have lived in Wisconsin my whole life (65 years), and we should not have this see-saw wrangling determined by party interests. Please make Wisconsin a hallmark of non-partisan, logical, district determination. Thank you.

Anneliese Waggoner
121Greene Ave
Green Bay, WI 54301

121 Greene Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54301

November 19, 2020

Wisconsin Supreme Court
110 #. Main St. #440
Madison, WI 53703

Your Honors:

The Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) has requested a redistricting rule change that would re-route litigation over electoral district maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. I am writing today to ask you to deny that request.

The redistricting rule change proposed by WILL would significantly limit the ability for the public to provide input and oversight on our electoral maps. Under the current rules lawsuits over electoral maps are sent through the lower courts and ultimately reviewed by federal judges at the US District Court. This process allows the lower courts to play an important role in fact-finding and gathering of public testimony that enables the US District Court to make an informed decision to resolve disputes over the maps.

The WILL rule change would shortchange this important fact-finding part of the process. The only testimony collected would be from the political parties, not from citizens or community groups who have an interest in this decision.

It is vital that the entire process be allowed to play itself out as in the past. This petition by WILL is being rushed to close off the people's voices for the benefit of powerful special interests.
Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Respectfully,
Anneliese Waggoner

Allison Gunn
302 Blue Ridge Pkwy
Madison, WI 53705

The drawing of voting districts should be free of political influence. The citizens of Wisconsin expect this; please work hard to respect our wishes.

Alexa Safer
3837 N Morris Blvd
Shorewood, WI 53211

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty ("WILL"), filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process. This guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process. Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Alice Kissling
5101 Retana
Madison, WI 53714

Please put civic participation ahead of partisan loyalty. We need a system of districting that reflects our people, not our political parties. Help restore to us faith in the system that seems to have fallen into the grip of special interests, big money, professional politicians. "we the people" ...where do we fit in???

Alicia Leinberger
330 Minshall Ave
Viroqua, WI 54665

Democracy relies on fairness and equality, our right to representation. No party should be able to draw the lines so that they stack votes to their own advantage. Our goal should be to draw district lines for the greatest representation of all, with the widest diversity of viewpoints. What's more is the process should be outside of the three branches, as they all have strong partisan leanings. We need an independent body, maybe within the Elections Commission.

Alice Wilde
2104 S. 95th Street
West Allis, WI 53227

Do not pass this rule it will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Allison Werner
3489 Milwaukee Street
Madison, WI 53714

This rule will harmfully politicize the Supreme Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Alyson Schmeisser
N6644 Shorewood Hills Rd
Lake Mills, WI 53551

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

RE: Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty petition

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

As the wife of a Supreme Court Clerk and the daughter of an Attorney General, I have lived with the belief that the law is non-partisan. Non-partisan decisions by our Supreme Court are the most important hinge which holds our common sense of fairness together.

I am deeply concerned that the current request by the WILL is not fair, is an obvious power grab, and tarnishes the Supreme Court with the partisan brush. The proposed rule change WILL is asking the Wisconsin Supreme to hear short circuits the review of the maps, rushes the process, is harmful to the public interest, and does not provide for a fair set of rules for everyone.

This process must not be rushed. All parties, experts and the public alike, must be given the ability to comment on the procedures for redistricting.

As has been the practice in the past, federal courts or state trial courts have adjudicated the redistricting maps when conflict arises. The process is fair, nonpartisan and the electorate is served. I ask that you refuse this request by WILL and let the historic process stand.

Sincerely,
Alyson Schmeisser
N6644 Shorewood Hills Rd.
Lake Mills, WI

Alyssa Watts Ransom
1926 Pond St
Madison, WI 53704

For years, Wisconsin has been plagued with hyper-partisan politics that has left me feeling hopeless for our state. I hope that the Supreme Court will not move forward with the proposal to limit any judicial review of redistricting in our state to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and instead listen to the people of Wisconsin, who are in favor of taking politics out of the equation when it comes to redistricting. I support a non-partisan coalition to draw fair maps.

Marya Tyler
70625 Galligan Road
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

I oppose the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty petition to adopt a rule that would create a fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases. The rule would undermine our system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process.

Albert Messner
N3122 Oak Center Rd
Oakfield, WI 53065

Re: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges

Albert Messner
N3122 Oak Center Rd
Oakfield, WI 53065

I have opposed our state redistributing plans for many years. It is totally political and unfair. This proposed rule would make the system worse by: sending legal challenges directly to the Supreme Court, bypassing other courts, it does not allow most other groups besides political parties to be heard, and it gives the court the right to disregard requirements laid out in the rule.

Ada Hall
542 Plummers Harbor Rd
Neenah, WI 54956

I feel that every WI voter should have the right to choose their elected representative. I am a member of LWV, and I want them, as a nonpartisan group, to be able to be heard by the Court about any disputes involving redistributing maps. The proposed rule change will politicize & limit transparency of the Court.

Amie Van Susteren
N9528 Argue Road
New Glarus, WI 53574

Wisconsin deserves non partisan election maps. It allows room for the representative democratic process to function for the people vs maps drawn to help elected officials keep their jobs without having to do their jobs. Additionally, it gives breathing room to ever changing perspectives and needs allowing representative democracy to grow instead of letting political parties of any flavor put a permanent choke hold on it. I see no harm in letting the choosing of districts being transparent and non partisan.

Marty and Arnie Wilke
N877 SPRING LAKE ESTATES DRIVE
NESHKORO, WI 54960-6412

Do NOT approve this proposed rule change. All district mapping should NOT exclude citizen, non-partisan organizations or civic groups from their important participation in this process. The rule change would make a few political power organizations and partisan groups/individuals decide on outcome of map drawing rather than adhering to the successful referendum-passed citizen opinions in multiple counties of Wisconsin that a non-partisan process/committee should develop the next set of district maps in an open and public manner, including citizen participation in the light of day.

Amy Nasr
3620 Park Lane Dr
Neenah, WI 54956

Please represent the people of Wisconsin fairly and judiciously. All individuals in Wisconsin including voters, non-partisan groups, and unions deserve to have a fair voice in representation and to see its elect with transparency. We need a fair and non-biased resource to draw maps that accurately and fairly represent the people of Wisconsin. Please reject the petition set forth to you by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty and hold sacred the voice of the people of Wisconsin. Your courtroom is no place for political pandering, please protect and preserve its honor.

Joseph Ancel
7531 Dewberry Lane
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

I value a nonpartisan, transparent redistricting process. Therefore, I am opposed to the petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty requesting that the state Supreme Court should claim jurisdiction on any future redistricting legislation.

Adopting a rule requested by the petition would undermine judicial process and is harmful to the public interest.

- Adopting this rule risks increasing the politicization of the Court and decreasing public trust in the Court as a legitimate institution.
- 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.
- Transparency in the redistricting process is key to public trust. The proposed rule does not provide adequate information to the public and input from the public.

Andrea Fischer
2736 N. Park Dr.
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53222

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”), filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process.

This guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn’t give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court’s process.

Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Andre Walton
4415 Primrose Ct., R203
Sheboygan, WI 53081

I am completely against the rule change that the Wisconsin supreme court has jurisdiction on any redistricting litigation. Right now we have a partisan court that can't fully be trusted in determining this matter without bias. For the last 10 years 100's of thousands of votes have be disenfranchised in this state due to partisan gerrymandering. If we want to safe democracy in this state, we must ensure no party will every be allowed to do this again.

ANDREW TOWLE
331 Island Dr. Apt. 2
Madison, WI 53705

Many people in Wisconsin have worked extremely getting our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who desire a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. Legislators have not been

paying attention to these concerns. Twenty-eight have passed referenda and 55 counties have passed resolutions supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. If this rule is changed it would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair.

The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. This is where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps.

This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.

There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being rushed.

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to assuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency.

Andy Jaw
5523 Quarry Hill Dr
Fitchburg, WI 53711

Letter to Supreme Court on proposed rule change for future redistricting litigation

My name is Andy Jaw and I am commenting on the rule change being proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) specific to legal challenges to redistricting. As a resident of Wisconsin, I am opposed to this proposed rule change for a number of reasons.

*This process shouldn't be rushed.

Previously the Court spent years engaging experts and the public to examine potential procedures for redistricting review, ultimately determining there was not an adequate judicial solution in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This time the truncated proposed rulemaking process has spanned only a few months without an independent review by a committee of experts. The Court rejected adopting a rule on this topic and the rule proposal before the Court now offers no reason for the Court to reverse its previous conclusion.

*Adopting the rule risks increasing the politicization of the Court and decreasing public trust in the Court as a legitimate institution.

By inserting itself in this area of partisan conflict, the Court threatens to give the impression that it is a political branch rather than a neutral arbitrator of conflict between political actors.

*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 new districts may be excluded. This is at odds with the history of challenges to districts in Wisconsin where civic groups and individual Wisconsin citizens have been involved in litigation and asserted the rights of their members.

*Transparency in the redistricting process is key to public trust.

The proposed rule does not provide adequate information to the public; nor does it allow input from the public. The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin the redistricting process failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could

_孃传鑒乏吠鯪

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Andrew Mattson
557 ORION TRL
MADISON, WI 53718-2923

This proposed rule/request seems to be a pretty blatant attempt to further institutionalize partisan manipulation of voting districts boundaries. This should not be approved. The proposal would restrict non-partisan organizations from having input, and would reduce transparency and increase primarily partisan considerations. All of those represent the opposite of what is needed for drawing election district lines

Andy Olsen
4108, Hegg Avenue
Madison, WI 53716

The Supreme Court should in no way seize control over redistricting. You know that the group WILL would not bring this forward if the Governor was a Republican.

Angela Sherman
9538 County Road A
Fish Creek, WI 54212

Please redraw fair maps in Wisconsin. There is clearly an issue with maps as the majority of our state has voted Democratic but we have both the state house and senate as Republican majority. It is time that every has an equal say in our state legislature.

Anna Benjamin
1925 N 116th St
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

This proposed rule change will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation and offer insufficient measures.

Ann Brice
211 29th Street South
La Crosse, WI 54601

Greetings: I value a nonpartisan, transparent redistricting process. The state Supreme Court should not claim jurisdiction on any future redistricting legislation as requested in the petition by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL). If this petition is granted, it will limit the review of fair maps, will politicize the court, and will exclude nonpartisan groups from participating in redistricting efforts. Please reject this petition in order to provide fairness and inclusivity. Thank you.

Ann Brummitt
5102 W Donges Ct
Brown Deer, WI 53223

Dear State of Wisconsin Supreme Court,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed rule changes to future redistricting processes. I am frankly sick and tired of my and my fellow citizen's voting rights being abused. The ridiculous maps that have resulted in our votes not being reflected in our representation is anti-democratic. This new proposal continues and worsens the situation. We as citizens have a right to be heard and have a right to have democratic processes that reflect our will. Our unions and organizations have a right to be heard. It shouldn't just be political parties. This rule also destabilizes the rules and procedures that ensure you will hear all the facts necessary.

Thank you,
Ann Brummitt

Anne Snieg
4092 s. 96th St.
Greenfield, Wisconsin 53228

Please take your time to consider these districting maps. Our maps are currently so weird that representatives don't know whether my neighborhood is part of their district or not. Concentrating groups based on how they vote is a misapplication of government of the people, for the people, and by the people. Be diligent on making sure ALL Wisconsinites are represented fairly by building nonpartisan district maps.

Annette Robertson
6221 N Lake Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53217

The fact that this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Ann Groves Lloyd
304 Lodi St
Lodi, WI 53555-1416

I serve as Mayor of Lodi, WI, a community of about 3,100 people in South Central Wisconsin. In 2018, our Common Council passed a resolution supporting a non-partisan process for redistricting in 2021, and to that end I am urging the Wisconsin Supreme Court to strike down the rule change(s) proposed by the Wisconsin Institute on Law and Liberty (WILL) - changes that make an already politicized process even

more so by involving jurists that are supposed to be to objective arbitrators before lower courts have had a chance to weigh in.

These changes also effectively block any non-partisan groups, such as the grassroots entities that are the heart of Wisconsin, allowing only the two parties in power to have a say before the court. No one with anything to gain directly should be influencing the district boundaries - this process should be left to experts who have little or nothing to gain from where the lines are drawn, but will ensure that voters' voices have equal opportunities to be heard.

And finally, this proposed rule gives the Court the option to ignore the very processes and requirements outlined in the rule itself, creating a potentially unfair and unequal opportunity for Wisconsinites' voices to be heard. The best way to preserve democracy is to have a process where the sole goal is to make districts as competitive as possible, ensuring that any candidate or party has an equal opportunity to win in any election. This avoids creating districts where people not in the majority are effectively silenced, or where ideologues from either extremes flourish.

I urge the Wisconsin Supreme Court to strike down the proposed rule change and steer our state toward a cleaner, more balanced, and fairer process to redraw our districts in 2021. Thank you.

Ann Groves Lloyd, PhD

Annika Swenson
1925 Survey Rd
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Please do not circumvent or dismiss the majority of Wisconsinites who have voted on this nonpartisan issue. Do not hasten a process that has been clearly spelled out. Seek counsel and wisdom from others. Do not disregard the voice of your constituents.

Jason Maloney
79270 STATE HIGHWAY 13
WASHBURN, WI 54891-4428

The Wisconsin Constitution, Article I, Section 22,

Maintenance of free government. SECTION 22. The blessings of a free government can only be maintained by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality and virtue, and by frequent recurrence to fundamental principle.

The judicial system in Wisconsin has been established and stable since 1848. It was established not only under Article VII, but also under Article I, Section 22 of the Wisconsin Constitution. The court system in Wisconsin has functioned well for over 150 years. The current system of courts and their function in Wisconsin has provided justice and ensured moderation, temperance and virtue.

I am a citizen resident of Wisconsin since 1961. I am writing to express my concerns about the Rule Petition 20-03 Petition regarding Petition for Proposed Rule to Amend Wisconsin Statute Section 809.70 (relating to redistricting).

I am opposed to the proposed Rule Petition 20-03 for the following reasons.

The proposed rule requires that political parties and political branches be heard but gives no similar provision for non-partisan representation for citizen or local government concerns to come before the court. Disenfranchisement of citizen and community interests from the process of redistricting is unfair and unethical at its roots.

The proposed rule allows any lawsuit about redistricting to circumvent the logical and normal process of advancing through the state trial courts and appellate courts prior to consideration by the highest court in the state. Bypassing state trial and appellate court processes unnecessarily eliminates fact finding by lower courts and precludes creation of

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Ann Lewandowski
103 W Third Street
Waunakee, Wi 53597

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court,

Please do not allow preferential treatment of some groups instead of others when it comes to challenging maps. Allowing a rushed process disadvantages many individuals and groups. To honor our history as a democratic nation, we must allow all voices to be heard on equal grounds. Political parties may come or go, but people are here to stay.

Ann Gainey
8830 Bluebird Lane
Wind Lake, Wisconsin 53185

Voters of any political persuasion should have fair representation to elect their state political representatives and senators. The current system of gerrymandering state districts does not allow fair representation.

I respectfully request that the Wisconsin State Supreme Court put aside their political persuasion and decide in favor of a nonpartisan committee to draw up fair maps.

Ann Gainey
8830 Bluebird Lane
Wind Lake, Wisconsin 53185

Voters should have fair representation regardless of their political persuasion. Wisconsin Supreme Court, regardless of their political persuasions, Should make a decision to establish a nonpartisan committee that would establish fair maps in Wisconsin

AnnMarie Preece
4599 Sunburst Dr
DeForest, WI 53532

We need fair maps! Democrats get more votes, but only half the seats

Ann Green
3131 E Hampshire Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53211

The current gerrymanded election map does not treat all WI voters equally. This is wrong All citizens deserve an opportunity to have their voices heard and that cannot happen given the current system. Please approve the rule change and help Wisconsites get equal representation.

Ann Thomas
2837 N 87th St
Milwaukee, WI 53222

This rule should not be passed.

ann zanzig
7626 Mid Town Rd.202
Madison, WI 53719-3447

It is time for the legislatures and courts in WI to actually do something that is non-partisan and fair. It is time for losers to admit they lost, legislators to admit they are paid by me and Justices to stop playing god with maps and act like you are actually representing real people with a brain who can decide got themselves who to vote for. Do NOT mess with the redistricting . It is frankly, none of YOUR business. Take care of laws, we'll take care of votes and elections.

Anthony Phillips
7463 N Purdy Parkway

Appleton, WI 54913

I would ask the Wisconsin State Supreme Court to leave in place the long established precedents for review of election redistricting disputes. The courts in Wisconsin have had to step in multiple times to ensure fair redistricting, and the courts are likely to be involved again in 2021. The attempt to send this directly to the state supreme court, bypassing lower courts, is an attempt to hasten the process and not allow all opinions to be considered- the attempt to change the long standing process is clearly partisan in nature, intended to perpetuate the gerrymandered results of the 2011 redistricting, and would prolong the disenfranchisement of the votes of too many Wisconsin citizens. Thank you.

Antonia Nelson
200 Gwynn Street
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301

that this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Ann Dolan
11041 Mt. Ridge Rd.
LANCASTER, Wisconsin 53813

I am making a comment to the State Supreme Court of Wisconsin regarding a proposed rule change in reference to drawing the legislative maps for the state.

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. Wisconsin has long been at the mercy of Gerrymandering by the ruling Republican party. Please do not let yet another right wing radical group suppress the votes of Wisconsinites.

April Newell
236 W 14th
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54902

As a citizen of Wisconsin, I am asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to retain the current redistricting process and reject the recently proposed rule change to bypass lower courts and escalate disputed maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Redistricting is a complex and difficult task, and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person, one vote. It should never be rushed. The proposed rule change shortens the process and will not allow for fact-finding by lower courts. Further, the change may exclude any input from citizens or non-profit groups, and it will eliminate transparency in the redistricting process during a time where maintaining trust in our basic institutions is paramount.

Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Please retain the current redistricting process in 2021 to promote transparency and participation in our Wisconsin voting maps.

Thank you,
April Newell

April PRUSIA
W8707 SAWMILL RD
BLANCHARDVILLE, WISCONSIN 53516-9606

This proposed rule change is unfair, and undemocratic. Fair maps are just that, fair. It's time for Wisconsin to get up to date, and implement map districts similar to Iowa, in a nonpartisan fashion.

To harshly push legislation through that undermines our democratic process, with out transparency is shameful . This will only polarize our nation furthermore.

April Savage
4216 N Windcross Dr
Appleton, WI 54913

Public servants are elected to serve the public good, and in doing so, must recognize and resist the temptation of manipulating the playing field to their advantage. Redistricting presents the greatest temptation and opportunity to go astray. It is an opportunity to exert power and dominion, and is undoubtedly complex and difficult to do in the best of times: which we can all agree these are not. Given this context, there is really no need to rush the process. There is no external urgency.

Following several years of examining this issue, the WI Supreme court has already decided against making this rule change in 2009. What's different today? Much. But clearly the public is interested in redistricting: 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

The challenges facing our state and nation demand smart, efficient strategies pursued together- in cooperation. Redistricting is certainly no different. Adopting this rule risks (further) politicization of the Supreme Court, limits public input and-most importantly- erodes the fundamental principle of one person / one vote. Voting is the backbone of democracy, the redistricting process must be fair and transparent. Adopting this rule will do much more harm to the WI state government and our citizens.

Jerome Kirsling
E4592 479th Ave
Menomonie, WI 54751

What kind of nonsense is this? Is this a trick to by pass the lower court and limit people from engaging in this process to insure transparency and democracy? What kind of devious plan is this. This is not the way Wisconsin functions like a band of corrupt oportunist! Make this a fair and honest as well as totally transparent effort.

Arati Pati
W67N985 Cambridge Ave
Cedarburg, Wisconsin 53012

It is imperative that we, the citizens, can trust our government and more importantly trust our judicial systems. If one party is perpetually in power, they tend to disregard the needs of others. It is already happening. If gerrymandering needs to be replaced by true divisions of districts, then the courts need to give time to everyone. Thank you.

Kristi Arntsen
W5886 Old 182 Rd.
Park Falls, WI 54552

End gerrymandering. If the people in this state truly want a conservative heavy legislature then let them vote fairly for it. Let them not achieve it by cheap political trickery.

Adam Pulver
348 Chapin St Unit 1
Columbus, WI 53925

The proposed petition is a horrible subversion of the redistricting process. Legislative maps concern every level of government and every person in the state, and therefore any disputes over them needs to take everybody's considerations in mind and follow proper judicial channels. Furthermore, only hearing political parties over redistricting disputes potentially excludes individuals whom, in the past, have sometimes been the only ones considered to have standing over such litigation. This proposal rushes judicial review and is destined to result in any disputes settled in favor of partisanship, rather than the nonpartisan or bipartisan redistricting methods essential to preserving democracy.

Arra Lasse
8714 N Trescher Rd
Milton, WI 53563

Just in case you do consider comments after Sunday's deadline, I favor independent and nonpartisan redistricting. I want everyone's vote to count, not just the party who is in control of our state legislature.

Margaret Krzyzewski
746 Fish Dr
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

I object to the rule change that will take disputed maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. It allows voters and interested parties little or no voice in the decision.

As a Wisconsin voter, I want my concerns heard. A full judicial process, starting with the lower courts, is necessary for thorough airing of my concerns as well as other voters' concerns. Skipping the full process does a disservice to us, particularly given the Party affiliation of the State Legislature relative to the actual Party affiliation of the voters. I am very concerned that justice will not be

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Arthur Baseler
916 Eureka St
Ripon, WI 54971-1139

To The Justices Of The Wisconsin State Supreme Court

I am contacting you today to urge you to dismiss the motion filed by Wisconsin Law and Liberty that asks you, the Court, to take direct responsibility for ruling on cases regarding redistricting. My understanding is that in the past the litigation process was allowed to go through a more normal process that ended up in Federal Court. That process allowed for more participation and input by non-partisan groups. This proposed WILL process would only allow political parties to weigh in on redistricting matters. That is undemocratic and anti good government. The state Supreme Court has increasingly been viewed as being partisan and a ruling in favor of WILL would only further cement that view. I hope that you would rule in favor of clean and open government.

K Conley
N52w37049 Washington Street
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Creating maps that effect elections and how votes are counted should be voted on by WI residents. Let's keep this process transparent for WI residents. After all, it should be for all of our welfare. Right?

Joan Arnold
285 County Road PP
Rudolph, WI 54475

I oppose changing the rules on hearing any cases concerning redistricting as introduced by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. This appears to be a situation whereby certain groups are looking to take the public out of the process and put the process behind closed doors. This is not a responsible way to hold our democracy in check. We are a nation and state where I believe and thought that good government should be transparent and open to public, the people's, input.Especially as it pertains to the most basic of a democracy – the electoral process and how the people are represented.

Many municipalities and counties in Wisconsin want to get politics out of redistricting as demonstrated by many referendums over the past few years. All should pay attention to what the people of this State desire. This rule change would further politicize this process. Limiting parties involved only to political entities sends the exact opposite message to the people of this State. I spent over 28 years in the US Army defending our right to a democracy. Please don't slap us and me in the face by adopting these changes and not allow other nonpartisan or citizens to be involved or put it behind closed doors.

Redistricting is an important part of any representative democracy. When you take the people out of this process do you really expect there to be a democracy left? I personally am fed up by districts, my district, being so influenced by gerrymandering that maps look more like a disjointed jigsaw puzzle than a district more or less created with complete cities, villages, towns, neighborhoods intact.

Please keep this process of redistricting open to the public and allow input from the people. Politics and politicians should not play the role of creating districts for the people. People should be the backbone of our democracy and should be the key player in creating the districts in which they vote.

Thank you for your dedication in maintaining a functioning democracy. I encourage you to rule with this in mind.

Sharon Blake
1956 Palisades Dr
Appleton, WI 54915

Dear Members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court,

In our current age of partisan politics, the courts are our last fortress of unbiased, partisan free, voice of truth, justice and reason.

Voting is a right that everyone can participate in, but sadly not everyone does. Many feel their vote does not count – due to many reasons – one being if they vote in a district that has boundaries that guarantee there is little opportunity for a fair election. I'm sure you are aware of this problem.

It has come to my attention that a petition has been filed to bypass the usual process when creating voting district maps. This petition would only allow partisan politicians the opportunity to come before the State Supreme Court and additionally it would bypass the lower Federal Courts completely. This petition would limit the participation from non-partisan organizations to present their facts and thus limit the information the Wisconsin Supreme Court would have to make an informed decision.

The voters of Wisconsin have voted overwhelmingly (80%) for their desire to have a non-partisan commission draw the district voting maps. As a voter I deserve a non-partisan map. Governor Tony

Evers has been holding public hearings with the “People’s Map Commission” to hear from a wide variety of diverse voters in Wisconsin to get input on this topic. Many states have adopted non-partisan voting commissions to draw their state maps. The more input in the creating the maps the better – especially from non-partisan groups and individuals.

As a member of the Wisconsin State Supreme Court, it is your duty to keep politics out of the Judiciary Branch of Government. You are the “third leg” of our government that helps to keep government running for the people and not for the politicians.

I strongly encourage you to not accept this latest challenge to our voting rights. Do not participate in allowing the courts to become another partisan political entity.

Thank you for considering my thoughts,

Sharon Blake

Anne Steinberg
2934 N. Prospect Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211

As a resident and voter in Wisconsin, I want to see a non-partisan process for drawing our legislative maps where every effort is made to draw maps that are fairly drawn and acceptable to both parties. I’m concerned that the proposed rule would harm that process. It would harmfully politicize the Court by encouraging settling redistricting disputes through litigation rather than making every effort to negotiate. In addition, it would only allow the governor, political parties and legislators to intervene in redistricting cases, excluding nonpartisan organizations and citizens. This further politicize the process and would reduce transparency in redistricting. The public should be able to fully participate in the process of creating new maps.

Anne Taylor
341 Pinnacle Dr.
Lake Mills, WI 53551

Dear Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

I write in opposition to the petition to amend Wis. Stat. 809.70.

As a retired attorney, I am concerned that the proposed rule does not require an evidentiary record. Redistricting by its very nature involves the votes of real people in actual municipalities. Those

facts should be developed, presented and evaluated. The Jensen Court considered what now might be called an independent redistricting commission, writing:

Components of a new procedure could include: provisions governing factfinding (by a commission or panel of special masters or otherwise); opportunity for public hearing and comment on proposed redistricting plans; established timetables for the factfinder, the public and the court to act; See generally *Grove*, 507 U.S. 25; *Wilson v. Eu*, 816 P.2d 1306, 1307 (Cal. 1991);[8]

[8] In California, for example, the following procedure has been followed:

The supreme court appoints a panel of three special masters comprised of retired or reserve trial and appellate judges charged with the responsibility of holding a series of public hearings throughout the state to receive evidence and arguments on proposed redistricting plans.

The special masters must complete the public hearings within 30 days of their appointment and submit recommendations and a proposed plan within 30 days thereafter. An additional 30-day period for briefing and for filing of public comments with the court concerning the special masters' plan is permitted.

The court then reviews the special masters' plan and public comment.

Jensen v. Wisconsin Elections Bd., 639 N.W.2d 537, 720 (Wis.Sup.Ct. 2002). Unfortunately, there is nothing in Petitioner's proposed rule that requires evidence gathering. Nevertheless, the process of fact finding based on a thorough hearing of the evidence is the bedrock of our judicial system.

Finally, allowing the Governor, the Senate, the Assembly and political parties status as presumed intervenors while requiring others to petition for intervenor status creates two tiers of litigants and barriers for interested parties to participate. It is unclear under the proposal what facts

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Antoni tenwolde
2624 Stevens Street
Madison, WI 53705

I have been a citizen of Wisconsin for many decades and in recent years I have seen fairness and transparency in the system taking a back seat to political manipulation. Rule Petition 20-03 will only make matters worse and further undermine our trust and respect for the political process. Wisconsin citizens in recent years have clearly indicated that they do support fair district maps and do not support gerrymandering. Citizens deserve to be heard. Please do not adopt this rule.

Anne Topham
6378 Rosy Ln
Ridgewat, WI 53582

this proposed rule change is clearly not in the interest of citizens like me who wholeheartedly hope and work for an end to the gerrymandering which has so harmed our State. it will further politicize the Court, keep nonpartisan groups from full participation, and it doesn't have sufficient transparency measures.

Surely this is the time to ensure that citizens like me are not further harmed.

William Appel
215 Saint Matthews St
Green Bay, WI 54301-1816

To the Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court;

Re: The Petition of the Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty requesting a rule change to allow direct submission to the Supreme Court of disputed District election maps.

I write to recommend denial of the Petition.

I am a non-practicing attorney with emeritus status. During my 34 year active career, I was a Brown County Ass't District Attorney, a two term elected District Attorney, a Special Prosecutor for several N.E. Wisc. counties, and engaged in private practice for over three decades.

I recommend rejection of the Petition because its consequence would be to exclude critical fact finding by lower courts. It would prevent aggrieved citizens adversely affected by disputed maps from being heard, and it would prevent non-profit and non-partisan groups from providing valuable information to a judicial fact finder. These consequences would very likely increase citizen distrust of the political process and of this Court as a neutral, unbiased arbitrator of disagreement between political parties. Current District maps created ten years ago were drawn mostly in secrecy by one political party and have resulted in their desired consequence, elected officials of one major party disproportionate to state wide election results. For the good of democracy, this must change.

I urge this Court to reject the Petition so that disputes regarding the new districting be allowed to proceed through normal court procedure.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on this very important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

William E. Appel
215 St. Matthews St.
Green Bay, Wi. 54301

Audrey Martinovich
304 School St
Blanchardville, Wi 53516

I oppose this rule change. Non-partisan groups such as unions that advocate on behalf of their members should be able to participate in districting. Leaving this process only to political parties risks further polarizing our citizens and makes the process less transparent to the public.

Steven Ullberg
501 S Midvale Blvd Apt 101
Madison, Wi 53711

Do your job so every vote counts.

Autumn Lakosky-Drexler
2004 Bristol St
Middleton, WI 53562

The fact that our Supreme Court in Wisconsin is incredibly partisan is distressing. Continuously siding with Republican representatives is a clear sign that the court is not siding with the actual residents of this state. The decision to allow the Wisconsin Supreme Court to further gerrymander the state is not in the best interest of the residents of Wisconsin. It is tiresome and worrisome that we have to think about the court only serving the right leaning constituents and leaving all other constituents out of their decisions. The court should serve everyone in this state. I have little interest in what party a person belongs to, but I do care if the court is being thoughtful and measured in their decisions. So far the court has proven to have insufficient transparency and appears highly politicized. The harm being done to this

state will soon prove to irreparable. We need to serve the residents of Wisconsin, not just the political parties.

Jane Hansen
W7120 County Road O
Prentice, WI 54556

I am writing in opposition to the rule petitioned by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would create a fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases. The rule would undermine our system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process.

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Our current method of redistricting is bad enough. It has made running for office here in Wisconsin uncompetitive, thereby disenfranchising a large proportion of our electorate in the state. It has most certainly added to the extreme partisanship that we suffer from. It also makes determining which district a voter is part of very confusing which can diminish involvement in the election process.

This proposed rule would encourage lawmakers to settle redistricting disputes through litigation, rather than making every effort to avoid expensive litigation by drawing maps that are acceptable to both political parties.

There are other solutions available. Iowa has a model that works very well, is non-partisan and has never had to involve the court since its inception in 1981.

Martha Black
N2843 County Rd E
Stockholm, WI 54769

My name is Martha Black and I am the Clerk of the Town of Stockholm in Pepin County. I oppose the proposed rule because it undermines the power of the people to elect their representatives in government by making the critical issue of redistricting less transparent and more politicized, the opposite of what is currently needed. As the municipal official in charge of elections in my Town, I feel strongly that every part of our democratic process needs to be open and transparent and serve the best interest of the citizens of our state, not any particular party. I think nonpartisan groups are a necessary part of our democratic process and the proposed rule unfairly excludes them and their input from the redistricting process. Voters' confidence in the election process and their ability to enact change through the ballot box is a bedrock principle of democracy, one that our great nation depends upon for law and order. Partisan redistricting undermines people's power and thus their confidence in the electoral process. Making the process more politicized and limiting the the fairness, inclusiveness and transparency of the process does not serve the best interests of all citizens of our State and will further

frustrate and disenfranchise voters who feel powerless because their votes are "wasted" through purposeful dilution by the parties to create "safe seats". No one is entitled to an elected position, and no one should have the power of their vote stolen by their Government.

Anne Wickman
68905 SAJDAK RD
ASHLAND, WI 54806-2672

I am opposed to the WI Supreme Court adopting a rule that would fast track and actually adopt a process of "behind the scenes" for handling redistricting cases. Decisions in the courts should be non-partisan and adoption of this rule could appear partisan, especially in the current political climate. I feel protective of the "checks and balances" and the public participation and input to creating a nonpartisan entity to perform redistricting in the state of Wisconsin in the future.

Andrea Wittwer
10370N Sawmill Road
Hayward, WI 54843

It seems pretty obvious that the members of this august Court should respond negatively to any effort to redraw voting district lines to effect voting blocks for any political party. I cannot imagine why it would be discussed.

Andrew Stevens
451 W Wilson St Apt 409
Madison, WI 53703

I am deeply concerned about the proposed rule change that would give the Wisconsin Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This action will only exacerbate perceptions that the court is simply a political, partisan body. I stand with the Wisconsin League of Women Voters in opposing the proposed rule change in the name of transparency, nonpartisan groups' ability to participate in the legal process, and the court's own perceived legitimacy.

Peter Nelson
2605 Baumgartner Drive
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54603

I am writing to oppose the petition filed this past June by Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”), requesting that the Wisconsin State Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process.

Barb Heintz
323 State St.
La Crosse, WI. 54601

I can't even believe this is seriously being considered.....in a democracy??????????

Barbara Chusid
2706 Sommers Ave
Madison, WI 53704

This would give the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Barbara Jenkin
S13104 Highbanks Rd
Spring Green, WI 53588

In June, 2020 the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty filed a petition asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to adopt a rule that would create a fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases. The rule would undermine Wisconsin's system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process.

The proposed rule would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or approve maps without hearing evidence or input from members of the public and non-political groups. This directly contradicts the preference of a majority of Wisconsin citizens to have a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process. This is evidenced by the fact that 54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 80 percent of Wisconsin's citizens.

The proposed rule change is an attempt to take Wisconsin citizens out of the process of creating the next decade's voting maps before it even gets started! Please do not approve this rule request.

Joseph Baldeshwiler
1443 W Maple St
River Falls, WI 54022

Everyone should have the right to support or oppose redistricting. Not allowing everyone to be included is the opposite of democracy.

Beth Bashara
1144 Beechwood Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and limit judicial transparency.

Timothy Frank
341 S Lexington, PO Box 816
Spring Green, WI 53588

If you, the Supreme Court, are committed to non-partisan fairness, you will reject this blatant attempt to aid gerrymandering. It is a naked, secretive, effort to help perpetuate the manipulation of redistricting maps. You have a moral duty to reject this attempt to thwart the will of the vast majority (Republican and Democrat) of the citizens of Wisconsin. Your duty should be clear to you.

Barbara Kuhn
626 Amherst Av
Oshkosh, WI 54901

I am vehemently opposed to having the Wisconsin Supreme Court take jurisdiction of future redistricting litigation. The Wisconsin Supreme Court has proven itself to be highly political and not fair minded. Redistricting is complex and time consuming and should be done by a nonpartisan body. It is fundamental to meeting the democratic standard of one person/one vote.

Redistricting absolutely must be transparent and fair to every Wisconsin citizen. When 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process it tells you that Wisconsinites desire fair non-political redistricting.

democracy. Legislative districts maps should not just be decided by political parties. The people of the state should have a say in how the maps are drawn and how their districts will be governed in the future. The process should be open, transparent and based on fair procedures.

I oppose this rule change.

Barbara Frank
341 S Lexington, Box 816, Box 816
Spring Green, WI 53588

I would like to object to Petition 20-03 Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70 (Redistricting Process). Across the state many people have been working to end gerrymandering and to make the process for drawing voting maps nonpartisan and transparent. The proposed rule change would not work towards that goal.

The rule change would let any political party request that the Supreme Court take over the redistricting process as soon as the census figures are released, even before the legislative and executive branches have dealt with redistricting (which, according to state and federal constitutions is their job). Moving right to the Supreme Court would remove the legislative and executive power in this process.

Fifty five counties in Wisconsin have passed resolutions supporting fair maps and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting fair maps. The referenda that have made it to the ballot have passed with wide margins. If this amendment passes it will disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their objections to unfair maps. It would also prohibit objections from any other groups except the political parties.

Transparency is very important. Moving right to the Supreme Court will politicize the process. This rule change will prevent additional information regarding the maps to be presented. The work in lower court cases allows a thorough investigation of proposed maps and allows more groups to weigh in on the fairness of the maps which lets all citizens know and understand the thinking of both parties. This will affect our voting rights and participation for the next ten years.

I urge you to defeat this proposed amendment.

Thank you for considering my objection.

Barbara Frank

Barbara Fulton

3414 88th St, , ,
Kenosha, WI 53142

Good Afternoon Justices, I am writing concerning Rule Petition 20-13 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I oppose such a rule being adopted as I believe the intention is to fast track through the court system redistricting challenges, which in turn would stymie opportunity for thoughtful citizen engagement. I believe changes to laws should bend toward transparency in the interest of good government and empowerment of the public, and this rule would do the opposite. By a margin of more than 3 to 1, Kenosha County voters said they favor the Wisconsin Legislature creating a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of all district maps at all levels of government: federal, state, county, and municipality, in the State of Wisconsin. Final tally: Yes, 57,202; No 21,239. This shows citizens are engaged in the question, and Rule Petition 20-13 would place roadblocks in efforts for an open, thoughtful process that the citizens demand. This process should include non partisan groups and not just the political parties. Please consider the question carefully through the lens of transparent government. Thank you for your time and consideration. Barbara Fulton Kenosha, WI

Barbara Hacker
3910 St. Clair St.
Madison, WI 53711

A non partisan for drawing voting district maps is the only fair and equal way to do it . The way now is harmful and politicize the court. It excludes nonpartisan groups from full participation and has insufficient transparency.

Barbie Jackson
6441 Dylun Drive
Madison, WI 53719

The case before the Wisconsin Supreme Court, which would require any lawsuit about future voting district maps to go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, bypassing lower courts, is wrong. The Court is wrong to hear the case and it should find against the plaintiff. Furthermore, this process is being rushed and I demand a 60 day continuance to allow for public comment.

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to ensuring good government. This procedural change would diminish transparency and would prevent voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.

The people of Wisconsin want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. 55 counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair. The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. The lower courts are the appropriate place where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps.

The petition seeks to authorize the Court to take jurisdiction prematurely based on mere speculation that, with a divided government, there “may” be a future impasse between the Legislature and Executive Branch. Having the Court take over the process at that premature point violates the state and federal constitutions because it would usurp the authority of the Legislature and Executive branch to address redistricting matters in the first

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Barbara Kehrein
5022 Camilla Rd
Madison, WI 53716

Please, please, please, judges ---- don't let your court become a political, partisan group. We in Wisconsin depend on your rulings to be fair and unbiased.

Barbara Marden
4515 Lake Anna Road, Florence, WI 54121
Florence, WI 54121

Not only should this rule not be adopted, but Wisconsin should be allowed to draw maps through a bi-partisan or non-partisan commission a method that other states have adopted. Politicians should not be able to pick their voters. Voters should pick their politicians.

Barbara Mottl

s49w36869 PineView Dr
Dousman, WI 53118

Re: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

Dear Justices,

I'm writing as a concerned WI citizen. Our state needs a process for the redrawing of legislative and congressional district maps to end the gerrymandering that is without question in this state. I feel the proposed rule would serve to quash that fair process.

This proposed rule would forward any legal challenge to redistricting right to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The challenge should proceed through the courts as is normal. Records at the lower court level provide transparency and allow the citizens of Wisconsin to examine the evidence in the case and the competing arguments.

This proposed rule would eliminate the nonprofit public interest organizations and concerned citizens from hearings on redistricting maps before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Redistricting is not only an issue that political parties are concerned about; many groups and citizens are also.

It seems that the rule that WILL is proposing gives the Court the opportunity to discard the procedures and requirements laid out in the rule itself. If a rule allows procedure to be ignored, how is that a rule?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Barbara Mottl

Barbara Seth
5213 Autumn Lane
McFarland, WI 53558

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and limit judicial transparency. The people want to know that our vote really counts; it is what our democracy is about. Please put a stop to political parties gerrymandering.

Barbara Stachowiak
923 S 4th Ave
Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

We need to have districts that are fair and not gerrymandered. The voters should pick the politicians not the politicians picking the voters

Aleta Barmore
7509 Kenyon Dr.
Middleton, WI 53562

Wisconsin used to be a state with little corruption. Don't take it down the dark road. Make redistricting open and transparent. The citizens of Wisconsin have voted. You are to be an impartial court. Stop gerrymandering!

Bernice Armould
622 North St
Madison, WI 53704

I am, now more than ever, concerned about partisan, political jockeying taking the place of civil service. I am particularly troubled by politicizing the Courts. Nonpartisan groups and individuals must have equal access to speak to the Court on behalf of stakeholders. This transparency is crucial in the current climate of mistrust, and maneuvering.

Shirley Barnes
2473 Mt. Hope Road
Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533

I urge you to rule against the Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty's petition to circumvent the voters in choosing legislative districts. It is impossible for me to understand how this could be under consideration when 54 of our 72 Wisconsin counties have already voted strongly for a fair maps approach to apportioning legislative districts.

David Giffey
6686 Amacher Hollow Road
Arena, Wisconsin 53503

To: Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court
Re: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

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John Bausch
443 East Cornelia st
Darlington, Wi 53530

Dear Supreme Court,
Please do not accept the rule change for Redistricting by the Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty. This will harmfully politicize the court.

Bridget Behling
21970 W Lochinvar Ln
New Berlin, WI 53146

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

And it lets criminal like politicians be voted in like Vos and Fitzgerald - both of whom have done nothing for the citizens of Wisconsin during the pandemic...have blocked any form of mandates to help bring down the numbers - and live off the taxpayers by not working but being paid.

This gerrymandering has ruined the state of Wisconsin and now we have to find a way to fix it.

Bob Hunt
W11437 Red Cedar Drive
Lodi, 734506 53555

The court should refuse to rule on this. Legislative re-districting should be determined by the legislature in conjunction with the governor and the people of Wisconsin.

Richard Barrickman
19496 74th Ave
Chippew Falls, WI 54729

I oppose the rule change that would have the Wisconsin Supreme Court adopt a rule that would create a fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases.

Bruce Beck
50 Cherokee Cir, Unit 104
MADISON, WI 53704

I ask the Supreme Court to please decline any petition to take original jurisdiction of redistricting litigation. According to the Wisconsin Bar website: "Importantly, the supreme court is not a fact-finding body. Therefore, it will not take cases that involve disputes of fact. Rather, all parties to the action must agree on the facts that the court will consider." I believe that fact-finding will be a key step in redistricting litigation. During the 2011 redistricting process, there were secrecy agreements. This history of hiding facts is powerful evidence that fact-finding will be important. Please allow redistricting litigation to progress through the levels of the Wisconsin court system in the normal manner.

Bonnie Schlinder-DeLap
1165 Tower Hill dr
Brookfield, WI 53045

Gerrymandering is against our democratic process in voting. Wisconsinites demand a fair process to districting that can withstand whatever party holds power. We need a transparent process to assure the voter chooses the candidate instead of the candidate or party choosing their voters. The Iowa model is

a standard that Wisconsin can aspire to when considering unbiased nonpartisan redistricting. It is time for justice in our state regarding fair and transparent voter districting.

Rebecca Gottlieb
775 North Court St
Platteville, WI 53818

I strongly oppose the proposed rule change, and instead support a transparent and non-partisan commission for redistricting. We should have a procedure similar to Iowa's. Limiting the review of the maps and excluding groups other than political parties will drag the State Supreme Court further into partisan politics. Unfair and gerrymandered maps have already had toxic effects on our state. This proposal would only make those effects worse.

Rebecca Haegele
602 3rd street suite 1
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016

I demand fair maps. Fair maps are the people's voice. When you rig the maps you steal the people's voice!

Richard Bechen
683 Ridge View Lane
Oregon, Wisconsin 53575

Dear Supreme Court Justices,

Regarding the Scott Jenson, Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty request for a rule change to send all litigation over redistricting directly to the Supreme Court.

This was a bad idea when it was previously proposed years ago and it's a bad idea now.

The Justices who voted against this terrible idea previously should vote against it now.

The court already looks too politically slanted and excluding lower court fact finding would not improve that perception.

Please

Mason Becker

1511 Stacy Ln
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

I never voted for WILL, and neither did anyone else in Wisconsin. This attempt to subvert another process in our democracy is discriminatory. Any rule change that allows for the disallowance of public input has no place in our state, and is contrary to the principles of our Constitution.

Rebecca Otte-Ford
1027 Chandler St
Madison, WI 53715

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. Wisconsin deserves fair maps set up by a non-partisan group.

Rebecca Kruse
18032 River Road
Argyle, WI 53504

I ask that you do not further limit the transparency in the redistricting process. There is no need to further fast track the process and make it more political and less egalitarian, fair and neutrally judicial. There are citizens interested and paying attention. To this issue.
Thank you for your attention and service

Becky Chase
162 Taylor St.
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

This new rule threatens to politicize the Court by inserting itself so early and thoroughly into a partisan conflict. The Court is NOT a political branch, and this new rule should NOT be adopted.

Robert Beets
1222 E Washington Ave Apt 110
Madison, WI 53703

November 22, 2020

Clerk of Supreme Court

Attention: Deputy Clerk-Rules
P.O. Box 1688, Madison
WI 53701-1688

RE: Rule petition 20-03 Amendment to Wis. Stat. § 809.70 (redistricting litigation)

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

It is our, the undersigned parties, contention that cases submitted to the courts related to the decennial drawing of legislative and congressional district maps for the State of Wisconsin should not advance to the Wisconsin Supreme Court without first being heard by the lower courts.

While it may ultimately be necessary for the Wisconsin Supreme Court to hear appeals to decisions made by lower state courts, the preemptive rule changes proposed in Amendment 20-03 will severely hinder the overall discovery process for these cases and ensure a lack of due process for the injured parties and the people of Wisconsin. Removing steps from the traditional litigative process will also result in undue burden on the Supreme Court, significant scrutiny of its decisions, and very likely lead to less-than-optimal legislative districts which negatively impact Wisconsin and its public institutions for 10 years and beyond.

Most significantly, the limitations on who may testify in such litigation severely and substantially limits people's rights. The interests of Wisconsinites are myriad and cannot adequately be represented solely through political party representatives. Many people do not affiliate with any political party, and many who do — either through voting, volunteering, or contributions— do not necessarily support in whole or even partially the actions of party leadership and their litigative agendas. Political parties do not always act in the best interest of their supporters or the populace as a whole. Thus, limiting testimony to only political parties leaves many Wisconsinites with absolutely no voice in this critical governing mechanism. This is unjust and will severely erode people's trust in political processes, the state's courts, and the rule of law.

It is also important to note that Executive Order #66 (PDF) — creating the People's Maps Commission and initiating a new recommended process — constitutes a significant change from how maps were drawn in previous redistricting cycles. This order and the subsequent changes to the process intend to increase transparency in how district maps are created, produce political boundaries which allow for fair competition for votes and political power, limit the potential negative impacts of pressure from parties and special interests, and ultimately produce a legislative body that adequately reflects and represents the will of the voters and the populace as a whole. Regardless to whether the recommendations from this body will be used in part or in full by the Wisconsin Legislature when it puts forth a redistricting map for approval, it is very likely that some aspects of this work, the decision making of the actors, or the maps produced will need to be reviewed and adjudicated by the courts. This elevated likelihood of litigation makes the need for a traditional track for cases paramount.

These likely negative outcomes significantly outweigh the possible benefits of the rule changes, and will serve to further reduce the overall power and legitimacy of the state's courts — especially the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Redistricting happens every ten years. It is more important to get this work right than to expedite the process for any possible benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed procedural changes concerning redistricting litigation. The above sentiments are submitted on behalf of Modern Populace — a coalition of people organizing to advance citizenship and improve representative democracy — and supported by the undersigned residents of the State of Wisconsin.

Kind regards,

Robert Beets
Founder, Modern Populace
Madison resident

SUPPORTED BY:

Andrew Bailey

Kim Ebinger
Mequon resident

Jeane Northey
Elkhorn resident

Susan C. Olson, MD
West Allis resident

Greg Smith
Health Care Executive (retired), Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare Inc
Brookfield resident

Susan Patschke
431 E. Apple Creek Rd.
Appleton, Wisconsin 54913

We voted for fair maps and we want it to happen so we have votes that reflect the voters' wishes fairly!!

Benjamin Dorshorst
1705 Marcy Ct
Marshfield, WI 54449

I oppose the proposed rule because it will unfairly exclude nonpartisan groups from seeking legal remedy. While this is an important issue, the proposed rule rushes the normal judicial process and overall lacks transparency.

Michele Benesh
W449 Spruce Dr
Brodhead, WI 53520

Nothing can be less democratic than the gerrymandering that has gone on for far too long! Wisconsin needs to adopt the "Iowa plan" to give redistricting to a nonpartisan group!!

Ben Wilson
116 Rock Ave
Viroqua, WI 54665

In order to guarantee a free and fair election in Wisconsin district maps must be drawn by non-partisan committee. Giving the jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation regarding of maps to the Supreme Court is a disaster and a threat to our very democracy.

Wisconsin is known far and wide for having some of the worst gerrymandered districts in our nation. Peoples voices are being taken away and it needs to change now. America's democracy is meant to be for and by the people and not for the people that draw the maps.

Ben Stewart
23 Park View Gln
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Our legislative districts should accurately reflect the voters. Period. What happened during Wisconsin's redistricting process in 2010 was horrible and corrupt and it locked in minority rule for a decade.

NEITHER SIDE should be able to redraw districts in such a way that legislators become totally unaccountable to the people. That's what we have now and frankly, it's disgusting.

Fair, nonpartisan redistricting rules must be established now.

Ben Stewart
Dodgeville, WI

Russell Bennett
201 Bram St.
Madison, WI 53713

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed changes in redistricting that would, to the best of my understanding, limit the involvement of regular citizens and which leaves the door open to unfair partisan politics. I am alarmed at the degree of political and ideological polarization in our state, and worry that gerrymandered districts only make the problem worse.

Respectfully,
Russ Bennett, RN
201 Bram St.
Madison, WI 53713

Jill Knight
405 Jenkynsville Rd
Benton, WI 53803

I am writing to express my concern associated with the petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty filed with the Supreme Court asking the Court to create a fast-tracked process that would not be transparent for handling redistricting cases.

I strongly believe that the creation of districts should be a non-partisan, fully transparent process. I have read good things about the Iowa model and believe the state of Wisconsin should adopt something similar.

Electoral maps should not be created behind closed doors. They should be maps for the people by the people and partisanship should not play a part in their development.

Thank you for your consideration of my opinion.

Judith Berard
10734 N Pinecrest DR
Hayward, Wisconsin 54843

I am against the petition that would allow the supreme court to take over jurisdiction of any redistricting litigation. I think it is time we get this country back to working together and being fair and transparent for all. This petition appears to do the opposite. Let us work to get away from one party rule and work towards unity and fairness.

Amelia Berendt
821 W Oklahoma Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53215

It is important that all voices are equally heard in the redistricting process. There is no reason to limit litigation. Very often the groups that are being excluded by this rule are the ones most vehemently opposing gerrymandered maps. As a public school advocate, it is currently difficult to hold elected officials accountable because often they feel so secure in their seat they do not listen to the public. I strongly oppose this proposed rule change.

Dale Bernhardt
125 Highpoint Circle
Platteville, WI 53818

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

I oppose this Rule that seems to be a way to not follow the laws set up for redistricting every 10 years. I want Fair Maps and most of the people in Wisconsin want them too.

Denise Sullivan
2885 Town Hall Rd
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

November 21, 2020

CONCERNING RULE PETITION 20-03 regarding legal challenges to redistricting.

I am writing about this legal challenge because I believe that it will limit facts and viewpoints that would otherwise be available to the Supreme Court, that it will prevent necessary reviews and rush the process of redistricting, and that it is clearly harmful to the public interest.

Many counties in Wisconsin have passed a referendum demanding a process for redistricting that would provide fair maps; specifically a process in which voters choose who will represent them, rather than a

process where those currently in office choose their voters. This petition is inherently unjust because it specifies that political parties be heard by the Supreme Court in disputes about new maps but does not give the same rights to unions, membership organizations or other groups who have challenged gerrymandering in the past. Their members could be prevented from having any ability to express their concerns. Redistricting is not solely disputed between political parties and the implications are broad and long lasting.

Asking the state Supreme Court to take jurisdiction of any future redistricting litigation means that the Court can disregard the requirements set forth in the existing rule. These rules were intended to be fair and nonpartisan, and to provide a legal process for all interested and affected parties to abide by. To ignore or to disregard them is a threat to democratic process and would set a dangerous precedent. It would also mean that the Court would not have all the salient facts and viewpoints that allow for a proper legal review. The existing rules should be abided by and should be applied fairly. The entire process should be transparent.

I believe that this proposed rule would predetermine the process for drawing congressional and legislative district maps and that the intent of the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) belies the name of their organization. They are clearly pursuing another gerrymander in Wisconsin and trying to leapfrog any legal challenges to redistricting. This should not be allowed.

Thank you for your consideration,
Denise M Sullivan

Roberta Mundschau
1809 Stardust Drive
Waukesha, WI 53186

Please do not permit redistricting to be only decided by the State Supreme Court. Let the process follow the original rules for evaluation. It's important that each citizen of Wisconsin knows that their vote matters no matter which district where they reside. Gerrymandering steals votes and is voter suppression.

state supreme court matter. It should follow the procedures originally set up so that fair maps can be made ensuring that voters in the future will know that their votes count no matter in which district they live in our state

Robert Preston
W7906 High Ridge Rd.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This action limits the review of maps and rushes the process. You are well aware that the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. The citizens of Wisconsin demand a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, and an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review that will NOT harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Elizabeth Gehred
703 7th Ave E
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

I am a lifelong resident of Wisconsin. I was born in New Berlin, Wisconsin in 1965, and have lived in nine different homes since that time, in 7 different counties, urban, suburban, and rural, southeast, central, southwest and northwest. I attended three different UW schools and graduated from UW-Whitewater. I'm a cheese-eating, beer-drinking, Packers-rootin' Wisconsinite.

I grew up proud Wisconsin-proud. I was proud of Aldo Leopold's work here. I was proud of Gaylord Nelson's Wisconsin, and Mayor Maier's Milwaukee. I was proud of our world-renown university system, our clean politics, and our care with our environment. I was a believer in the Wisconsin idea, in our many cooperative businesses, and our family farms. Mostly I believed in our clean governance. We seemed to get it right more than wrong, and valued above all being transparent, fair, and reasonable in working toward a state that functioned well.

These days, I feel that our Wisconsin ethic of clean and transparent, functional governance has been tarnished. It hurts to realize that partisan politics has taken root as firmly here as everywhere else in the country. It hurts to be the children of divorcing parents, who are putting their own interests ahead of the citizens they are meant to be protecting and serving. I feel the underlying problem can be traced in part, to gerrymandered maps that lead to politicians that choose their voters instead of voters choosing their politicians. These safe seats have led to elections that cannot reflect the will of the majority.

I reject the ideas put forward by the Wisconsin Institute of Law & Liberty, requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. I do not think it serves the people well to shorten the process in this way.. I reject the idea that only political parties should be guaranteed the right to make a case of unfairness in front of the courts. I believe having lower courts involved in a review allows for more citizen input, more transparency, and ultimately, hopefully, a process that is not favorable to a party's strategies, but to the voters in the State of Wisconsin.

I believe process is important. Please do not decide that the people are well-served when expediency is valued over citizen-engagement. The exact opposite is best practice when it comes to long-term, sustaining, and just political decision-making.

Elizabeth Moltzan
61 Columbia Ave
Waukesha, WI 53186

Redistricting is a government function, which should be open and transparent. The process for redistricting should be published for the public to review. All interested parties should have an opportunity to be heard. Decisions should be documented in writing, including the reasoning for the decision. Any judicial review should begin at the circuit court level for evidence to be presented, heard and weighed.

Elizabeth Conradson Cleary
2540 Scheibe Dr.

Brookfield, WI 53005

This proposed rule change will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation and offer insufficient transparency measures.

Beth Giacobassi
3827 N Prospect Ave
Shorewood, WI 53211

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”), filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process. This guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn’t give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court’s process. Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Beth Harwood
N76W13657 Upper Circle
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051

De politicize mapping in Wisconsin.

Beth Yeko
N80W18685 Custer Lane
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

I am not in favor of the rule changes by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty for the following reasons:

1. Redistricting is a very complicated and challenging responsibility of government, and it is basic to the all important principle of one person, one vote. There is no acceptable reason for it to be rushed through in a routine manner. Public trust in the integrity of our government relies on an open and clear process in order to remain true to America's democratic principles

2. In 2009, after several years of comprehensive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change similar to the one being proposed currently..

3. Adopting this rule increases a liability of increased politicization of the Court, with corresponding decrease in the citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an historic peak in Wisconsin. This is no time to bar public testimony, especially when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums that are in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting procedure. The referendums referenced have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsin's citizens were given the opportunity to vote on the issue, most with over 70% support.

beverly holmes
25 n broad st apt 2
bayfield, WI 54814

We do not have a democracy without fair maps.

Beverly Bradford
112 W Wabash Ave
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, and will exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation. For a democracy to work, we need transparency in decision making, input from citizenry, bipartisan action. Wisconsin needs the bipartisan redistricting commission to be allowed to do its work. Wisconsin needs Fair Maps.

Barbara Fleishman
3149 Stratton Way, #106
Madison, WI 53719

I support nonpartisan redistricting.

Brenda Gasch Mittelstadt
4126 Esch Road
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Dear Supreme Court

I hope it's obvious that Transparency and trust in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to assuring good government. If we cannot trust that the politicians leading us were voted in by the will of the people overall, but rather are installed by specific voters in zones determined by the political parties, then confidence in our democratic process will continue to erode. This procedural change diminishes transparency. Please don't let our system be damaged.

Lakshmi Bhaduri
10420 N. Gazebo Hill Pkwy E
Mequon, Wisconsin 53092

Wisconsin unfortunately is one of the worst Gerrymandered states in the country where clearly instead of voters choosing their legislatures, the legislatures are choosing their voters. We were hoping that this would be rectified in 2020 and we can expect that fair maps would be drawn. Unfortunately, I am extremely concerned about the process that is going to be followed. As I understand any lawsuit about future maps would go directly to the State Supreme Court. Adopting this rule risks increasing the politicization of the Court as the State Supreme Court Justices are elected and campaign for their terms, often with the financial (and other) assistance of political parties.

Transparency in the redistricting process is key to public trust. The proposed rule does not provide adequate information to, or input from, the public. The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting process failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could be heard. The process WILL has proposed would not solve this, and in fact would allow the Court to sidestep consideration of any arguments by groups other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or public input.

I strongly urge the WI State Supreme Court to not adopt the rule proposed by WILL.

Thank you!

Lakshmi

Becky Hay de Garcia
5115 Raymond Rd.
Fitchburg, WI 53711

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. The purpose of this legislation is transparent. It is to limit the sources that the court will hear to the political parties, meaning that non-

partisan groups that represent the PEOPLE will no longer be heard. Such a rule will only serve to increase division among people of differing political parties. It will give advantage to whichever party happens to be in power at the time of the re-districting. We have seen over the past 12 years how little is able to be accomplished FOR THE PEOPLE at the federal level when the political parties are so divided that they refuse to work together. Our political parties have forgotten that their job is to represent the needs and wishes of the people, not those of the political party. District gerrymandering has only made the situation worse. Families are being torn apart, friendships are ended, and hatred has increased among people of different races, religions, sexual orientation, etc. We have to stop the direction in which our country is headed. PLEASE do NOT allow that the State Supreme Court take jurisdiction over any future redistricting litigation. Not only will it hurt the process of democracy, but it will put the Court, which is supposed to be non-partisan, into a partisan role in the eyes of the citizens, destroying faith in the justice system.

Brendan Heberlein
29 E. Wilson St. Apt 503
Madison, WI 53703

Democracy is fundamentally about making the will of the people heard. Drawing of legislative districts has a profound effect on the ability of WI voters to determine the political agenda of our state, and therefore it is absolutely essential that districts be drawn in a manner that fairly represents all voters — whether Republican, Democrat, third-party or unaffiliated — in an unbiased and nonpartisan way. It is well-established that unfair districting can dilute the power of certain voting blocks, and may be used as a form of targeted voter suppression. Because of its profound effect on the power of citizens to engage in the democratic process, it is imperative that the people of Wisconsin be heard during the redistricting process.

For this reason, any court which rules on the redistricting process must be required, without exception, to hear the concerns, complaints and appeals of all parties — including nonpartisan groups and citizens — at all stages of the process. Additionally, the process must be fully transparent and those involved must make every effort to ensure transparency by making all procedures and documents publicly available with sufficient time for review, comment and objection by all in-state parties and residents with a vested interest in the future of this state. Rules surrounding redistricting must protect the voices of all Wisconsinites and we cannot allow courts to decide whether they want to follow such rules or not.

The requested rule changes advocated by Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (submitted June 2, 2020) would endanger this process by failing to give adequate protections to nonpartisan voices. Additionally, by vesting control of the process with the State Supreme Court, this rule change would dangerously politicize the redistricting process. Litigation surrounding the redistricting process should rest first and foremost with the Circuit Courts which are more readily held accountable to their constituents due to shorter term limits and the greater power of individual votes in electing judges to those bodies.

Brian Ewert
1924 Wildflower Drive
Marshfield, WI 54449

Dear Justices of Wisconsin's Supreme Court:

I urge you to reject the petition filed by Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty requesting that the state Supreme Court should claim jurisdiction on any future redistricting legislation. As partisan entities the Governor's office and the Legislature are expected to be unable to reach a mutually agreeable solution to redistricting. However, the people of Wisconsin fortunately have a non-partisan judicial branch to our government. I would exhort you to rise above the partisan rancor that weakens our state and NOT preemptively restrain the judicial process that is most like to be required to accomplish this necessary task of governing.

Kathleen Ratteree
4845 Hidden Acres Lane
Denmark, WI 54208

This rule will further politicise the Wisconsin state Supreme Court and exclude nonpartisan groups from pushing back against the shameful gerrymandering that our state had had in place for too long. Let's show the rest of the country that Wisconsin operates on a fair set of rules and a fair process to conduct appropriate legal review.

William Napiecinski
2000 Kellner St Apt 301
Manitowoc, WI 54220-1561

I believe the Wisconsin Supreme Court should reject the petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty requesting the Wisconsin Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. I don't believe the lower courts should be excluded. A lower court ruling that is appealed will show the public more sides of the issue and the reasoning used to reach the decisions. The petition only guarantees the right of political parties to be involved. Non-partisan groups and individuals may well have an interest in redistricting and should have a required right to be heard in my opinion.

Patti Herman
116 Merton Avenue

Lodi, WI 53555

My name is Patti Herman and I am commenting on the rule change being proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) specific to legal challenges to redistricting. As a citizen of Wisconsin I am opposed to this proposed rule change for a number of reasons.

Bill Widmer
3533 Bay Settlement Rd
GREEN BAY, WI 54311

I object to the proposed rule, because it does not allow for citizen participation that a normal court proceeding would provide.

Adelaide Krahn
915 S. Wisconsin St.
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to assuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency.

Thank you.

Faye Binsfeld
113 VandeHey Lane
Kaukauna, WI 54130

This proposed change to the rules of constructing voting districts concerns me. As a native Iowan, I have always been proud that my home state has developed a system of setting boundaries that is based on population, not on political goals. This is what I want for my state. The proposed rule change does not create logically-based guidelines, and worst, it cuts the public out of the deliberations. By starting at the Supreme Court, only political parties will be represented, when it is the people who should be heard in any changes. Decision-making which starts at the top, the final step, is the opposite of transparent. Please reject this proposed change. If voters lose confidence in the voting process, democracy is at risk. I urge you to allow people, not just political parties, to work to craft the best, most honest and open rules for voting boundaries that we can achieve. Thank you!

Tanja Birke
651 East Court Street
Viroqua, WI 54665

this rule will haYour Honors, I am writing to you with a comment regarding the petition filed by WILL to change the process in which legislative maps are reviewed. A federal court has already ruled that the Wisconsin maps are among the most gerrymandered in history. This petition makes a mockery of democracy and transparent government. In addition, it will increase the public perception of the partisan nature of the courts, which I am sure all of you work hard to dispel. However, this will be difficult due to the fact that the petition seeks to exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation. As a citizen, I am offended at the continued attempts by any party, or their lobbying organizations, to dismantle our democracy. Wisconsin citizens are overwhelmingly in favor of Fair Maps and this petition is asking you to directly violate the public trust.

Steven Bjella
1908 Lynda Lane
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Transparency is the key word for this process. It should not be based on which political party is in the majority, how quickly it can be turned out, but rather worked out carefully with thoughtful dialogue, fairness, and complete transparency. Wisconsinites deserve to be taken seriously and to know that their vote counts.

Respectfully,

Steve Bjella

Billie Galle
3923 Jackson St
Mineral Point, Wisconsin 53565

Our maps should be drawn ethically, fairly and without political influence. These maps influence our voting abilities and should be done without political influence.

Barb Oswald
4927 Stone Rd
Whitelaw, WI 54247

I am very much against the petition before the Wis Supreme Court by the partisan group W.I.L.L. requesting the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. I think it is just another way to use the court to get the political outcome one party would like.

Barbara Vander Werff
5205 Marsh Road
McFarland, WI 53558

The rule excludes nonpartisan groups which is the right to be heard and has not been represented by past practice, it politicizes the court and the issue needs to be followed and transparent for all!

Vicki Spleas
2636 S 10th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53215

I am very angry. What had happened to fairness and AMERICA. No matter what you republican garbage do to hog the vote. The good will always win over the bad.

Blair Rathjen
2090 E PRAIRIE CREEK DR
NEENAH, WI 549565623

It is important for this to be a fair process. In WI we do not have good representation by our districts. This is not a democratic vs republican problem but one for democracy. We need the representation of the people.

Brian Lavendel
2302 CENTER AVE APT 2
MADISON, Wisconsin 53704

I am concerned that this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Louis Benedetto
N1533 Oak Shores Lane
Fontana, WI 53125

WI

i am not in favor of the "WILL" petition. It gives too much power to the state Supreme Court. To me the petition seems to enhance the likelihood of railroading. I would like my vote to have a fair chance of representing me.

Willi Lehner
3480 Cty Road F
Blue Mounds, WI 53517

Rule Petition 20-03

Willi Lehner
3480 Cty Road F
Blue Mounds, WI 53517

Rule Petition 20-03 As a resident of Wisconsin, I am absolutely NOT in favor of adopting this petition. We need absolute clarity on the subject!! DO THE RIGHT THING.

Brittany Johns
2200 E Ohio Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53207

This is a democratic society, founded to provide its citizens with a voice and a vote. Redistricting can either enhance that voice, or suppress it. In order to protect the foundations of our democracy, redistricting needs to be a transparent process, completed by a nonpartisan coalition, and open to public scrutiny. I am vehemently opposed to the proposed rule change, which aims to subvert fair redistricting.

sue schuetz
2730 birchwood pass
cross plains, Wisconsin 53528

why do repubs have to cheat to win? why can't we have FAIR maps? why is there another "rule" proposed by the repubs to disrupt a fair process? wisconsin needs and wants fair maps and want the republicans to stop cheating and gaming the system. why is this so hard for them? how do they sleep at night? wisconsin citizens wants fair maps, not gerrymandered cheating. politicizing the court is wrong.

we want fairness and transparency. wisconsin used to have a reputation for fair government, until the repubs took over. stop the cheating and the gerrymandering. we want fair maps.

Brandon Laufenberg
7805 Brule St.
Madison, WI 53717

Non-partisan redistricting may be the only way to save our democracy.

Brian Looker
208 East Circle Street
Appleton, WI 54911

Drawing congressional districts unfairly allows a party in power at the time to create districts that support their party. Judicial review should be done by a body committed to nonpartisan decision-making. With Wisconsin's supreme court being an elected body whose members run in political campaigns, it is unrealistic to expect such a commitment. The US House of Representatives is the "people's house" of the federal legislature. It is inappropriate for maps to be drawn in such a way that favors one political party, limiting the power of the people to elect their representatives. Placing review power over maps into a political body will not protect the people's power, but place it in the hands of the dominant party.

Rebecca Graham
206 E Pleasant St
South Wayne, WI 64687

To the Honorable Members of the Wisconsin State Supreme Court:

I am NOT in favor of the The WILL petition. I believe our maps should be drawn based on the older maps which has uniform boundaries and is based on the census records of the people living within those boundaries. We should not let gerrymandering in Wisconsin continue. It is not fair to those persons who live in various communities. My own county was "gerrymandered" a few years ago and it changed things in my area.

Please do not allow this to continue and do not allow these groups to continue to gerrymander our great state.

Every voice should be heard. Not just certain groups.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Graham

Barb Mcnallie
404 Edward
Verona, WI 53593

Please stop the gerrymandering. You know it is not right. So please let a non-partisan committee decide on re-drawing the lines to be fair.

Elizabeth Menacher
1633 N. Prospect Ave, 22A
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

This proposed rule change negatively politicizes the Supreme Court and makes it much less transparent. Gerrymandered districts in Wisconsin continue to misrepresent the voters of this state. Thank you for your attention.

Barb and Gary Failing
212 Pleasant Ave.
Tomahawk, WI 54487

To the Wis Supreme Court

Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty's petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation, should be totally rejected.

First it wants only political parties to address the court, not allowing non partisan groups or individual citizens to provide their input during the drawing of the new maps. This leaves a large population of the state with no voice in drawing a "fair map".

And it obvious this organization wants to politicize the courts, trying to short circuit the redrawing of maps, and clearing wants to silence the citizens of Wisconsin. Again I ask the court to reject their petition.

Thank you for your time,
Barb & Gary Failing
Tomahawk, WI 54487

Roberta Bernet
W4100 GREENBUSH RD
MONROE, WI 53566

Please do NOT limit the review of maps and rush the process of future redistricting. The rule requested by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. Gerrymandering is NOT in the best interest of the people of Wisconsin.

Barbara White
4909 Groton Lane
Madison, WI 53711

Please stop this obvious political redistricting process the Republican legislature is proposing; the common good of Wisconsin residents is in jeopardy if this salacious attempt at political maneuvering is permitted

Robert Hanson
809 3rd St
Hudson, WI 54016-1636

The proposed rule change is simply a bad idea. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Rachel B Trobaugh
3027 Meyer Ct. #4
Mt Pleasant, WI 53406

Back in 2011, the Republicans in the State Legislature put in place the most aggressive maps to redistrict Wisconsin in their favor. It was fought in the courts all the way to the US Supreme Court and was left undecided.

Now WILL and Scott Jensen are proposing a rule to limit any challenges to redistricting the maps in 2021. The rule will limit public comment and input from non-partisan groups and organizations. We supposedly have a democracy, but it is not working in Wisconsin. This proposed rule is a joke, because it gives the court the option to disregard the process and the requirements stated in the rule. No wonder that citizens are soured on our government and the justice system. I oppose this rule as un-democratic.

Rachel B Trobaugh

Robert Trondson
805 Gannon Ave.
Madison, Wis 53714

To the State Supreme Court; as a father of 2 young daughters, we discuss the possibilities that life can bring. Both those future endeavors always are based on fairness - that we all have a fair chance, through hard work and dedication, to make it life. And this fairness needs to be seen in our state government. Hiding or obscuring lawsuits when it comes to redistricting in Wisconsin isn't fair and it isn't right, no matter what your political point of view is. Please vote 'no' on the proposal to limit lawsuits about gerrymandering. Thank you.

Marilyn Boe,dt
1040 North Cass #401
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Redistricting must be an unbiased, transparent and objective process conducted in a way that respects the value of every Wisconsin citizen

Ben Boese
870 Wyldwood Ln
Hudson, WI 54016

Please consider the vote of every Wisconsin resident. They shouldn't be punished because Republicans and Democrats can't get along.

john callan
522 Robert Street
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

To the Justices of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin:
Re. Rules Petition 20

The Petition from Scott Jensen and Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty states that after the 2000 census the Court determined “that redistricting was primarily a state and not a federal re-sponsibility”. Such a determination was confirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Rucho vs. Common Cause*, a decision that renders irrelevant the Petitioners’ grounds for concern about “deferring a primarily state matter to the federal courts.” Consequently, the Petitioners’ request that the Court “adopt a rule rule to amend Wisconsin Statute § 809.70 by adding subsections (4) and (5)” is unwarranted and should be denied.

John H Callan
522 Robert Street
Fort Atkinson

Barbara Boles
2951 N LAKE DR
MILWAUKEE, WI 53211

Dear Justices,

I was living in California during two redistrictings. The first done by the legislature, the second by an independent redistricting commission which was charged to take communities of interest into consideration. From my experience, it is important that all stakeholders in the redistricting process be heard. After the first redistricting in 2001, my state assembly district spanned 5 counties and cities were split into pieces. The same was true of the congressional district. After the redistricting of 2011, the districts to largest extent possible kept cities, towns and counties whole. This certainly makes a citizen feel that they are better represented and that their legislator does not have to represent competing interests. Thus it is important to hear from all vested interests not just the political parties.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boles

Barbara O'Neill
W7445 Cedar Street
Park Falls, Wisconsin 54552

The proposed rule is too limiting to the process of redistricting. It politicizes the method and does not allow input from enough different citizen sources.

Bonita Sitter
8304 Roelke Road
Blue Mounds, WI 53517

I am opposed to rule changes on cases challenging the current obstructive gerrymandering. The current map has caused unnecessary rancor and misrepresentation of the government We want in Wisconsin. I worked many hours with a group in Iowa County to research Fair Maps resolutions and referendums, just as other citizen groups have done all across the state. We then presented to our county board and they have approved both the Resolution and referendum which was embraced by 3/4 of the voters. So many counties throughout Wisconsin have done the same. Republicans, Democrats and Independents deserve Fair Maps.

The move to change the ruling to put cases straight to WI Supreme Court, cuts us off ordinary citizens who aren't in the core of either party, gives Independents no voice at all.

Stop with the ugly partisan power plays and let voters have FAIR MAPS, FAIR ELECTIONS.

Bonnie Finkler
20800 GEORGE HUNT CIR #124
WAUKESHA, Wisconsin 53186

The proposed rule only considers partisan interests. Historically, civic groups and individual Wisconsin citizens have been involved in litigation and asserting their rights to contest redistricting that impacts them directly.

Bonnie Myhre
4857 Mounds Pk Rd
Blue Mounds, WI 52517

The proposed rule is unconstitutional. The legislative and executive branches are to deal with redistricting first.

The majority of Wisconsin citizens want a non-partisan process for drawing voting district maps. 55 counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and non-partisan procedure for drawing maps.

The work of the lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated.

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to ensuring fair elections.

There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change. This process is being rushed and I demand a 60 day continuance

Nancy Bralick
2830 MADISON ST UNIT A
WAUKESHA, WI 53188-4528

I'm tired of legislators who refuse to be fully transparent about why this proposal is even necessary. The rule change would make the procedure for drawing voting district maps even more partisan and political. It would require any lawsuit about future maps to go directly to the state Supreme Court. It would bypass lower courts and require only political parties be heard in any dispute but NOT voters, nonpartisan groups, unions etc. We the people have worked hard to let legislators know that we want & demand a more fair and non partisan process for drawing these maps. Clearly the rush on public input and the complexity of this issue for most citizens are reasons for me to question the political motives behind this proposal.

Steven Books
625 Spruce St.
MADISON, WI 53715

Let's have truly fair elections. To gerrymander districts is un-American and treasonous. It that who we really are in Wisconsin?

We are all Americans. To exclude nonpartisan groups for participating in creating fair election districts is discrimination.

Fair elections, and the fair election process is part of constitutional Domestic Tranquillity.

Sincerely,

Steve Books
Madison, WI

Nancy Bourassa
203 Parkside Ct, , true
Kimberly, Wisconsin 54136-1316

No single party should be able to set up an election map favoring their party. This takes away the very purpose of voting. Please do not let these new maps govern the vote in Wisconsin for the next 10 or 11 years.

Steve Bower
N 8016 County Road G
Lake Mills, WI 53551

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

RE: Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty petition

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

My name is Steve Bower and I am deeply concerned about the rule changes proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) regarding the review of district maps.

The proposed rule change WILL is asking the Wisconsin Supreme to hear, short circuits the review of the maps, rushes the process, is harmful to the public interest, and does not provide for a fair set of rules for everyone.

This process must not be rushed. All parties, experts and the public alike, must be given the ability to comment on the procedures for redistricting.

An adequate judicial solution has not and cannot be administered by the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Furthermore, by taking up this matter, the Court risks increasing the politicization of the Court. The Court must refuse to hear arguments which will certainly be a partisan conflict.

By taking up the WILL proposal the Court will install partisan maps which will have a decade long deleterious effect on democracy in Wisconsin.

As has been the practice in the past, federal courts or state trial courts have adjudicated the redistricting maps when conflict arises. The process is fair, nonpartisan and the electorate is served.

Fair and freely drawn district maps must be done so that citizens are guaranteed the right to choose their representatives not the other way around. Please allow the map redrawing to proceed which has a historic precedent.

It is not appropriate for the Supreme Court to rule on this matter.

Sincerely,
Steve Bower

N 8016 County Road G
Lake Mills, WI 53551

Beverly Pestel
20742 Buckta Hill Rd.
Richland Center, WI 53581

Please maintain the transparency of the redistricting process and allow everyone to have a voice.

Barry Patton
1904 Underwood Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

This is just totally insufficient in regards to transparency and this court is too politicized as it is.

Bradley Schneider
102 Holiday Ct.
VERONA, WI 53593

Friday, November 20, 2020

To Members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court –

I am writing to you to express my opposition to the WI Institute of Law and Liberty's sponsored rule specific to legal challenges to redistricting. Among the points that I object to are:

- The rule would allow most law suits to bypass lower courts and go directly to the Supreme Court. This sidesteps normal legal processes. As you know, FINDING FACTS normally occurs in a "lower" court by developing a record, including evidence and testimony. Only then should a case proceed to an "upper" court like the WI Supreme Court for REVIEWING the LEGAL CONCLUSIONS rather than FINDING FACT.

- The proposed rule also sets out how the court should handle redistricting lawsuits. For example, political parties can be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations are not included. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering could be excluded from the Court’s process.
- Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself—making any procedures optional. Why have any rules at all?

This proposed rule does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will insure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

I consider the Wisconsin gerrymandered district maps the biggest threat to democracy in our state. One only needs to look back at the 2016, 2018 and 2020 elections to see how the % of statewide votes for Democratic Representatives and Senators resulted in a much lower % of seats in the Assembly and Senate:

2020 Assembly Election	2018 Assembly Election	2016 Assembly Election
Popular Vote 45.5%	Popular Vote 53%	Popular Vote 45.5%
Seats won 38.4%	Seats won 36.4%	Seats won 35.4%
2020 Senate Election	2018 Senate Election	2016 Senate Election
Popular Vote 46.5%	Popular Vote 46.9%	Popular Vote 50.3%
Seats won 36.4%	Seats won 42.4%	Seats won 39.4%

According to Anthony Chergosky, UW-La Crosse assistant professor of political science. “You look at the maps, you look at the statistics, you look at the voting patterns, you look at the discrepancy between the popular vote and the number of seats won, and it’s plain as day that this is not just a gerrymandered map, but a very effective one.”

As a State Level Officer for the WI Music Educators Association, I regularly have communication with legislators on both sides of the aisle. I find the vast majority of them to be very concerned about the welfare of their constituents in their districts. Letting these good people be elected fairly will help keep every legislator more responsible and accountable to the people in their district. Our Democracy is strengthened. The rule changes proposed by WILL are designed to streamline and consolidate power in fewer hands and to insulate the legislative leadership from accountability and Democracy will be weakened.

Additionally, the WILL backed rule change will erode public confidence in the WI Supreme Court:

- Adopting this rule risks increasing the politicization of the Court and decreasing public trust in the Court as a legitimate institution. Inserting itself so early into what is essentially a political challenge, will

only cast the court as a political body. Essentially the WI Supreme Court will become the third legislative branch.

- The proposed rule only considers partisan interests. Adopting this rule may cause non-partisan groups and voters impacted by the new districts to be excluded. This is at odds with the history of challenges to redistricting in WI, where civic groups and individual Wisconsin citizens have been involved in litigation and asserted the rights of their members.

Our country is suffering from deep divisions and political turmoil. Transparency in the rules governing redistricting is crucial at this time in our history. Please do not rush the process by adopting WILL's ultra partisan rule proposal.

Brad Schneider
102 Holiday Ct.
Verona, WI 53593

608.516.7364
brad.schneider102@gmail.com

James Bradley
2665 S. Riverside Dr.
Mikana, WI 54868

I write to say that I am strongly against the rule change proposed by WILL in its petition to the State Supreme Court. The rule change would exclude non-partisan parties from discussion, undermine Court transparency, and dangerously politicize the Court.

Bill Radtke
N1586 GREENWOOD RD
GREENVILLE, WI 549429019

Redistricting needs to be an open and transparent process that ensures the vote of every person is counted fairly no matter where they reside. Any redistricting should be reviewed by a fair and impartial federal court not by the polarized WI supreme court which is far from objective. When 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of non-partisan redistricting processes, the voices of the people need to be heard. With today's technology fair maps with reasonable borders can be effectively achieved.

Bee Ramin
1035 Apple River Court
Amery, wi 54001

In considering the rule change, it is clear to me that this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Danette Braun
2445 N 81 St
Wauwatosa, WI 53212

I am deeply concerned about WILL's petition to have the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on redistricting litigation. The proposed rule will increase politicization of the redistricting process by eliminating the voice of nonpartisan groups in the process. In a state so deeply divided, we need to find ways to increase cooperation not foster further polarization. The extreme partisan gerrymandering must stop.

Hans Breitenmoser
w6945 Joe Snow Rd
Merrill, WI 54452

To Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court

We the undersigned County Board Supervisors write to comment regarding the Petition for Proposed Rule to Amend Sec. 809.70 Stats. (Rule Petition 20-03).

1. This proposed new rule would only apply to the Redistricting issue. In other words, it short circuits the standard judicial processes, and thereby deprives citizens of the opportunity to use the full judicial process to call witnesses, present evidence, and build a record for the state Supreme Court to consider. It does this by saying the redistricting litigation will be filed directly in the state Supreme Court, skipping over the local courts and the court of appeals.

2. This proposed new rule gives participation rights to the 2 major state political parties: the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. Why should that be? What about other political parties? Independents? Local and statewide organizations and unions both public and private? Why should those legitimate groups of citizens be precluded from having their voices heard in this judicial process of reviewing

redistricting proposals? On what basis are the two major political parties given special rights beyond any other persons or entities?

3. This is a flagrant attempt to foreclose public participation in a fundamental aspect of our democracy.

4. Foreclosing public participation in something as central as the creation of voting districts is a form of voter suppression.

5. This proposed rule creates such a narrow pathway to court review that it denies due process and access to justice to everyone except the two major political parties.

6. This proposed rule undermines the integrity of our participatory system of good government.

7. A rule such as proposed Rule 20-03 would dramatically damage our citizen's perception of government accountability and public integrity.

8. Specifically including the rights of two major political parties to participate in the review process set up by this proposed rule, while denying that same right of process to all other parties is flawed under the Constitution's guarantee of Equal Protection and Due Process. Though the interests of the Republican Party and the Democratic Party may be real, so may be the interests of many other parties, political and otherwise. To single out those two for special protection under a Supreme Court rule is to deny both equal protection and due process rights to all others.

Kriss Marion, Lafayette County Supervisor District 8

Bryce Luchterhand, Clark County Supervisor District 10

Tom Quinn, Dunn County Supervisor District 9

Amanda Chu, Brown County Supervisor District 3

Jake Hahn, Wood County Supervisor District 8

Hans Breitenmoser, Lincoln County Supervisor District 11

Paul Gilk, Lincoln County Board Supervisor District 12

Patricia Voermans, Lincoln County Supervisor District 18

Julie Allen, Lincoln County Supervisor District 19

Kevin Koth, Lincoln County Supervisor District 17

Hans Breitenmoser on behalf of the Citizen Action North Central Organizing Co-op
W6982 Joe Snow Road
Merrill, WI 54452

To the Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court
In re Petition for Proposed Rule to Amend Sec. 809.70 Stats. (R89u89l89e89
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Brenda Gilbertson
605 1st Ave
Hollandale, WI 53544

I oppose the proposed rule change. I favor a non-partisan redistricting solution. The way it is right does not make any sense. Please think in best interest of the people and local communities working together.

Brenda Droskiewicz
2583 Dockside Drive
Friendship, WI 53934

Please do not allow this to happen. It is unfair and would undo all the good that has been done with regard to Fair Maps and eliminating gerrymandering. Don't degrade the Supreme Court.

Lynn Breunig
163 Water Street
Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin 53578

The current Wisconsin district maps do not fairly represent the wishes of Wisconsin voters and are drawn in such a way as to keep the current GOP legislators who Dre up the maps in office. Because of this GOP power grab, the election results do not represent the will of Wisconsin voters. The proposed rule change will also serve to disenfranchise the citizens of Wisconsin.

Brian Frank
1676 Horns Corners Rd
Cedarburg, WI 53012

This process shouldn't be rushed. Previously the Court spent years engaging experts and the public to examine potential procedures for redistricting review, ultimately determining there was not an adequate judicial solution in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This time, the proposed rulemaking process has spanned only a few months, with no independent review by a committee of experts. In fact, the Court has considered, and rejected, adopting a rule on this topic, and the rule proposal before the Court now offers no reason for the Court to reverse its previous conclusion.

Bridget Brown
1619 Madison Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

I am writing in support of more transparent, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting in Wisconsin, which the majority of the state's citizens
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Brittany Muriello
15460 Santa Maria Dr
Brookfield, WI 53005

This proposed rule change will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation and offer insufficient transparency measures.

Barbara Rasmus
15592 93rd Ave
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude non partisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. Gerrymandering should be done away with.

Brody Manquen
110 S Hancock St
Madison, WI 53703

Unfair maps subvert democracy. Gerrymandered districts purposefully limit the representation of certain groups of people, meaning a majority in vote percentage may become a minority in representation. This leads to a lack of representation for the will of the people, a concept as un-American as taxation without representation. We must protect transparency in our districting measures which requires non-partisan groups being involved in the process of map certification. I strongly oppose this measure as it limits these groups and this ideal of transparency.

Bobbi Rongstad
14363 N Heffner Rd
Saxon, Wisconsin 54559

The court has already become politicized far too much. The citizens of Wisconsin should be choosing their elected officials, not officials choosing their constituents. It should NOT be the court's role to be involved in redistricting.

Jennifer Bronsdon

2521 County Road F
Barneveld, WI 53507

The whole thing just makes me sad—that something as basic to democracy as voting has become subverted. We need less partisanship in Wisconsin, not more. We need more transparency in Wisconsin, not less.

BRUCE THOMPSON
2837 N Marietta Ave
MILWAUKEE, WI 53211

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) proposal to the Wisconsin Supreme Court advocating that the court adopt a rule specific to legal challenges to redistricting. This strikes me as a very bad idea.

Fair redistricting is a very important topic, having implications on whether the United States and Wisconsin can continue to call itself a democracy. In fact, Freedom House, established to rate nations according to how well they follow the precepts of democracy, in recent years has downgraded its freedom rating for the United States. In its most recent annual report, Freedom House notes that in most cases the redistricting system “is overseen by elected officials, and observers have expressed alarm at the growing strategic and technical sophistication of partisan efforts to control redistricting processes and redraw maps.”

WILL, while claiming to be nonpartisan, is widely considered—and justifiably so—an organization that carries water for Republican interests. Its proposal appears to be aimed at heading off the governor’s proposal for a truly nonpartisan body that would redistrict Wisconsin following the 2020 census.

Instead, WILL’s likely aim is to allow continued gerrymander to favor Republican candidates.

When I moved to Wisconsin over forty years ago, the Wisconsin Supreme Court was widely regarded as truly nonpartisan. Since then, it has become far more partisan. The recent defeat of sitting Justice Kelly can be reasonably interpreted as voter unhappiness with the court’s direction.

Given this suspicion, it would be far preferable if redistricting were entrusted to a body whose members had no vested interest in who wins elections over the next ten years.

Jerry Brucaya
890 County Road PB
Belleville, WI 53508

WI

Bruce Krawisz

1600 North Hills Avenue
Marshfield, WI 54449

Please consider public input about fair re-districting in Wisconsin.

Bruce Hanson
661 Park View Dr
New Richmond, WI 54017

I believe our state is significantly gerrymandered. Nothing else would explain the disproportionate number of Republican lawmakers, both at the state and federal level. As the district lines are drawn, I hope a balanced, non-partisan group will fairly make these decisions. With all due respect, the Wisconsin Supreme Court leans heavily to the right and I don't feel fair decisions will be made by them.

Bruce Wiggins
224 E. Lloyd St. #2
Milwaukee, Milwaukee 53212

I was associated with redistricting in another location, where I previously lived. Redistricting is a complex and difficult task. It is fundamental to the principle of one person/one vote. It should never be rushed. On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a change such as the one proposed.

Now is not a time to exclude public testimony. Three quarters of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. Referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Janet Edge
5105 crescent oaks drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53704

Fair maps. Stop the gerrymandering.

Jessica Brumm-Larson
3233 S Herman Street

Milwaukee, WI 53207

This rule should not be passed.

David Brusky
1793 Cinnabar Way
Green Bay, WI 54311

Please help our state return to the ideals of our founding fathers and create rules so that no party, even within the judiciary, can ever redraw or allow others to redraw district lines to benefit themselves. It seems our democracy is slowly being eroded away, and this petition is proof of it.

Bryan Walton
6615 Clyde Rd
Spring Green, WI 53588

This rule brings politics to the court and excludes non-partisan groups. The Supreme Court should be above politics.
And where will transparency be assured?.

Bill Schweisheimer
1241 Donald Drive
Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin 54568

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. I want fair, non-gerrymandered, impartial maps to be drawn.

Bill Peterson
w263 n5837 Mount Du Lac Drive
SUSSEX, WI 53089

Regarding upcoming claims about redistricting and gerrymandering in Wisconsin, please do not allow this to go through. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Darrell Budic

2850 County Road I
Avoca, WI 53506

As I recently voted, I'd like to see Wisconsin use a bipartisan committee process to settle on fair maps and avoid partisan gerrymandering for any side. This process should be accomplished by the committee being formed by Governor Evers. I urge the State Supreme Court not to allow itself to become a politicized tool in this process, and remain complete outside of it.

Maureen Bula
S4515 SCENIC RD
Baraboo, WI 53913

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 80 percent of Wisconsin's citizens. There is an outcry of citizens requiring the state to use transparency and a nonpartisan panel to create our voting districts. This should not be for our courts to decide, rather citizens who have a vested interest in creating fair, representative maps for all concerned in our state. No one should be disenfranchised! The people of our state need to have a chance to review and finalize the maps that are created. This would be true democracy.

Jane & Burr Mueller Carter
N6632
Lake Mills, WI 53551

Dear Justices,

The founding of our government is a representative of the people. The gerrymandering to select boundaries by biases should be ended. Fair outside party lines, district drawing should be the only choice. Our government is our responsibility and it should be fair. Please consider this in your rulings.

Respectfully,

Jane Mueller

Burr Carter

Lake Mills Wisconsin

BARBARA WESTFALL
8328 Swan Rd
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

This gerrymandering needs to end. Wisconsin needs to be guaranteed districts will be drawn fairly, allowing the proper representation to neighborhoods and constituents.

BEN GRUBER
7515 Loy Road
Arena, WI 53503

It's time for non partisan redistricting. It's time to return politics to the people. Please do the right thing here.

Beth Whittemore
5448 Alan Dr
Oregon, WI 53575

This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

William Britt
3906 Berg Rd
Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533

Please don't deny the voters of Wisconsin the drawing of fair maps by a nonpartisan group.

Elizabeth Wood
2389 cardinal drive
New Richmond, WI 54017

Having in the Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future resist

Elizabeth Wood
2389 Cardinal drive
New Richmond, WI 54017

Having the Supreme Court take jurisdiction over any future redistricting litigation will have the effect of furthering the voter suppression already being facilitated by the gerrymandering of our districts which

results in legislators choosing their voters rather than voters choosing their legislators. Politicizing the Court is not the intention of the rule of law. Wisconsin voters deserve fair maps.

Becky Yurk
415 Valley View Road
Hudson, WI 54016

Leave it ALONE!! You've done enough damage as it is!! Constituents know election times.

Claire Kirchhoff
2756 S 48th St
Milwaukee, WI 53219

his rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Carol Brill
3916 N Oakland Avenue #324
Shorewood, WI 53211

Our democracy is so precious to me. It rests on an openness and trust in government and how it operates. This rule will have such an impact on Wisconsin and its future that it needs to be open to comment and input from the widest range of people and organizations. Democracy is too important to rush through this rule. Wisconsin needs to stand for fairness for all its citizens.

Caitlin Byham
1750 North McCarthy Road
Appleton, Wisconsin 54913

As a citizen of Wisconsin, I am asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to retain the current redistricting process and reject the recently proposed rule change to bypass lower courts and escalate disputed maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Redistricting is a complex and difficult task, and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person, one vote. It should never be rushed. The proposed rule change shortens the process and will not allow for fact-finding by lower courts. Further, the change may exclude any input from citizens or non-profit

groups, and it will eliminate transparency in the redistricting process during a time where maintaining trust in our basic institutions is paramount.

Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Please retain the current redistricting process in 2021 to promote transparency and participation in our Wisconsin voting maps.

Thank you,
Caitlin

Camille Kulka
282 Arbor Hills Drive
Houlton, WI 54082

Please...stop this gerrymandering. Let's continue to protect our democracy and protect the right to have multiple parties in the state of WI.
Camille Kulka

Donald Campbell
4001 Berg Road
Dodgeville, WI 53533

The process of contesting the drawing of maps has become so unwaveringly political that one cannot depend on their clarity and boundaries from year to year. Contesting a map, particularly with the assistance of the Supreme Court, only makes map-drawing extremely opaque to most citizens. There must be a better way!

Charles Peters
2020 Chamberlain Ave
Madison, WI 53726

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

James McNett
1275 Peniel Road
Mineral Point, Wisconsin 53565

Please do not pass the new rule to bypass the lower courts on issues concerning redrawing voting district maps. I believe this will further politicize the Supreme Court. It will exclude nonpartisan groups from participating in law suits. It will also eliminate evidence introduced in lower court proceedings.

Cara Syth
N6170 COUNTY ROAD K
MENOMONIE, WI 54751

I think that citizen involvement in these types of issues is so important - not just the 2 predominant political parties. Therefore, I oppose this rule.

Carla Ross
321 St Clair Ave
Sheboygan, WI 53081

This rule should not be passed. Democracy takes time and all voters should be heard.

Wendy Carlson
7950 State Road 188
Sauk City, Wisconsin 53583

I want there to be a nonpartisan committee for redistricting similar to what Iowa has. WILL's proposal does not reflect the will of the people. The Wisc. Supreme Court has become politicized. Nonpartisan groups would be unfairly excluded from parts of the process. 70% of people in several counties voted yes on referenda for fair maps. Think about that.

Carol soden
410 W Walnut St
Lancaster, WI 53813

you must stop ant consideration of this rule. Our mapping needs to be done fairly and without political influence. It is time for all citizen's voices to be heard.

Carol Limbach
2533 E Denton Ave
Saint Francis, Wisconsin 53235

Democracy requires Fair Maps. Adequate time must be given to accomplish redistricting. Wisconsin needs to restore Voter's trust in the system. One person, One Vote.

Carol Rawlins
47 n Macy #4000
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Carol Shapiro
1701 North Briarcliff Dr
Appleton, WI 54915

I am writing to the court to express my concern about changing the rules for redistricting. I do not support the proposed changes by Scott Jensen. These proposed changes to the court rules will politicize the court and undermined their nonpartisan image. The new rules will exclude nonpartisan participation in the redistricting court cases. This is the time to keep the courts transparent so the public will continue to trust the judicial system.

Carole Burzynski
20975 George Hunt Circle, Apt 610
Waukesha, WI 53186

Don't modify 809.70. Partisan groups need to be heard on this map issue. I also urge you to support Gov. Ever's ,safety measures during this pandemic. All the Midwest Governors agree on the necessity of mask wearing and limiting human contact, especially through the coming high risk months.
Carole Burzynski

20975 George Hunt Circle # 610
Waukesha, WI 53186

Carol Johnson
2261 270th Street
Deer Park, WI 54007

Wisconsin's districts so so unfairly determined we can never hope to elect by majority vote in most districts. While the Democratic candidates get more votes, they continue to be less represented in our Assembly and Senate. No party should be able to pick their constituents. All candidates should be elected by their constituents. That is not what we have now. We need a non-partisan commission to determine fair district lines.

Carrie Santulli Schudda
510 Ash St.
Oregon, WI 53575

As the Court is no doubt aware, the vast majority of Wisconsin citizens believe the process for determining state district maps should be fair. Yet the rule proposed by the political advocacy firm, WILL, does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct a full and appropriate legal review of the redistributing process—should such review be necessary. The proposal should be rejected on the grounds that its adoption would harmfully politicize the Court and exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and because it lacks sufficient transparency measures. In short, the proposal is not in the best interests of the state and its citizens as a whole.

Hannah Lee
3834 Whitman Lane #312
Madison, WI 53704

Rule Petition 20-03 Relating to Legal Challenges to Redistricting

It is no wonder that this rule contains so many flaws; submitters dumb enough to propose it can't be smart enough to draft it properly. That said, here are a few of the more glaring problems with this ridiculous rule:

1. RE: Jumping any legal challenge to redistricting immediately to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, bypassing any lower legal venues: Why do we even have lower courts, and processes for working

proposals through them, if not to allow maximum debate and exposure to crucial questions such as how the state's legislative districts will be drawn up? Just so that bullies whose pals happen to dominate the Supreme Court at the moment can ram through their gerrymanders unimpeded? The short answer is "Yes." That is exactly why we have a judicial process and levels of legal venues. The so-called "Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty" just doesn't like to follow rules they didn't make themselves. They particularly do not like the notion of citizens actually having a voice!

2. RE: Barring any participation by nonprofit public interest organizations and concerned citizens in any hearing before the Supreme Court regarding disputes over redistricting, and allowing only the political parties to be heard in such hearings: It is rare for political parties to be well-informed enough on ALL aspects of issues that impact upon redistricting to NOT need information and advice from people and groups who spend their professional lives doing actual research on these questions. Even if they think they know it all, they do not, no matter which side they are on* (*though one side is less interested in information than the other). It is also rare for political parties to seek out information that does not support their own opinions. Courts need to hear that information, and will not if those who have it are kept out of the conversation.

3. RE: Giving the Supreme Court Leeway to Disregard the Procedures and Requirements Laid Out in the Rule Itself: Cf. (1.) above. A rule that STATES that it can be disregarded? Do these people even know the meaning of the word "rule"? What they really mean here is that there should be NO rules that would allow any opinion but their own to be heard, and/or would threaten the status quo of extreme gerrymandering that Wisconsin is struggling under.

Surely a document as transparently inept and mean-minded need not be seriously considered. I humbly beg the Justices to give it the attention it deserves, which is NONE.

Thank you.

Catherine Cornell
711 S. Few Street #1E
Madison, WI 53703

Given the widespread and growing concern among Wisconsin citizens about the problem of gerrymandering and redistricting, the petition submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty to take disputed questions about maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court is sure to further diminish already diminishing confidence in the integrity and transparency of the process of determining voting districts.

Having the Supreme Court immediately decide restricting disputations would limit review of the submitted maps and rush the entire process. Also, it would prevent non-partisan groups like unions or membership organizations who have in the past been concerned about gerrymandering from engaging in the Court's process.

In order to foster and maintain confidence in our Supreme Court, in order to allow a more free-flowing and transparent process in re-districting, I would urge and implore the Supreme Court not to accept this petition.

Let's not rush the process,
Catherine Cornell

Catherine Goray
W 5848 County Road P
Monroe, Wisconsin 53566

We need a non-partisan, transparent process for creating fair maps in Wisconsin. I urge you reject the petition from the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty to fast track the process and restrict input from anyone other than elected politicians and political parties. The majority of Wisconsin citizens want a non-partisan redistricting process. We need citizen input in the process of creating the next decade's maps!

Cathy Lacy
2374 Adams Hill Road
Highland, WI 53543

Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. The proposed rule change will disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair. The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. This is where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps. This rule change further politicizes the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its credibility in the eyes of the public. This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary. Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to assuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency, There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being rushed and I demand a 60 day continuance.

Gina Wilde

1386 Kingston Terrace
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54302

I object to the proposed rule, because it does not allow for citizen participation that a normal court proceeding would provide.

Kathleen Caylor
3680 Rolling Hill Dr
Pulaski, WI 54162

All citizens should have a voice, not just Republican/Democratic partisan citizens. Fair maps are too important to rush through without listening to independent Wisconsinites.

Carolyn Bellin
1221 W. Riverview Drive
Glendale, WI 53209

The Supreme Court should NOT be involved in redistributing. This will politicize the Court and exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation. Thank you. Carolyn Bellin

Carolyn Bellin
1221 W. Riverview Drive
Glendale, WI 53209

Do not allow the state Supreme Court to participate in any way in the redistributing. It will politicize the Court and I view that as a BIG negative. Thank you.

Christine Brown
203 W Coventry Ct Apt 119
Glendale, WI 53217

This rule inhibits our rights as Wisconsin citizens by making the courts more political by excluding nonpartisan groups by limiting their participation.

Sister Dolores Lytle, CSA
330 County Road K

Fond du Lac, WI 54937

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Curt Andersen
2942 Jack Pine Ln
Suamico, WI 54313

I am very concerned that non-profit, public interest organizations and concerned citizens would be left out of any hearing on redistricting maps before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The WILL petition, in Section 5(b), requires only that the political PARTIES be heard by the Court in any dispute over the maps.

It does not allow room for citizens or groups that have been harmed over the past ten years, due to the oddly-shaped districts from the 2010 Census reshaping. Redistricting is not simply a dispute between the parties. It is supposed to be about a just system, not some Las Vegas hanky-panky that leaves the public ill-represented.

I am disgusted that the proposed redistricting rule was written by the right-wing W.I.L.L. The right-wing sure made a mockery of the re-districting in 2010. Just a quick look at the maps for Wisconsin Senate and Assembly districts shows how convoluted the shapes are. Even children 8 years old would wonder why the shapes were not basic squares and rectangles, with the rivers, lakes, and borders serving as boundaries, if necessary. Any damned fool can see these districts were twisted into modern art for partisan reasons.

The rule allows the redistricting case to jump over regular district courts and to go right to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Why this allowance that no one else gets to use? It's obvious that this is yet another twist of the law for partisan benefit.

People in Wisconsin are sick and tired of this rope-a-dope maneuver that twists their will.

Allowing the court to ignore the requirements and procedures laid out in the rule itself? What kind of court-rigging nonsense is this? Wisconsin needs to get back to a balanced court with integrity.

Debra hi Draheim
6991 Platte Rd
Platteville, WI 53818

I believe the supreme court should not take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation in Wisconsin. This limits the rights of nonpartisan groups. This will limit the review of maps and rush the process. Please do not get involved in this. Thank you, Debra Draheim

Cindy Dillenschneider
79270 STATE HIGHWAY 13
WASHBURN, WI 54891-4428

To the Clerk of the Supreme Court,

I am a year-round resident of Wisconsin and have been proud to call Wisconsin my home since 1989. I am writing to express my concerns about the Rule Petition 20-03 Petition regarding Petition for Proposed Rule to Amend Wisconsin Statute Section 809.70 (relating to redistricting).

I am opposed to the proposed Rule Petition 20-03 for the following reasons:

The proposed rule requires that political parties and political branches be heard but gives no similar provision for non-partisan representation for citizen or local government concerns to come before the court. Disenfranchisement of citizen and community interests from the process of redistricting is unfair and unethical at its roots.

The proposed rule allows any lawsuit about redistricting to circumvent the logical and normal process of advancing through the state trial courts and appellate courts prior to consideration by the highest court in the state. Bypassing state trial and appellate court processes unnecessarily eliminates fact finding by lower courts and precludes creation of trial court and appellate court records. Bypassing lower court findings and judgements will cause the Supreme Court to render judgements in absence of lower court determinations, unnecessarily entangling the State Supreme court in partisan politics.

Redistricting is of critical concern to local governmental units and to citizens who are represented by elected officials and governmental units at local, regional and state levels. It is critical for the highest State Judicial body to have an arm's length distance from partisan interests in order to be a neutral arbitrating body. Preserving normal judicial processes that protect the rights and interests of all parties and that provide the Supreme Court with a record of vetted evidence upon which to render non-partisan judgements is in the best interest of the Court, the Citizens, and the State of Wisconsin.

Chris Michaud
1857 N. 73rd St.
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

I disagree with the proposed rule, as it does not allow the important processes to occur in lower courts as in the past, and puts more emphasis on political parties rather than on any interested party. Thank you.

Cindy Gaver
1803 4th Avenue W
Ashland, WI 54806

I oppose this proposal because it will reduce transparency in the redistricting process and disallow the full and dull diligence of factfinding and public input from all Badgers, not just political operatives and parties. No election map should be created without the input of the public and without the facts.

Chris Doyle
5375 King James Way
Fitchburg, WI 53714

Remember, your elected positions are not governed by maps. You're elected by a statewide vote. Choose wisely.

Chris Draves
6513 Clovernook Road
Middleton, Wisconsin 53562

Please reject the rule change proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty. We need a nonpartisan approach and transparency in the process of drawing new district maps in Wisconsin. Politics needs to be removed from the review process and that includes the courts.

Cedric Teisberg
E448 Casper Rd
La Pointe, WI 54850

I do not support the proposed rule change to give the State Supreme Court the jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. I think this will be harmful because it will politicize the courts and will not have enough transparency measures. Please do not adopt the proposed rule change. Thank you

Corey E. Olsen
W334S724 Cushing Park Rd.
Delafield, Wisconsin 53018

'We the people' must be able to vote for those who are supposed to represent us, rather than petty party politicians picking and choosing who they will or won't represent.

David Ceasarini
5220 N. Hollywood Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53217

I urge the Wisconsin Supreme Court to the the most serious and highest degree possible to reject the action proposed by W.I.L.L. and instead, heed the will of the vast majority of Wisconsinites who want a fair, open and transparent map drawing process. Fair representation in Wisconsin's legislative bodies is

long overdue. The gerrymandering must stop now before another ten years of imbalanced representation is put purposely into place by the minority.

christine gilbert
5401 W Galena St
Milwaukee, WI 53208

I am expressing my concern over the proposed rule change taking redistricting straight to the Wisconsin Supreme Court without involvement of the lower courts which will result in a lack of fact finding or input from citizens or concerned non-profits. Lack of transparency is never good in government and such an important matter should never be rushed. Allow the public, who are currently highly interested in the issue of redistricting, to express their views and concerns. This is not the time or the issue on which to undermine confidence in our government.

Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins
2642 Hackberry Ln
La Crosse, USA 54601

The Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) is another group trying to thwart democracy. "We the People" in a fair nonpartisan manner should be the ones directly involved in "redistricting". The state Supreme Court should not be involved in any future redistricting legislation or the process. Other states have an unbiased way of redrawing the maps in an equitable manner and it does not become political. The state of Wisconsin's Supreme Court has been called upon to negotiate things on a constant basis and you would think that some of justices would be getting tired of being used. You have become part of a very dysfunctional system that no longer represents democratic values.

Carolyn Glenz
2219 winnebago
La crosse, WI 54601

Do not allow gerrymandering!

CHAD GOLDBERG
10 N LIVINGSTON ST APT 1106
MADISON, WI 53703

The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) has filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. I strongly oppose this proposed rule to the Supreme Court. It does not provide a fair or inclusive legal process that would ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review. It will politicize the Court, exclude unions and other nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Christine Groebner
16950 Pioneer Rd
Cable, Wisconsin 54821

The people of Wisconsin have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to ensuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency.

I object to the constitutionality of the requested rule change. The petition seeks to authorize the Court to take immediate jurisdiction of the redistricting process upon the request of any party the instant the census is released and then issue an immediate stay. This violates the state and federal constitutions because it would usurp the authority of the Legislature and Executive branch to address redistricting matters in the first instance. The Court is not the constitutionally authorized body to usurp and decide redistricting matters in the first instance.

Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions supporting fair maps, and 28 counties have passed referendums. This rule change will disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice. Therefore I am asking the Court to turn down this rule change which would require any lawsuit about future maps to go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, bypassing lower courts. The lower courts are the appropriate place where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps.

Cynthia Guggemos
803 Blake Street
Blanchardville, WI 53516-9718

I am writing in opposition to a rule change that would send any lawsuit about redistricting maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Decisions about redistricting should be done openly and with lots and

lots of deliberation. I believe it would be much better for any challenges to start in the lower courts and proceed with plenty of opportunity for both sides to present evidence that will be open to the public to see. Going directly to the Supreme Court would rush the process, limit the review of maps, and cut off opportunities for experts to testify. The proposed change also allows political parties to testify, but not other organizations. This is terrible. We need redistricting to be less partisan, not more. Please reject the rule change regarding district maps that has been proposed by The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty.

Julie Chamberlain
214 19th St S
La Crosse, WI 54601

I am deeply concerned about the proposed changes to the redrawing of election boundaries. Allowing WILL's proposal will further divide the state by not allowing input from other parties besides the 2 major parties. It also speeds up the process.

Connor Hansen
526 W Wilson St Apt 208
Madison, WI 53703

Independent, nonpartisan redistricting is resoundingly popular among Wisconsin residents. It allows legislative maps to be drawn in a balanced, pragmatic way, and ensures that Wisconsin's legislative body is represented through the voice of a majority of Wisconsin residents, not a minority whose representation has been distorted by partisan interests. Gerrymandering is a threat to all voters of all political parties. It leverages a ruling party's political power regardless of the changing political tides of Wisconsin's residents.

The proposed rule change brought forward to the Court threatens to further entrench these undemocratic effects of partisan gerrymandering, further hindering the voices of Wisconsin's residents and giving those in political office a carte blanche to write their own rules regarding their legislative districts. This would exacerbate minority rule in Wisconsin's legislature and further politicize Wisconsin's Supreme Court.

Legislative maps should be drawn in a nonpartisan process that allows for a level playing field for candidates of all political parties. Wisconsin residents resoundingly back nonpartisan redistricting, and the process of nonpartisan redistricting has been implemented with great success in many other states, most notably Iowa.

I sincerely hope that the Court is able to rule in favor of the legal principle of "one person, one vote" rather than further politicizing itself by ruling in favor of partisan interests.

Charlene Winchell UE Western Region President
800 West Ave. North
West Salem, WI 54669

All Wisconsin voters should be able to have a voice in what happens in our state. It is no different than voting for a candidate. This issue shouldn't matter if we are republican or democrat and the rules should be the same for EVERYONE. I believe our court system should rise above partisan politics and ensure that all people have a meaningful way to have their say. These lines should be drawn by someone other than our elected officials. If the elected officials felt the lines were unfair they could work with the Governor to correct the issue. Please remember all voices should be heard on any government issue.

charles reiter
923 s hastings way, 148
eau claire, WI 54701

im for fair redistricting

Charlotte Doherty
PO Box 153, 12971 Roller Coaster Rd
Darlington, WI 53530

This rule works to continue the 2011 efforts of Republicans to lock Democrats out of power in Wisconsin. The rule is being rushed through so it can be applied to the 2021 redistricting. It's provisions are against the advice the experts gave in 2011 and the overwhelming wishes of the people of Wisconsin. It blatantly considers only partisan interests.

Please do not adopt this rule and help us return Wisconsin to a state of fair government.

Attorney Charlotte Doherty
State Bar Number 1009806

Sharon Gray
825 N. Prospect Ave. Unit 1402
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Partisan gerrymandering disenfranchises voters. Both parties in our two-party dominated system are guilty of engineering maps to benefit them in future elections. The 2011 redistricting maps are some of the most extremely gerrymandered in the United States. The results of these maps are that approximately 50 times more voters were moved to a new district than in the past. These maps were also drafted in secret with almost no public input and have resulted in expensive, ongoing litigation for the State of Wisconsin.

Polling across Wisconsin has resulted in overwhelming support for a fair, non-partisan approach to redistricting with almost two-thirds of Wisconsin counties passing referenda to that effect. When introduced, these referenda have passed 100% of the time.

Next year, the census will release new data, and the process of redistricting will begin. The Republican-controlled legislature will again be charged with drawing up these maps. As demonstrated by the 2011 maps they have had a clear mandate to redistrict to their benefit.

Now Scott Jensen, the former Republican Speaker of the Wisconsin Assembly (together with the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty), has filed a petition with a proposed rule change to take the disputed maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. A court in which justices elected in highly partisan races are demonstrating that they tend more and more toward partisanship.

Typically, redistricting cases have gone through ascending levels of federal courts. In bypassing the lower courts, we will allow for no fact-finding and will likely exclude most, if not all input from citizens and other affected groups. We already have a legislature that conducts its redistricting in secret. This rule change will eliminate any transparency left in the redistricting process.

Public interest in the issue of redistricting is at an all-time high. Fair redistricting is at the core of our one person-one vote principle. Public confidence in government relies on an open and transparent process. Clearly, the current system is neither open nor transparent.

Governor Evers has issued Executive Order #66 and has created the People's Maps Commission to create an alternative set of maps to those created by the legislature. As in many other states, this commission will hold public hearings and solicit public comments on the effects of gerrymandering on citizens. Although we now have a Governor who can veto the legislature-drawn maps, we will still end up in court to contest and settle the matter.

So which courts would we like to have hear this case? Do we bypass the lower courts and eliminate public participation in the process? NO. Do we go straight to the partisan WI Supreme Court and increase the chances of a partisan decision? NO.

Adopting the Scott Jansen-proposed rule risks increased polarization of the court and decreased trust in the public of our elected officials. I categorically reject this rule change.

Carol Codner
1349 Wedgewood Ln
Neenah, WI 54956

I am opposed to the proposed rule change that would take disputed redistricting maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Redistricting is an important part of our democracy, and it must not be rushed. All citizens and all interested groups of citizens should be given the opportunity to examine and comment on the new redrawn maps, not just the political parties. This takes time, and the current procedure through the courts should be followed.

It is especially important that all citizens and groups be allowed to give input into this procedure when you consider that many of Wisconsin's counties have passed resolutions in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. We want redistricting to be more transparent, not less. Please deny this petition.

Monica Wiegel
11591 berry's rd
Darlington, WI 53530

Fair. Impartial maps!!! No more special interest groups pushing there hidden agenda at taxpayers expense. Fair maps

Peggy Savides
W6741 Ash Rd
Mondovi, WI 54755

I oppose the plan WILL has presented regarded Wisconsin redistricting. For one thing, it goes straight to the Wi Supreme Court and bypasses lower courts. That leaves out the opportunity for all concerned to add their voices. It allows for input by political parties, but not citizen organizations or other interest groups, again leaving out more Wisconsin voices. Our maps have to be fair or democracy is undermined. Starting the process by leaving people out is not democracy.

Donald Hankley
N7968 Gould Hill Road
Blanchardville, Wisconsin 53516

I understand that the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty has petitioned the Court to adopt a fast-tracked process for approving legislative maps as part of the upcoming redistricting process. I hope that you reject this request. Wisconsin really needs a transparent, non-partisan, quantitative, and fair process for drawing these legislative district maps. Adopting this rule will further politicize the Court – something I think you will all agree is already too much of a problem in our state (and nation).

Claire Holland
4706 ST RD 39
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Please respect the votes of the people and the Democratic process!

Chris Bushman
1583 Acorn Ct
Menasha, WI 54952

We need to have fair maps when we draw districts, taking into account all citizen input, and not use the State Supreme Court as a partisan tool to disenfranchise voters. The voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around, and we need districts to be "in play", where citizens actually have a choice of multiple candidates.

Christopher Lorenz
3301 S. 93rd St. Apt. 202
Milwaukee, WI 53227

re: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

I am opposed to the proposed rule because it is harmful to the public interest. It requires that in a dispute about new maps, political parties be heard by the Court but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like membership organizations or citizen action groups. Groups who wish to be heard regarding gerrymandered maps could be excluded from the process. Additionally, the proposed rule gives the Court the ability to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself, thus making the procedures optional.

The rules need to be fair for everyone so that the Court has the full facts and transparent viewpoints necessary to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Chrissy Shaw

214 W Chapel St
Dodgeville, WI 53533

The proposed rule would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or input from members of the public and groups that aren't political. This directly contradicts the preference of a majority of Wisconsin citizens to have a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process.

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 80 percent of Wisconsin's citizens.

We want fair maps.

Glenn Christensen
W277N2824 Oak St.
Pewaukee, WI 53072

I oppose this rule. Gerrymandering proposals should be voted on by the public.

Christine Tsubokura
710 Washington Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565

I was very involved in helping Iowa County, WI pass both a Resolution and Referendum to advocate for Fair Maps. It was my first experience being actively engaged in Democracy other than voting. The Iowa County Board passed the resolution with only one negative vote and the Voters on a November 3, 2020 passed the Referendum with 73.8% in favor. We joined 54 other Wisconsin Counties that passed Resolutions and 28 that passed Referenda to create Fair Maps.

The petition 20-03 Proposed Amendment to rule 809.70 would procedurally ignore and bypass the voice of citizen voters. Especially, in this political time, when the very principles of Democracy through the voting process are being threatened, it seems even more vital to preserve the current system. To bypass the voice of the people and appeal directly to the Supreme Court would be yet another disenfranchisement of citizens and a move away from our precious Democratic principles. It would also further politicizes the Supreme Court which would diminish its standing.

I very much OPPOSE this procedural change. Our Democracy needs more citizen input, participation and transparency to stay vibrant and effective.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Christine Tsubokura

Chris Rockwood
2448 N 73rd St
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Dear Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court,

I write to you as a private citizen to express my strong opposition to Petition 20-03, submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL), regarding the process by which legal challenges to legislative redistricting will be heard. I urge you to reject Petition 20-03 in its entirety.

Fair and equitable redistricting is the foundation of our representative democracy. Legislative representation allows American citizens to have a voice in our federal and state governments, but WILL is asking you to prevent private citizens and interest groups from having a voice in the redistricting process. The rules proposed in Petition 20-03 require that political parties must be heard by the court on the issue of redistricting but do not allow individual citizens and interest groups that same right.

You should reject petition 20-03 because all citizens and interest groups deserve fair representation and have legitimate interests in the redistricting process.. Not all citizens are members of political parties. The rights of individual citizens and interest groups to be heard on the issue of redistricting must be maintained based on the principle of equal protection under the law that is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

You should also reject Petition 20-03 because it prevents lower courts from ruling on this issue. There is no good reason to make an exception to the normal process and have the Wisconsin Supreme Court take jurisdiction on this critical matter. This issue should go through the lower courts, which will allow individual citizens more input on the process of determining their legislative representation through redistricting. WILL's attempt to hasten the decision-making process and limit public involvement is irresponsible and harmful.

In 2011, one of our political parties in Wisconsin engineered a legislative district map that is extremely unfair and inequitable. In fact, this is one of the worst gerrymanders in American history. I understand this problem particularly well because I twice sought election to the state Assembly in one of these districts. Please ensure that individual citizens and interest groups have the opportunity to seek redress from the courts for this injustice by rejecting WILL's Petition 20-03.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Chris Rockwood
2448 N. 73rd St., Wauwatosa

Christine Cole
3095 State Road 39
Mineral Point, WI 53565

This rule is contrary to the desires of the citizens of Wisconsin, will politicize the court, and exclude non-partisan groups from full participation.

Cindy Carter
1102 N Superior St
Appleton, WI 54911-4440

It is time for a NON PARTISAN redistricting committee to draw maps. Iowa is a great model that WIS should follow.

Cindy Carter
1102 N Superior St
Appleton, WI 54911-4440

A large percentage of the population of WI SUPPORTS the idea of Fair Maps and ending gerrymandering. WE THE PEOPLE are supposed to pick our representatives not the other way around. And since gerrymandering has gone into effect BENEFITING THE GOP, there is more GRIDLOCK now that ever in our state. It is NOT about the people anymore it is about partisanship. SICKENING

Cindy Carter
1102 N Superior St
Appleton, Wisconsin 54911

In all fairness to the people of WIS this decision should not be made so that it ends up in the Supreme Ct of WIS> The court we have now is PARTISAN to the GOP and that is NOT WHAT DEMOCRACY IS

ABOUT. I want Fair Maps and non gerrymandered districts. I want to pick my legislator not the other way around and I want them to be beholding to the people not their special interest and big donors.

Sue Studz
9310 Turkey Rd
Black Earth, WI 53515

All of us have a stake in the way our legislative maps are determined. They should be drawn to be acceptable by both parties. I strongly oppose the Supreme Court adopting a rule to create a behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases. We deserve a system of checks and balances that does not shut the public out of the legal process! It is undemocratic to not allow public input on how we are being represented. Do NOT allow our courts to be politicized!

Janice Koch
N5776 Foesch Rd.
Shawano, US 54001

N5776 Foesch Rd.
Shawano, WI 54166
Shawano Area Women's Network

We are a group of Shawano non-partisan area citizens who work on issues that are important to our democracy. One of our efforts is doing what we can to ensure that fair maps are drawn after the census.

Recently we worked to pass a Fair Maps resolution by the Shawano County Board. Even though this is a very Republican county, the resolution was passed overwhelmingly with only four no votes.

We are concerned that Wisconsin was extremely gerrymandered in 2011 which has thwarted the will of the people in state legislative elections ever since. We believe the most fair way to draw the state's district maps is to form a non-partisan committee.

We understand that there is a proposed rule change would deny the citizens of Wisconsin a voice in the process of redistricting. We feel that grassroots organizations should be allowed to testify in lawsuits pertaining to changes in legislative maps. We are concerned that if the Proposed Rule to Amend Wisconsin Statue 809.70 passes lawsuits would bypasses lower the courts and would go right to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This makes the whole process political and does not reflect the desires of the majority of the citizens of Wisconsin.

We ask that in the name of our democracy that you do not approve this proposed rule change.

Thanks you for your consideration,
Janice Koch
Carrie Pitt

Deanna Bisley
Patty Luff
Janice Schreiber
Barbara Nelson
Laurie Hoppe

Carol Harder
W168N11278 Western Ave #103
Germantown, WI 53022

I have lived in Germantown since 1986 and have watched as my vote has lost it's power because of redistricting over the years. We are not fairly represented when the lines are drawn to favor a political party, whether democrat or republican. That is not the basis for a true democracy.

John and Clara Kubisiak
4607 Mattheis Road
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

We support a bi-lateral commission composed of a broad mix of individuals that represent the diversity of our state.

John and Clara Kubisiak
4607 Mattheis Road
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Redistricting should not be a political football. Neither party should be in control of the distribution of voters in our state. We prefer an impartial group composed of diverse representatives.

John Kubisiak
4607 Mattheis Road
Wisconsin Rapids, US 54495

Pursue a diverse bi-partisan coalition to develop a transparent plan to better represent our voting population across the state. One political party should not be able to control the entire process.

Carl Leaf
S12983 Pearl Road
Spring e, Wisconsin 53588

Dear Judges: Please remember that you serve justice for all without preference or prejudice to any one party. Logically, voting districts should be determined solely on geographic lines and not on political affiliation trends, ie. gerrymandering.

Carl Lock
855 Calico Ct
Waukesha, WI 53186

November 18, 2020

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

RE: PETITION FOR PROPOSED RULE TO AMEND WIS. STAT. § 809.70

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

I urge you to refuse approval of PROPOSED RULE TO AMEND WIS. STAT. § 809.70 for the following reasons.

- Eliminating the review by multiple courts limits the review of maps and rushes the process, which would normally involve development of a record, including evidence and testimony. Racial gerrymandering violates the Voting Rights Act which is a federal act. Without a complete trial process, the most marginalized could be hurt.
- The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting process failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could be heard. Any proceedings not allowing civic groups and individual Wisconsin citizens to assert their rights on the topic of fair representation goes against Wisconsin tradition and the 'One Person, One Vote' principles that our democracy was founded on.
- Previously the Court spent years engaging experts and the public to examine potential procedures for redistricting review, ultimately determining there was not an adequate judicial solution in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This time, the proposed rulemaking process has spanned only a few months, with no independent review by a committee of experts.

- Adopting this rule risks decreasing public trust in the Court as a legitimate institution. Inserting itself in this area of partisan conflict so early, and thoroughly, without allowing adequate review in the lower courts first, threatens to give the impression the Court is a political entity.
-

Cyndi Kernahan
203 S. Falls Street
River Falls, WI 54022

I am opposed to politicizing this process. Maps should be drawn by a nonpartisan group. THIS IS WRONG.

Carol Klabunde
440 N Sawyer Street #123
Oshkosh, WI 54902

STOP GERRYMANDERING - PERIOD! And let everyone and every group testify before making any changes. Maps should not favor one party over the other!!

Carol Klabunde
440 N Sawyer Street Apt 123
Oshkosh, WI 54902

Rule Petition 20-03

This is so elemental. The system we have now is so blatantly biased. An impartial committee should be drawing those districts and it should have nothing to do with which party is in power.

Rose Clancy
N81 W13286 Fairway Ct.
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051

I am absolutely opposed to the proposed rule change by Scott Jensen and the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty for the following reasons:

1. There appears to be no need or support for this proposal, especially since the state supreme court already ruled on this in 2009, and denied it. By attempting to bypass lower courts and go directly to the

supreme court lacks the opportunity for more information and transparency. In today's world where people are already mistrustful of our most trusted institutions, this is a step backward!

2. There is overwhelming support for a nonpartisan commission to draw our maps. 54 out of 72 counties have passed resolutions in support of such a commission; 28 counties have passed actual referendums. When given a choice, 100% of voters support this by over 70%. If the court were to pass this resolution it would seriously erode voters voice, and further erode the credibility of the court.

3. One person, one vote should ALWAYS be the standard for which we strive!

Claudia Looze
5368 County Road II
Highland, WI 53543

It has come to my attention that WILL (Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty), representing Scott Jensen, filed a petition to the Supreme Court for a rule change regarding future redistricting litigation. It is my understanding that this rule change will limit the review of maps, rush the process, and deter public comment. I believe that this rule change will politicize our Wisconsin State Supreme Court and will further damage the credibility of this once grand institution. By jumping over the lower courts, the peoples' voice will be further shunned from the process. And the people of Wisconsin have spoken loudly of their support for fair maps to be drawn in our state. Check the results of the referenda! In Iowa County, where I worked hard with the Iowa County Fair Maps Team, the support for the anti-gerrymandering referendum on the November ballot was a resounding 73.8%. Statewide the support is nearly 68%. The people have spoken. The people are organized. The people are watching.

Carol Lenz
1209 S Lee St
Appleton, WI 54915

Our representative democracy depends on fair redistricting. To get there, all voices must be heard in a fair judicial process. To sidestep the process as requested by W.I.L.L. undermines our very democracy.

Cynthia Lepkowski
6699 Hill Ridge Dr
Greendale, Wisconsin 53129-2722

I OPPOSE This Court granting Rule Petition 20-03 for the following reasons:

1. Legal challenges to redistricting involve all Wisconsin citizens, not just political parties. Particularly since the majority of Wisconsin counties are on record supporting nonpartisan redistricting, all should be allowed to have a voice in the process, including nonprofit organizations as well as citizens.

2. Legal challenges should not be rushed directly to this Court, bypassing time for adequately notifying the public, developing the record, and careful review and response.

3. Adopting a provision to opt out of such rules could create a perception that the system is rigged, biased in favor of the limited perspective of one group, and not fair to all with an interest in the issue.

Cindy Geddes
1109 E Manitoba
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207

this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. It is just wrong. We deserve even to have our voices heard.

John Widmer
1331 N. Jossart Rd.
Luxemburg, Wi. 54217

All government laws must remain transparent to its citizens!

Consuelo Springfield
8609 Blackwolf Drive
Madison, Wi 53717

The proposed rule lacks transparency. It will exclude non-partisan groups from full participation.

Cheryl Spencer
5 Maple Valley Ct
Madison, WI 53719

Please reject the WILL petition that would limit the review of maps and circumscribe a more thorough exploration of gerrymandering for an improved maps of the future.

Cindy Melrose
2748 Northwynde Passage
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Hello,

We are submitting this public comment out of concern that this proposed rule change will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. The gerrymandering in Wisconsin is absolutely ridiculous and needs to be improved. This proposed rule change is a move in the opposite direction and not okay. Thank you for listening.

Cindy

clyde winter
2276 hwy i
grafton, WI 53024

The proposed rule change, like the "solution" to partisan gerrymandering which is proposed by the Whitford v. Gill plaintiffs, is severely, even Constitutionally defective and harmful to the people, in that it requires that (the two self-permitted, self-perpetuating) political parties interests be heard and served, but it denies the same protections to non-partisan groups and to independent individual citizens.

I think at it is high time that proposals from independent, unaffiliated citizens to solve the problem by ending single vacancy district elections be carefully and thoroughly considered. The problem that we the people face in terms of electing our representatives is not merely allegedly "poorly drawn" single vacancy district boundaries, which are not "fair" to one of the two parties or the other. The problem is that single vacancy districts themselves violate the people's right to choose their own representatives, and their right to equal protection of the law - no matter who draws the boundaries.

Cynthia Mackenzie
1017 Observatory Hill Rd.
Belleville, WI 53508

Already the Wisconsin Supreme Court has lost respectability with voters like me, since it's now seen as nothing but a battleground of hyper-partisan interests. The last thing the Court should adopt is a proposal that will limit public speech and give exclusive access to politicians and political parties regarding redistricting cases.

Don't you think that ordinary citizens, civic groups and other nonpartisan groups should be allowed to have their day in court? Don't we deserve to have a say about how our district lines are drawn?

Please don't accept this rule change that will limit free speech on redistricting cases. I'm just one private citizen, but I can clearly see right from wrong in this case.

CyAnn Martin
1062 Hughes Ct.
Neenah, WI 54956

Please ensure everyone has the right to speak to the redistricting issue

Christine Hamele
1209 S Main St
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

We must have fair maps in Wisconsin. We have three branches of government for a reason and one of them to promote checks and balances. This behind-the-scenes stunt is about power and reducing the voters' influence. It must be stopped.

Cathryn Hatle
914 LAWRENCE ST
MADISON, WI 53715-2039

We need fair elections and people with different views and interests to hear each other. Gerrymandering obstructs both of those aims. When voters are segregated politically we no longer need to listen to or consider other viewpoints. Under gerrymandering, we do not need to confront ourselves when our views or actions harm another community of citizens. While equitable voting boundaries do not guarantee equitable results or that all viewpoints will be considered or represented, the current system precludes cooperation and respect. Please allow a full process to proceed. We so deeply need an election system which requires we look beyond our individual narrow interests.

Constance Matusiak
1755 Mary Street
Beloit, Wisconsin 53511

Wisconsin's gerrymandered districts are NOT representative of the electorate. With today's technology, it is now more than ever possible for representatives to unfairly choose their voters.

Please show your respect for our democracy and its voters by supporting a NONPARTISAN redistricting process.

Thank you.
Constance Matusiak

Carrie Ritz
721 Seneca Place
Madison, WI 53712

Regarding: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

I urge you to reject this petition. This issue needs public input and deserves lower court debate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carrie Ritz
Madison, WI

Ned Gatzke
10498 Jancing Ave Sparta WI
Sparta, WI 54656

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

The proposed rule seeks to politicize the Supreme Court by limiting the review of challenges by the established process of working through the lower court system which allows for a discussion of the competing arguments and transparency of public information concerning the issue. The Court will be informed by the lower court process. In addition, the proposal suggests that only political parties be allowed to be heard before the Court. The public interest is not represented by the Party interest. Public interest organizations and citizens also must be heard. This process is not a private party with selected invitation.

The proposed rule suggests that the Court should be allowed to disregard procedures and requirements established by the rule. The Court is not a legislative branch of government. The legislature decides the rules and the Court enforces and interprets the rules. Why have rules and laws if they can be subverted by the Court?

It appears that this rule petition is seeking special treatment for certain interest groups and limitation of participation by other interest groups and citizens.

Steven Adams
S4001 River Road
Viroqua, WI 54665

We need fair redistricting. The people of Wisconsin support it too.

colene lee
229 E 4th St.
Washburn, WI 54891

The 13 Wisconsin counties who placed referendum on their ballots for fair congressional redistricting by a bi-partisan committee passed the measure by large margins. To place the matter in the hands of the Wisconsin Supreme Court is to take it out of the hands of the voters. This is not a judicial matter, it's a matter for Wisconsin citizens. We have seen what politicized courts do, how they wreck havoc on democracy, on justice, and on people's lives. Please do not take fair representation out of the hands of the people.

Colleen Trumper
713 Grandview Blvd.
Washburn, WI 54891

I am writing to say, I'm against the Supreme Court hearing any cases regarding fair maps. I am writing to say, please do not politicize the Court, when the people vote, the districts should be fair. Non-partisan groups should be part of redistricting plans in the state of Wisconsin. I want the districts to be fair for both sides and have a transparent process for any and all questions and challenges that come up regarding rulings.

colleen foley
209 s first street
mount horeb, wisconsin 53572

I am writing to register my displeasure with Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting in Wisconsin. DO NOT APPROVE Rule Petition 20-03.

Rule Petition 20-03 will do nothing to help Wisconsin but much to hurt Wisconsin. I do not agree with a rule that sends disputes immediately to the supreme court when a lower court ruling would better inform the public, be more transparent and better highlight the evidence in the case. Moreover, I do not like that the "WILL" petition, in Section 5(b), requires only that the political parties be heard by the Court in any dispute over the maps. This cuts the citizens out of the process and it is not democratic. Citizens deserve a voice in re-districting. Further, I cannot support this rule because it the Court the power to disregard the procedures and requirements laid out in the rule itself. So that's no rule at all if it allows a court to toss everything aside. It politicizes our courts. If Wisconsin sets rules they should be transparent, and it should be applied in a fair manner, and support by the citizens of the state. This Rule is NOT. WE WANT FAIR MAPS NOW!

Conall Chambers
516 Jefferson Street
Eau Claire, WI 54701

I am writing to state my opposition to the proposed change in procedure regarding court review of legislative map cases. I believe something as important as drawing the maps for legislative boundaries should be a transparent process that allows various groups to weigh in and provide input. This rule would be opposed to that end.

Constance LaBarbera
2955 Kennedy Rd
Hazel Green, WI 53811

I strongly urge the court to reject the proposed rule change before it regarding the process for redrawing legislative maps. None of us is as smart as all of us together. Rushing the process by excluding public input is unconscionable. The harm done to our public discourse through this type of action during the most recent redistricting is clear. Undo politicizing of the Court would be quite likely. The transparency needed to restore trust in our democracy is further reduced by the proposed change.

Melissa Lees
N 4077 n schrade roof
Monroe, Wisconsin 53566

This change would further the image that our Supreme Court is a partisan institution rather than a judicial one. It undermines the credibility of all rulings

Constance Kanitz
516 Riverway
Menasha, Wisconsin 54952

I am a long-time member of the League of Women Voters and full access to voter rights and the process that leads up to an election has always been an important focus for me. The people of Wisconsin need to have a transparent and open process for determining district maps to build public confidence in government. The Iowa model has been found to be very successful in allowing races to be competitive and serving the democratic process. I would like Wisconsin to explore how we can use that model in Wisconsin.

I oppose the rule being considered now in the court. The Wisconsin Supreme Court has already decided against a similar rule change in 2009 after an extended study. Taking disputed maps directly to the Supreme Court would bypass fact-finding by lower courts and exclude input from citizens and non-profit groups. Wisconsin needs an open and transparent process.

Fifty-four of Wisconsin's seventy-two counties have passed Board Resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. Referendums have passed 100% of the time and most with more than 70% support.

I urge the court to allow for a path for Wisconsin to determine a process that best serves voters with openness, transparency, and fairness. I oppose the rule before the court.

Constance Lorig
927 South 7th Street
De Pere, WI 54115

Please take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. We need fair maps!!

Connie Radtke
N1586 GREENWOOD RD
GREENVILLE, Wisconsin 54942-9019

Redistricting needs to be an open and transparent process that ensures the vote of every person is counted fairly no matter where they reside. Any redistricting should be reviewed by a fair and impartial federal court not by the polarized WI supreme court which is far from objective. When 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of non-partisan redistricting processes, the voices of the people need to be heard. With today's technology fair maps with reasonable borders can be effectively achieved.

CONSTANCE Roop
2601 N. Union St.
Appleton, WI 54911

I strongly oppose the proposed change to shorten the process to redraw maps in Wisconsin. It is essential that the ascending levels of federal courts be used to allow for citizen input, like mine, and for transparency in this important process of redrawing maps. The input from the People's Map Commission is critical.

Over 70% of Wisconsin citizens oppose gerrymandering and desire non-partisan maps.

A short circuit directly to the partisan Supreme Court of Wisconsin denies citizens a democratic process affecting the ability of their votes to count in future elections.

Trevor Copeland
1924 Eva Road Apartment 14
Kronewetter, WI 54455

The people of Wisconsin deserve

LINDA BISHOP
6445 BREUNIG RD
MAZOMANIE ,WI 53560, WI 53560

The petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation would limit review of maps and rush the process.

It doesn't give rights to nonpartisan groups to be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps.

The proposed rule gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

chrysa ostenso
902 Menasha Ave E
Ladysmith, WI 54848

I am a long time WI resident, business owner and school board member here in Ladysmith WI. I am writing to say that I am 100% against the rule change that WILL is attempting to put through in regard to Redistricting. I also believe that this rule change process is being rushed with only 30 days to comment and I am asking you to extend the period of public comment for 60 days. This rule change will limit opportunities for affected individuals, groups and communities to have their voices heard because it disallows the introduction of evidence from lower court hearings and testimony from anyone other than the Republican and Democratic parties. We need to improve representation in our State by fixing our rigged maps. This process can only be properly done with caution to provide the most opportunity for input and the most transparency possible.

Catherine Palzkill
206 S. Level St.
DODGEVILLE, WI 53533

My Objection to Petition 20-03 Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70 (Redistricting Process)

The people of Wisconsin have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. Fifty-five counties, including Iowa County where I live, have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps, Iowa County did this earlier this month. This proposed rule change would, in my opinion, disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair.

The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. This proposed rule change, in my opinion, further politicizes the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its credibility in the eyes of the public.

This proposed rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps.

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to assuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency,

There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being rushed and I ask for a 60 day continuance.

Christine Powell
13637 Stepping Stone Ln
Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin 54545-6333

Please do not change the laws for redistricting WI that gives the Supreme Court jurisdiction. Our redistricting should be decided by a non-partisan group or agency to give people in WI the right for their vote to be heard.

Colleen Prendergast
450 Tarragon Dr. #8
Kaukauna, WI 54130

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Charles Boardman
1422 Chandler St
Madison, WI 53711

I am writing to oppose any request to fast-track the redistricting process. We need independent, non-partisan redistricting, to create fair maps which allow democracy to work. Many Wisconsin counties have passed referendum or resolutions which favor ending our current gerrymandered voting maps. This end will come from an open process in which all, including nonpartisan groups working for the common good, are allowed full participation.

The current request from the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty is harmful to the public interest. Groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of members should not be excluded from the Court process. Doing so will further politicize the Court to the detriment of good government. Please support fair maps for Wisconsin which give all citizens an equal voice.

Cynthia Peterson
W263N5837 MOUNT DU LAC DR
SUSSEX, WI 53089-4027

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. It is not fair to the people of Wisconsin!

Christine Roth
N9028 Blackoak St
Menasha, WI 54952

Hello,

I am writing as I am concerned about the proposed rule changes regarding redistricting once the census results are available. I feel this will bypass the true democratic process where "the people's" voice will no longer count or be heard.

Allison Hellenbrand
610 Eagle Heights Dr, Apt J, false
Madison, WI 53705

As believers in democracy, transparency, and good government, we all have a stake in the way our legislative maps are determined. That is why I was alarmed to learn that in June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty filed a petition asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to adopt a rule that would create a fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases. The rule would undermine our system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process.

The proposed rule change raises a number of concerns:

-Adopting a specific rule for redistricting could politicize the Court by encouraging lawmakers to settle redistricting disputes through litigation, rather than making every effort to avoid litigation by drawing maps that are acceptable to both political parties. This is of particular concern in the State Supreme Court where, unlike the U.S Supreme Court, Justices are elected by voters and often campaign with the support of political parties and partisan groups.

-The proposed rule could exclude nonpartisan interests. While the rule allows the governor, legislators, and political parties to intervene in redistricting cases, nonpartisan organizations and voters impacted by the new district maps could be left out. Historically, civic groups and citizens have engaged in redistricting litigation to challenge district maps; this rule could prevent them from doing so in the future.

-The proposed rule would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing proper evidence or input from members of the public.

For these reasons, I strongly ask that this rule is not adopted.

Chad Rykal
S120 Segerstrom Road
Mondovi, WI 54755

I believe that this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. We need fair maps in Wisconsin and a fair set of rules that everyone can play by.

Cheralee Schliem
106 Lien ct

Blanchardville, WI 53516

Wisconsin needs fair maps and in order to be accurate, the democratic process absolutely has to be followed. Any other way is cheating the system and the people of Wisconsin. This process has to be fair and justified.

Thank you!

Christian Phelps
1302 Taft Ave.
Eau Claire, WI 54701

We need fair maps and must not rush this process. I oppose the petition for the Supreme Court to take jurisdiction on this. Our communities -- and notably the children in them who attend our public schools - - need and deserve to be accurately represented in government. Unfair maps mean these kids, their families, and their interests are not fairly represented. This issue requires full, democratic, and transparent consideration. I urge the Supreme Court to reject this proposal.

Charles Taylor
5214 Cottage Grove Road
Madison, WI 53716

Please ensure that we have fair maps drafted by an independent team

Geraldine Duffy
1820 ESSEX DR
SUN PRAIRIE, WI 53590

I oppose this rule change as this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Cathy Thompson
330 E. Winnebago St.
Appleton, WI 54911

Redistricting Comment

In the interest of fairness district maps should not be drawn on the basis of partisan data but, on the apolitical objective of one person one vote in cohesive areas. An objective approach will help ensure against engineered lopsided representation dictated by the majority political party of the time.

Charles Uphoff
2475 Lalor Rd.
Fitchburg, WI 53575

The Clerk of the Supreme Court
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701

With reference to a petition for a proposed rule to amend Wisconsin Statue Section 809.70

I previously served as coordinator of the Wisconsin Governor's Conference on Children and Families for Governor Lee Sherman Dreyfus, as a member and President of the Fitchburg City Council and as a member of the Oregon School Board. I have been actively following the discussions related to a proposed rule change presently before the Supreme Court and I am concerned about the impact of the proposed change on citizen's ability to have their voices heard and their ability to raise concerns about the impact of proposed redistricting changes on their communities and their lives. Representative government is anchored in the belief that that the will of the people is reflected in the actions and the decisions of the people who are elected to represent them. I urge you to reject the proposed rule change.

It is essential to the principle of one person / one vote that each person's vote should, as nearly as practicable, have equivalent weight in determining the outcome of our elections.

The process proposed in the petition by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty would impose unnecessary and arbitrary limits on citizens' right to petition, a right which is unambiguously guaranteed in Article 1 Section 4 of the Wisconsin Constitution. "The right of the people peaceably to assemble, to consult for the common good, and to petition the government, or any department thereof, shall never be abridged."

While the rules proposed by the petition require that political parties may be heard by the Court, the rights of citizens, non-partisan local elected officials and communities are not guaranteed the right to be heard in decisions that will have a tangible and profound impact on them.

The absence of a fact-finding process that that would be eliminated, if lower courts are enjoined from considering appeals, would inevitably cripple and discredit any decision the Supreme Court might make and would politicize any decision with the stain of perceived partisanship.

I hope you will carefully weigh the impact which the proposed rule change would have on the credibility and the reputation of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, in considering other important matters that will come before the Court, and I urge you to reject this proposed change.

Sincerely,

Charles Uphoff
2475 Lalor Rd.
Fitchburg, WI 53575

Curt Wilson
1910 Charles Street
DePere, WI 54115

Although the recent presidential race split essentially 50/50 between political parties as it did four years ago, the Republican Party enjoys a 66% majority in the legislature. This is due to gerrymandering. A partisan process which favors the party in power. It enables the majority to do as they please, and ignore the will of the people. We need Fair Maps drawn by non-partisan staff to protect our democracy. Iowa has done this successfully for the last twenty years!

With redistricting before us... and the Republican Party in control, the petition before the court if approved would deny us any say in Wisconsin's new legislative maps for the next ten years. The only parties recognized by the court would be the Republican and Democratic parties, the Legislature, and the Governor. Non-partisan groups like the League of Women Voters would be excluded.

Please allow non-partisan groups like the League of Women's voters, unions and others to participate in how these maps are drawn in a fair and non-partisan way.

Thank you
Curt Wilson
DePere VOTER

Curt Meine
S11761 Cassel Rd.
Sauk City, Wisconsin 53583

The health of our democracy is precarious and at risk as never before in my lifetime. We can begin to restore trust and fairness in our representative government by working for impartial, transparent state redistricting in Wisconsin in the next year.

In recent years, citizens all across Wisconsin have worked and voted on behalf of a nonpartisan process for redrawing voting district maps. Fifty-five Wisconsin counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda in support of a fair redistricting process.

The new proposed rule change works against fairness and transparency. It would require that lawsuits over future maps go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, bypassing lower courts; eliminate the introduction of evidence and materials obtained in the lower court processes; require political parties be heard in a dispute, but other nonpartisan groups would be excluded; and disenfranchise Wisconsin citizens by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating unfair maps.

I urge the Wisconsin Supreme Court to strongly reject this proposed rule. It is important for our citizens, but also for the Wisconsin Supreme Court itself. We must begin to counter the politicization of the court, and restore its reputation and credibility. We must ensure that fair maps--and a fair process for developing them--be adopted. This is fundamental to reclaiming good government for all citizens of Wisconsin, and for future generations. The erosion of our civic values and comity is tragic and destructive, and we must all take steps to rebuild common ground. The Supreme Court has a unique opportunity now to help turn Wisconsin back in that direction.

Charles Wellington
W7090 County Rd. Y
Monroe, WI 53566

I urge the Court to reject out of hand the petition by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty to remove the public and any semblance of transparency from the redistricting process. The fabric of our democracy is currently under attack on many fronts. This petition is another underhanded attempt to circumvent what should be a bipartisan and open process.

This Court used to be one of the most reputable state Supreme Courts. That reputation, regrettably, has been shaken in recent years as it has been under pressure to become more and more politicized. To uphold the WILL petition would be a partisan political act without serious legal support in my opinion. You have an opportunity to restore some public trust in our institutions and I hope that you seize it.
Thank you,
Charles R. Wellington

CHRISTINE CRAWFORD

3850 LADY FERN CT
VERONA, WI 53593

this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Cynthia Winn
1009 E Grant AV
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Please do not approve the proposed plans to re-draw voting districts. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Voters want a non-partisan approach.

dick bodmer
715 meadowview lane
lodi, wi 53555

WIILs petition will create insufficiwnt transparency and exclude non-political partIES from participating and, as such, should be DENIED.

Jonathan Daly
2726 North Farwell Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53211

At a time when virtually all public policy is being politicized, even in matters of public health in the face of the worst crisis any of us have ever experienced, the last thing that we need is for politicians to divide up our avenues of representation to serve their own political purposes.

Susan Danforth
119 Sarahs Way
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

This rule should not pass.

Dana Johnson
1009 Hampshire Place
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

I highly value a nonpartisan, transparent redistricting process. The rule proposed by WILL effectively disbars non-political organizations from being heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps. This is clearly unfair and may result in more gerrymandered districts if only political parties are able to contest the redistricting.

Nancy Bowen
736 North 114 Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

It's time to represent the population in a fair and unbiased manner.

Daniel R. B. Fary, M.D.
W7466 County Road J
Fort Atkinson, WI 535389110

Dear Judges,

In June, the Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty (WILL) asked the WI State Supreme Court to adopt a rule specific to legal challenges to redistricting. The Court agreed to consider the request and is currently seeking public comment.

As a Wisconsin constituent, I am asking that you dismiss or deny this challenge.

80% of Wisconsin citizens (55 counties) have now passed resolutions or referenda urging fair redistricting, listening to every citizen voice, not just the far left or right desires of the political party leaders.

I am certainly in favor of redistricting, however, the process must have free and open representation from all Wisconsin residents, citizens, and voters. It must not be abbreviated by removing discovery and fact finding by the lower courts and short-circuiting directly to the Supreme Court. Throughout the United States and the world, there is an increasing movement to authoritarianism, where only the wealthy and well-connected get to have a say in how our government is run. It must not happen that only the politicians can petition the Supreme Court as to how redistricting should be done. We citizens deserve and demand the representation afforded us by the US Constitution.

Please do not allow politicians to gain even more authoritarian control of our political systems by this self-interested bullying.

Thank you sincerely for considering my requests.

Very sincerely,

Daniel R. B. Fary, M.D.

Dan Myers
813 Rose Ct
Somerset, WI 54025

Wisconsin is one of the most gerrymandered states in the country, and despite the fact that 55 counties have passed fair maps referenda and resolutions, the state GOP continues to work against the will of the people. Enough. People should choose their representatives, not the other way around. Please end the unconstitutional and patently unfair practice of gerrymandering one and for all. Let's make fair maps for everyone THE LAW.

Thank you.

Danielle Rasmussen
314 7th Street
Kenosha, WI 53140

Fair maps and fair elections should be at the forefront of this proposal yet it is not. Let's not rush something through just to be able to say we have something in place.

Daniel Mattson
3607 11th Ave
Kenosha, WI 53140

Right-wing partisans are trying to short-circuit the upcoming legislative redistricting process and rig it in their favor to increase the likelihood that another Republican gerrymander can be put in place for the next 10 years just like the one that was foisted on Wisconsin in 2011. The far-right Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) is maneuvering to limit any judicial review of redistricting in our state to the Wisconsin Supreme Court with its conservative majority. This is a clear case of court shopping in hopes of guaranteeing they get the outcome they want. They don't want lower state courts to have any say or

to give citizens the opportunity to weigh in, and they also want to avoid what happened in Wisconsin in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s when federal judges were asked to intervene in the process and drew state legislative and congressional district maps that did not clearly favor either major party. WILL's cynical ploy should be seen for what it is and rejected. Wisconsin's Supreme Court justices need to hear from the public on this. Tell them the court shouldn't allow itself to be used this way. That will only further politicize our court system and further undermine public confidence in the state Supreme Court.

Darla Goodman
1580 Canterbury Dr
REEDSBURG, Wisconsin 53959

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

I am appalled that this is even being considered. Wisconsin has a reputation for gerrymandering and it is an embarrassment to our state.

In these times of doing whatever it takes to stay in power even if it is unethical and even at times illegal. We need to move towards a government for all that is fair and working for the people.

The amount of brain washing that I am seeing is very scary and we need to make the turn towards democracy!

We need to be able to challenge redistricting when the lines are drawn to benefit one party over another.

Sincerely,
Darla Goodman
A concerned and angry citizen.

Darlene Cornell
1218 Taft Avenue
Eau Claire, WI 54701

I feel it is of critical importance that the Supreme Court not bow to pressures of political parties and to keep citizen input on gerrymandering as an essential part of the process, not excluding input from any groups or individuals. I am opposed to the proposed rule change.

Daryl Hinz

314 S Main St
Verona, WI 53593

I oppose the expedited and limited legal review process being proposed for redistricting. Rather I believe a more transparent & inclusive process should be adopted (such as a nonpartisan commission) to draw maps and ensure fair representation of all Wisconsinites. But at a minimum a full and fair judicial process should be maintained. Thank you for your consideration. Daryl

David Schulz
18 W Gilman St, Apt. 1
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

The importance of districting in our state of Wisconsin — how we decide on the maps, as well as the final content of said maps — can hardly be overstated. It is central to the functioning of our democracy, and to public trust in our institutions. Do people feel like their voices are heard? Do they feel like the system is responsive to their interests?

Please reject this rule change. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support. Please keep this process transparent and open to public engagement by rejecting this rule change.

Dave and Donna Swanson
5940 Stanton Rd
Platteville, WI 53818-9642

I am opposed to the rule change because the establishment of a record at the lower court level would enhance transparency and enable the citizens of Wisconsin to grasp the evidence in the case and the competing arguments as they wind their way through the courts.

It would also eliminate the opportunity for nonprofit public interest organizations and concerned citizens to provide input at any hearing on redistricting maps before the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

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Dave Topp
8516 Reid Drive
Madison, WI 53717

The current gerrymandered map has lead us to a spot where good government has been neutered. Legislators are not beholden to their voters, but to their party. We see this in the legislation that is passed, and not passed. Our state has gone from good governance, to very little governance. Packing districts assures us that money will continue doing it's job of creating laws that hinder democracy. Giving one or a small number of groups the ability to write legislation will lead to autocracy.

David Ogden
11780 W Glen Way
Greenfield, WI 53228

I disagree with the petition by Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. Redistricting belongs to the voters, not to the political parties. The proposal could freeze out anyone other than the parties. Also the lower courts are important to allow the public to see what the arguments are for each side and what data they are presenting. Eliminating this step likely means that the public will understand less about the process. There is no immediate rush to finalize redistricting, it will apply for 10 years. The Wisconsin redistricting in 2010 was very closed, with the Republicans requiring all involved to agree to non disclosure agreements, thereby not allowing the voters to know how the districts were chosen. I am concerned that eliminating lower courts that even less information will be known.

David and Gretchen Skoloda
14 Copeland Ave #213
La Crosse, WI 54603

The manipulation of voting districts by dividing, consolidating or otherwise arranging voters in a way that dilutes voting strength and favors one party over another has gone on long enough. Unfortunately, the court is looking at a rule change that will further politicize and reinforce gerrymandering harmful to the democratic process. The proposed rule would exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation and limit judicial transparency. The state constitution requires districts to be as compact as possible. For the court to allow any kind of gerrymandering that allows the distended, illogical partisan-weighted forms is to deny its function of upholdinhg the State Constitution.

David Allen
810 MacArthur Ave
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

Well, I understand that the problem of gerrymandering in Wisconsin may make its way to you members of Wisconsin's Supreme Court. Of course, what we have now in this state is an electoral system that results in many more Democratic votes for members of the legislature with the election of many more Republicans than Democrats. A remarkably undemocratic situation. The Republican Party after the election in 2010, having gained a majority in the legislature, went ahead and grossly gerrymandered the state so that they could, as many people have noted, choose their voters instead of having the voters choose them.

Now you are being petitioned to take the matter away from the legislature and seize jurisdiction yourself. Evidently you would be asked to consult with both political parties, but not with any other group such as unions or the League of Women Voters. If this is true, it's not good. You should take into consideration as many points of view as possible.

I must admit that I am skeptical about the Court's ability to rule on this matter since, despite the notion that you all are non-partisan, you are clearly divided along conservative and liberal lines. Nevertheless, perhaps there is something you can do to arrange for the creating of voting districts in the state that are actually fair. What we need is a non-partisan way of creating these districts. I hear that Iowa has a good system. So, what you need to do is guide the state toward fairness in this matter.

David Higgins
515 S. Rusk Ave.
Viroqua, WI 54665

In June, the uber-conservative Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty filed a petition asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to adopt a rule that would create a fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases. The rule would undermine our system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process.

The proposed rule would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or input from members of the public and groups that aren't political. This directly contradicts the preference of a majority of Wisconsin citizens to have a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process.

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 85% of Wisconsin's citizens. The proposed rule change is a sneaky, subtle attempt to take citizens out of the process of creating the next decade's maps before it even gets started!

Partisan gerrymandering is wrong. It has dismantled democracy. The people and counties of Wisconsin have spoken. We demand fair maps, and an independent way to draw them to make redistricting fair and balanced that all voters voices are heard.

Please oppose this attempt to keep our citizens out of the redistricting process. Oppose gerrymandering of our beloved state. Fair Maps must prevail. Thank you.

Dana Schumacher
W267N6993 Wilderness Way
Sussex, WI 53089

The process of dismantling the current gerrymandering in WI needs to be open, not rushed, and allow for public comment by its citizens. I strongly oppose WILL's petition.

Doris Ziesemer
1210 Mount Mary Dr
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54311

I do not support the WILL petition to the state Supreme Court to take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. There are proposals in the petition that are harmful to the public interest and procedures that are optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone or will insure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review. Advisory referendums have indicated that a high percentage of Wisconsinites want fair maps drawn by an independent body that will end gerrymandering. There are successful models from other states for guidance to help insure that Wisconsin has a fair redistricting process.

David Besley
749 Miami Pass
Madison, WI 53711

I object to the petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to adopt a rule that would create a fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases. The rule would undermine our system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process.

The proposed rule would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or input from members of the public and groups that aren't political. This directly contradicts the preference of a majority of Wisconsin citizens to have a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process.

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 80 percent of Wisconsin's citizens. The proposed rule change is a sneaky, subtle attempt to take citizens out of the process of creating the next decade's maps before it even gets started! Please oppose this petition.

Deborah Buffton
1908 Kane St.
La Crosse, WI 54603-2130

I am writing in relation to Rule Petition 20-03 regarding legal challenges to redistricting.

I oppose this petition for at least three reasons:

First, this would subvert the normal process of legal challenges and send them directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, rather than having them go through the normal channels. We have rules and processes for a reason--they provide a consistent way for the government to do business so that things are handled fairly. There is no good reason to subvert these processes, which is what this petition would do.

Second, this rule petition would prevent public interest groups from speaking in hearings on behalf of the citizens of the state. Section 5(b) of the WILL petition requires only that the political parties be heard. This makes things less democratic. Political redistricting and gerrymandering are issues that concern every single citizen of the state, not just a few. We should all have a voice in these decisions.

Third, this rule petition also gives the Wisconsin Supreme Court leeway to ignore the procedures and requirements of the rule itself. What is the point of having rules if they can be arbitrarily thrown out or ignored (see the first point above).

In short, this petition would curtail democracy at a time we should be expanding it. I urge you to oppose this rule petition, as do I.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Deborah Buffton, citizen of Wisconsin

Leslie Buzz Davis
813 S. Deer Meadow Loop
Tucson, WI 85745

Subject: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

Dave Anderson
828 County Road E
Hudson, WI 54016

Absolutely want non partisan groups to decide the re-districting of our state. This should be done with the best interests of the people of the state of Wisconsin. It is imperative to keep this non-partisan. Thank you

Craig Fitzgerald
703 Glenwood av
De pere, Wi 54115

I feel the proposed rule is too exclusive in that it prevents lower court fact finding, individual and group involvement in the review process. This rule would enshrine the all too pervasive partisan approach to redistricting that has adversely effected Wisconsin's political landscape in our recent past.

Denise Fitzgerald
703 Glenwood Avenue
De Pere, Wi 54115

This rule will politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from participation and has insufficient transparency measures.

David Roberts
N6893 Hunters Ridge Road
Delavan, Wisconsin 53115

I oppose amending of WIS.STAT.809.70 (Rule petition 20-03) Adopting this proposed rule would further increase the perception of the Court being a political branch of the government rather than a neutral arbitrator. It is important for democracy to have fair districts. The public must have a say in the creation of districts. The process must be transparent and involve both political parties and the citizens of Wisconsin.

Dianne Danis
123 West Washington Ave, Unit 411
Madison, WI 53703

Comment to the State Supreme Court Regarding a Proposed Rule Change
Submitted: 11/21/2020

I am writing in opposition to the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”) petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation.

This rule would harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. We currently have a process that was carefully developed and we should leave the process in place.

Eliminating the review by multiple courts limits the review of maps and rushes the process, which would normally involve development of a record, including evidence and testimony. Racial gerrymandering violates the Voting Rights Act which is a federal act. Without a complete trial process, the most marginalized could be hurt.

The proposed rule only considers partisan interests.

Denise Fenton
500 W. Parkway Blvd.
Appleton, WI 54911

Redistricting is one of the most complex and difficult tasks of government and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person / one vote. It should never be rushed. On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process.

In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed.

Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support

Deborah Krueger
801 N Main Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Your Honors: I am very concerned about the upcoming redistricting process to limit any citizen review of state legislative and congressional districts in our great state of WI.

All of our fellow citizens need to be able to voice their opinion leaving out state and federal judges to intervene in the process. We need transparency and the folks of WI to be shown the evidence in competing arguments which will be coming before the courts. I would like to receive this information from nonprofit public interest organizations resulting from input of concerned citizens.

This is a people issue and a fair map needs to be nonpartisan using citizen voices and NOT political parties. If you wish to at least maintain some public confidence in the state Supreme Court, this needs to be a nonpartisan issue.

Thank you for consideration and time.

deb schilt
N9118 state road 69
New Glarus, WI 53574

We need fair maps in Wisconsin. We have no representation in our state capitol as long as these gerrymandering practices continue. Please do the right thing for Wisconsin and let the voters have their voices back.

Deborah Fallon
1232 Elm Street
Beloit, WI 53511

Redistricting should be handled by a non-partisan group of citizens and the process should not be rushed. This rule will politicize the Supreme Court and not allow non-partisan organizations to participate. It also does not lead to transparency.

Thanks you!

Deb Fallon

Deb Martin
164 WYLDEWOOD DR
OSHKOSH, WI 54904

The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”), has filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process. This petition is harmful to Wisconsin citizens. It takes away the rights of nonpartisan groups from being heard. It can limit the information the court has to make a fair decision because facts and viewpoints do not need to be included. Please deny this petition. Stand with Wisconsin citizens. We deserve the right to choose our politicians not for them to choose us. We need fair maps. Thank you.

Debra Griffith
1236 Somerset Ct.
Janesville, WI 53546

Redistricting should be open and transparent with public input. The maps need to be drawn fairly so that we pick our representatives, not so they retain their seats. I have felt disconnected from my representative for the last ten years. My community of Janesville was split down the middle and part of my district includes areas who do not share the interests, challenges or boundaries here where I reside. Clearly the state has signaled a need to have a non-partisan group draw these maps. 54 of Wisconsin’s 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 85% of Wisconsin’s citizens.

We do not want to politicize the court and I want to be able to trust that what the court chooses is in the interest of the people and the current law.

Deborah Vaughan
204 N. Main St.
Verona, WI 53593

The most destructive actions surrounding the politics surrounding ex-Governor Walker concerned the Wisconsin Supreme Court. I have trusted legal proceedings in the past to be fair, I no longer am so confident. Please do not further erode public confidence and return and secure inclusive redistricting maps in Wisconsin. Healing our State begins with a return to transparency and non-partisan rule

making. The Supreme Court should be at the end of that process, not with a heavy hand stopping input from all interested parties.

DEBORAH ELSAS
207 S Whitney Way
Madison, WI 53705

When elections in Wisconsin are so skewed in favor of one party over another and the other is the one receiving majority votes, it is well past time to develop new and fair voting maps.

Susan Riseling
1802 Monroe St
Madison, WI 53711

Honorable Members of The Court:

One person, one vote is fundamental to Americans. Drawing maps so that it favors one political party over the other is unfair. Using natural boundaries, town boundaries, county boundaries, etc is more logical and less manipulative than the method used now. Please put credibility back in the process. Please put logic and not partisan desires back into the process. Please put integrity back into the process. Thank you.

Dianne Edgette
6744 8th Ave
Platteville, WI 53818

I oppose Rule Petition 20-03. Redistricting is very important to citizens of WI. Polls show citizens of WI are opposed to gerrymandered districts and want Fair Maps drawn. Do not allow the proposed rule that would interfere with drawing fair district maps. This time, the legislature needs to be transparent and follow the law for fair maps without an end run to the courts.

Denice Ryan
6219 Lakeview Blvd
Middleton, WI 53562

To the honorable Members of the WI State Supreme Court:

Please do not pass this proposed rule change! We need a transparent and nonpartisan process for districting that takes districting out of Party hands and into the community.

Deirdre Weber
138 S. Main
Potosi, Wisconsin 53820

We want a transparent, non-partisan redistributing process. I live in a gerrymandered district that has resulted in poor representation in the state house. Clearly, if the redistricting process is left to the current crop of politicians, we will never have anyone who actually cares about what is best for my district, only about what is best for his party and himself. Make it fair! No one should be mapped into a permanent job.

Jodi Delfosse
3267 N Newhall St
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Gerrymandering skews election results, makes political races less competitive and thwarts the will of the voters. It is a perversion of our democracy and should be ended. This petition is not the way to accomplish that; it further perverts our democracy by politicizing the supreme court and needlessly limiting those who can bring complaints. It also reduces transparency and rushes the process of creating the maps.

Dane Anderson
16136 w. Avon N. Townline Rd.
Brodhead, Wisconsin 53520

I am against this back door gerrymandering scheme. The situation is unacceptable as it is.

Shirley De Lorme
2415 Oakwood Ave.
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301

I ask the Supreme Court to reject his proposed rule and allow any disputes to proceed through the normal court procedures. The proposed rule will undermine people's confidence in the process.

Dena Eakles
E14604 County Rd F
Ontario, WI 54651

The rule will further politicize the court, it hinders nonpartisan participation and lacks transparency. Gerrymandering hurts all of us. Please follow the lead of the majority of Wisconsin counties and support the majority of Wisconsinites who agree. It is time to end the political grab of power.

Cecile Even
31048 Nebraska rd
Richland Center, WI 53581

Please limit plans to redistribute maps. First you must assure all parties, unions, members are part of the process. Please, the democratic way.

Mike McCabe
3634 Alpine Road
Madison, WI 53704

Right-wing partisans are trying to short-circuit the upcoming legislative redistricting process and rig it in their favor to increase the likelihood that another Republican gerrymander can be put in place for the next 10 years just like the one that was foisted on Wisconsin in 2011. The right-wing Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) is maneuvering to limit any judicial review of redistricting in our state to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This is a clear case of court shopping in hopes of guaranteeing they get the outcome they want. They don't want any lower state courts to have any say, and they also want to prevent any possibility of what happened in Wisconsin in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s, when federal judges were asked to intervene in the process and drew reasonably fair state legislative and congressional district maps that did not clearly favor either major party. WILL's cynical maneuver should be seen for what it is and rejected. The state Supreme Court should not allow itself to be used in this way. It will only further politicize our court system and further undermine public confidence in the Supreme Court.

dennis mcknite
413 main st
star prairie, WI 54026-9257

stop the gerrymandering! I want my vote to count!

Devarati Syam
3327 W. Riverland Dr.
Mequon, WI 54092

I am appealing to the Wisconsin Supreme Court justices to make an informed and thoughtful decision on the rules that will guide the drawing of electoral maps in the state in 2021. I believe the rules to redraw these districts should be fair and transparent. I don't think partisan gerrymandering helps the state; and having one party dominate the political landscape through gerrymandering is grossly unrepresentative; it is extremely corrosive; and it does great disservice to our Constitution. I am urging the justices to keep an open mind regarding establishing these rules for drawing maps because the foundations of a representative democracy should not be subverted for partisan ends. Our state needs robust and clear principles to move forward in creating these electoral maps.

David Faliski
7317 Secret Bluff Drive
Madison, WI 53719

"Wisconsin's gerrymandering is a form of legal apartheid. We have the most segregated state in the US for many reasons. Gerrymandering is what underpins the mechanism that silences change, disenfranchised bipoc, & implements minority rule." <https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2020/11/08/purple-wisconsin-still-has-dark-red-legislature/>

Diana Gastrow
817 East Otjen Street
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Act NOW to save lives in Wisconsin!!

David Heilman
7095 lost lake Rd
Egg harbor, WI 54209

We need fair maps independent of any political party.

Darrel Hutmaker

403 hwy 35 apt 17
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016

This rule will harm fully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures

Peter Ronk
551 Fairway Cir
Jefferson, WI 53549

Gerrymandering our voting districts is just wrong! This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency . Please support fair maps.

Helen Henrichs
1233 N Sumac Dr
Janesville, WI 53545

Redistricting needs to be representative of all the voters, not of the politicians. It needs to be fair and inclusive, to provide just representation for all, and non-partisan groups need to be heard, not just the political parties, in order to create fair maps. I urge that a non-partisan committee be appointed to do this work, and that it not be under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The work of redistricting needs to be transparent, not done in secret. We have a right to choose our representatives, not have our representatives choose us!

Diane Dillett
7806 Courtyard Drive
Madison, WI 53719

Wisconsin needs and wants transparent independent nonpartisan redistricting now. 54 of 72 Wisconsin county boards passed resolutions requiring independent redistricting.

Dianna Dentino
24819 W. Loomis Road
Wind Lake, WI 53185

RE: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

Dianna Dentino
24819 W Loomis Road
Wind Lake, WI 53185

November 17, 2020 Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting To Whom It May Concern: It is my understanding the the proposed rule was submitted by the rightwing Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL), and it has the following flaws: First, it would jump any legal challenge to redistricting immediately to the Wisconsin Supreme Court rather than let that challenge work its way through the courts in a normal fashion. The establishment of a record at the lower court level would enhance transparency and enable the citizens of Wisconsin to grasp the evidence in the case and the competing arguments as they wend their way through the courts. Second, nonprofit public interest organizations and concerned citizens could get aced out of any hearing on redistricting maps before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The WILL petition, in Section 5(b), requires only that the political parties be heard by the Court in any dispute over the maps. It does not allow room, explicitly at least, for groups like ours that have a longstanding interest in this issue to be heard. Redistricting is not simply a dispute between the parties. Third, the proposed rule that WILL is advancing gives the Court the leeway to disregard the procedures and requirements laid out in the rule itself. So that's no rule at all if it allows you to toss everything out the window and just do what you want. If you're going to have a rule, it should be abided by, and it should be transparent, and it should be applied in a fair manner. So I have a favor to ask, please do the right thing for the hard working residents of this state. Enough is enough! The abuse we are seeing nationally disregarding legal protocols is stunning. Please do not follow suit. Let your moral compass lead you to make the right decision for Wisconsin. Respectfully submitted, Dianna Dentino 414.736.0860 dianna@innerwell.com

Maria Dietrich
1104 CUL DE SAC ST
RIPON, WI 54971

I believe that the citizens of Wisconsin should be able to choose their elected representatives through a process that utilizes fair maps, NOT gerrymandered districts. For the past ten years, the power in our state legislature has been unfairly commandeered by Republicans because of these maps. That's a huge problem in Wisconsin, and we need to remedy that. Districts should be drawn by a fair and non-partisan process, regardless of which party is in power. I am against the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) petition requesting that the state Supreme Court should claim jurisdiction on any future redistricting legislation, as this effectively limits the review of fair maps and rushes the process altogether. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations such as the League of Women Voters. This means

groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court’s process.

The proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

If enacted, this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and limit judicial transparency.

Eileen DeGuire
6054 N. Kent Ave.
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

As an informed and engaged citizen, there are a few key constitutional principles that I believe need

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Deidre Jarecki
4410 Bonner In
Madison, WI 53704

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. I do not support this rule and urge you to reconsider.

Dan Hamersky
1042 rogues way
Green Bay, WI 54313

The following comment pertains to the Supreme Court taking jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation: I hope that the Supreme Court does NOT adapt this change in the legal procedure for redistricting Wisconsin. If adopted it would limit who and what court would hear the lawsuit, it would limit citizen input or non-patrician participation, it would decrease transparency of the process, and it would make the Supreme Court of Wisconsin another potential polarized political infight rather than its role as a legal referee/legal overseer. Thank you

Debbie Konkol
2303 Hollister Ave.
Madison, Wusconsin 53725

Please ensure that our leaders are held accountable by getting rid of gerrymandering all together. We all, Dems and Republicans suffer from this and it is not what our founders ever imagined.

Donna Martinson
1642 87th Ave
Dresser, WI 54009

I write in opposition to the rule proposed by WILL, to move responsibility for redistributing to the state courts. To ensure fair maps, this role is better fulfilled by a nonpartisan citizens commission rather than bringing partisanship into the realm of the courts. There is a broad constituency seeking places at the table, so do not rush to action in this vital issue.

Deborah Nelson
S7942 COUNTY RD. C
North Freedom, WI 53951

Enough already. Time for fair maps. We have had enough.

Jean Weihert
9133W Fiorelli Rd
Hayward, WI 54843

The people of Wisconsin have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. They are not listening. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair. Are there any public interest groups asking for this rule change? NO!

The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. The lower courts are the appropriate place where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps.

This rule change further politicizes the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its credibility in the eyes of the public.

This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to ensuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency.

There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being rushed and I demand a 60 day continuance.

I object to the constitutionality of the requested rule change. The petition seeks to authorize the Court to take immediate jurisdiction of the redistricting process upon the request of any party the instant the census is released and then issue an immediate stay. Taking jurisdiction at that early point is premature; there is not yet any case or controversy. The request rests solely on the speculation that, with a divided government, there "may" be a future impasse between the Legislature and Executive Branch. Having the Court take over the process at that premature point violates the state and federal constitutions because it would usurp the authority of the Legislature and Executive branch to address redistricting matters in the first instance. While the Court may eventually be the proper party to review actual disputes about redistricting, based on the actual facts then of record, it is not the constitutionally authorized body to usurp and decide redistricting matters in the first instance.

Donna Kiser
8609 246Th Ave
Salem, WI 53168

The people should be given the voice and that can only be accomplished through fair map drawing. Having the courts do this will only more politicize the courts. It should be completed by a nonpartisan group with complete transparency.

Deborah Koconis
1229 N. Jackson St., Unit 107
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Deborah L. Koconis
Mark R. Unak
1220 N. Jackson St., Unit 107
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414.224.7675

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Dale Koehler
109 Aspen Glen Dr
Spring Green, WI 53588

I urge the Court not to accept the proposed rule change filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & order concerning redistricting. This rule would harmfully politicize the Court, exclude non-partisan groups from participating, and is insufficiently transparent. We need to have a non-partisan redistricting and eliminate gerrymandering. Thank you, Dale Koehler

Denise LaBudda
151 N Tyler St
Lancaster, WI 53813-1436

Opposition to Rule Petition 20-03

I would like to register my opposition to Rule Petition 20-03 made by Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL). Fair representation of WI residents is the cornerstone of our democratic process. However, the gerrymandered district maps of Wisconsin have allowed Republicans to maintain power with a fewer votes than cast for Democrats. Unfortunately, recent rulings of the WI Supreme Court have revealed the biased, partisan nature of the WI Supreme Court's rulings (e.g. overturning Governor Ever's

emergency orders), so it seems like a lofty request to ask the court to place fair representation of WI residents above maintaining minority control, but I am. With the Supreme Court's bias on clear display, it would be reassuring to have disagreement and such challenges should be required to work their way through lower courts. Challenges related to redistricting maps is more than a partisan disagreement. Fair representation of WI residents is the cornerstone of our democratic process. The proposed WILL rule will perpetuate the wrongs that need to be corrected. We need transparency and fairness in drawing the district maps of Wisconsin.

Donna Gruszynski
N6720 Lake Lane
Lake Mills, WI 53551

Re: Rule Petition 20-03 WILL/Jensen

All citizens of WI and non-partisan organizations have the right to view and have input into how new electoral maps will be drawn.

They are currently being denied this fundamental right. Why? This is wrong and the Court must know this.

Please explain why this rule change is going directly to the State Supreme Court and bypassing federal and state trial courts. Do republicans, for the most part, know the partisan State Supreme Court will rule in their favor?

This is blatantly partisan and that is wrong!

It lacks transparency!

Citizens are losing their rights and their voices!

This is not democracy and you know it!

Dianne Judd
87060 Oak Ridge Heights Rd
Bayfield, WI 54814

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

I am a League of Women Voter member and I oppose the rule proposed by Wisconsin for Law and Liberty which requests that the state Supreme Court claim jurisdiction on any future redistricting legislation.

This challenge between political parties should work its way through the lower courts in a transparent manner so citizens of WI can have access to and be aware of and have a voice in the arguments.

As a LWV member and concerned citizen who has studied and worked with redistricting issues, we would have no say in this process.

I believe that an independent non partisan body draws the maps and prohibit the use of political and voting data in their development. If there is disagreement it needs to begin at the lower courts so the public can view and be part of this process.

Diane Vepraskas
N59W5570 Edgewater Dr
Cedarburg, WI 53012-2169

I would hope that the Supreme Court would facilitate a plan to hear all citizens involved in mapping of districts and not politicize mapping of districts. We need FAIR maps with community input. I'm in district 6 and it does not characterize my community but rather guarantee that republicans stay in power. Districts should not be about keeping a party in power. Citizens should have their votes count! I think the WI and US supreme court are biased.

Debra Miller
2023 N Riverwalk Way
Milwaukee, WI 53212

This proposed rule change is damaging to the public interest. It will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Donna Magdalina
409 Russell st
Madison, WI 53704

Absolutely no gerrymandering!!!! Citizens of Wisconsin demand a public and fair process for fair maps. We're watching you!

Dawn Martin
1975 S 70th St
West Allis, WI 53219

Adopting this rule risks increasing the the politicization and polarization of the Court and further decreasing public trust in the Court as a legitimate institution. Inserting itself in this area of partisan conflict so very early and thoroughly, without adequate review via the lower courts first, threatens to give the impression the Court is a political bank rather than a neutral arbitrator of conflict between political actors. Transparency in the redistricting process is key to public trust. This proposed rule does

not provide adequate information to, or input from, the public. The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin the process failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the the proposed districts could be heard. The process W.I.L.L. has proposed would not solve this, and in fact would allow the Court to sidestep consideration of any arguments by groups other than elected officials and political parties. I would allow the Court to create or bless maps with hearing evidence or public input. Without a complete trial process, the most marginalized could and would most likely continue to be hurt.

Doris DeYoung
N2029 Pine Beach Rd S
Oostburg, WI 53070

We need to include all groups and hear all groups about the effects of gerrymandering in WI. We need to have maps that reflect our beliefs, not just the beliefs of the last party in power when gerrymandering was last done. I want to choose my legislator, I don't want my legislator to choose me!

Diane Mann
58809 Roanoke Dr
Fitchburg, WI 53719

Why the rush? Let's have some time for public comment. Furthermore, this change would eliminate transparency. Wisconsin needs good government and full participation in advocating for non-partisan maps. This is just another underhanded dirty trick.

Dee Taylor
540 Moullette Dr.
Rice Lake, WI 54868

This will politicize the Court even more than it is now. We do not need that. We would like more nonpartisan groups participating in this process. We would prefer more transparency than this would allow. We want redistricting more like the Iowa model.

Donald Myers
6201 Walden Way
Madison.WI, WI 53719

Don't. You. Dare!

David Nowak
N9053 Swift Lake Drive
East Troy, Wisconsin 53120

I strongly oppose the action to modify state statute 809.70 to require lawsuits about future maps to go straight to the State Supreme Court.

Eliminating the review by multiple courts limits the review of maps and rushes the process, which would normally involve development of a record, including evidence and testimony. Racial gerrymandering violates the Voting Rights Act which is a federal act. Without a complete trial process, the most marginalized could be hurt.

Transparency in the redistricting process is key to public trust.

The proposed rule does not provide adequate information to, or input from, the public.

Craig Domres
109 LINDEN LN, #8
THIENSVILLE, WI 53092-1217

I want fair representation. The very beginning of the Wisconsin Constitution, right at Article 1, Section 1 declares the right to equality. And that equality is only possible with fairness. It is not equal to allow a party more power than the support of the people would normally allot to them.

Don Greenwood
417 N Cincinnati Street
Spring Green, WI 53588

Dear Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court,

I and a majority of my fellow citizens who value democracy urge you to rule against any and all rules or laws that limit public input and transparency in the coming process of redistributing and creating new electoral district boundaries.

Thank you for your service and your consideration.

Don Greenwood
Spring Green WI

Joan Kent
702 N. Oak Dr.
La Farge, WI 54639

I fear that that the requested rule change to give the Wisconsin Supreme Court jurisdiction in future redistricting would exclude the public from giving input on future state Senate and Assembly maps. Many voters including myself are angry and frustrated that under current maps legislators choose their voters rather than voters choosing our legislators. We know that both political parties play this game when they're in power, and we know that Wisconsin must have fair maps for our votes to count. Any further action to prevent fair maps is going to result in more anger and frustration and eventually votes against legislators who vote against a fair redistricting process in Wisconsin.

Madonna Brusso
530 Van Caster Dr.
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54311

Redistricting is fundamental to one person, one vote and should never be rushed. Public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process. In 2009 the Wis. Supreme Court decided against such a rule change. Adopting this rule risks politicization of the court and citizens trust in it. 54 of Wisconsin's 74 counties passed Board resolutions in favor of a non- partisan redistricting process and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a non- partisan redistricting process

Dorothy Schumacher
213 Broadview Dr
Green Bay, WI 54301

Please allow for non political boundaries in WI. Please take politics out of it and do it County lines.

Dorothy Lagerroos
19230 S Sweden
Grand View, WI 54839

I am opposed to this rule because it subverts the traditional and constitutional role of the lower and supreme courts respectively. This rule is a blatant attempt to avoid public and legal input into the validity of electoral maps created by partisan bodies. The Wisconsin Supreme Court's impartial tradition would be seriously compromised by this rule as it would end up appearing a "handmaiden" to the ruling party's gerrymandered mapmaking. Please refuse to adopt this rule.
Thank you.

Elaine Dorough Johnson

1419 Jamesway
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

I urge the Supreme Court not to adopt a rule that would create a fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases. The rule would undermine our system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process. The time has come for Fair Maps!

Dorothy Baker
4244 W. Carolyn Ct.
Franklin, WI 53132

Please do not limit future redistricting legislation. Nonpartisan groups need to be heard when considering future redistricting considerations, and they should not be excluded. Procedures should not be disregarded and should not be optional. If these rules are not followed, the consequences will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and limit judicial transparency.

Dorothy Mead
111 S Iowa Street
MINERAL POINT, WI 53565

I am writing with regard to Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

I am horrified to read about the WILL petition, as it is in total opposition to the fair mapping of voting districts, and would thus legitimize flagrant gerrymandering. Fair mapping should not be a partisan issue. Please do not allow this rule to become law!
Thank you.

Debra Andrews
1608 Lone Oak Drive
Neenah, WI 54956

Wisconsinites are agreed: We want a nonpartisan process for establishing electoral districts. We have expressed this sentiment via county board resolutions and county referenda. These have passed with wide margins.

This proposed rule change rejects the clear wishes of our citizens, instead rushing through a partisan process in which disputes will be settled at the State Supreme Court level, with insufficient

transparency. This rejection of the clearly expressed wishes of our citizenry is a travesty. It will not be well received.

The Court should have no part in endorsing this highly partisan proposal. Perceptions of the Court's fairness and objectivity are already at risk. Please don't go further down the road of politicizing this body.

Douglas Walters
425 Scenic Road
Colgate, WI 53017

The rules for how Wisconsin creates its legislative districts are a key aspect of the democratic process in this state. Political parties know that the way these districts are created has a heavy influence on the electoral success of their party for the next ten years. When legislators and the governor can't agree on a legislative district map, then the courts must step in. It is imperative that the process for resolving legislative district maps allow input from both political and non-political groups in an impartial and transparent fashion. This will allow the courts to have a full picture of the issues involved and allow the citizens of Wisconsin to know that the courts have given long and fair consideration to their decision in this critical aspect of our democracy. We live in a time when the people of our state are severely polarized and questioning the fairness of our government institutions. I implore our state Supreme Court to not make any changes to our rules for redistricting that limit the completeness and transparency of this process. The people of our state need to see an impartial and fair process in this matter if confidence in our government institutions is to be restored and our dividedness is to be healed.

Carrie Doyle
422 W Cramer St.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Dear Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court,

I am writing concerning Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I request that the current rules for redistricting litigation remain unchanged.

It is important that non-partisan groups continue to be explicitly allowed to participate in the challenge process. Political parties are not the only entities in the state with a stake in redistricting. Every citizen is affected by redistricting and non-partisan groups play an important role in representing citizens not affiliated with a political party.

Bypassing multiple Federal and State courts and allowing challenges to go directly to the Supreme Court, as this Rule Petition proposes, will reduce transparency. The presentation of arguments, review by redistricting experts, and the issuing of opinions as challenges work their way through the courts give the public opportunities to learn about issues involved.

Most oddly, Rule Petition 20-03 does not require that the rules be followed at all. If there is going to be a rule, it should be transparent, it should be abided by, and it should be applied fairly.

I implore you to respect Wisconsin's rich history of ensuring that citizens are given a voice in redistricting and to keep the current process unchanged.

Thank you,
Carrie Doyle

Janice Doyle
3034 Acker Street, Cross Plains, WI 53528
Cross Plains, WI 53528

I'm writing in opposition to the proposed rule from the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. Please ensure that the map-drawing process be transparent and open to input from members of the public and groups that aren't political. I'm calling for a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process.

Rebecca Doyle-Morin
21794 County Road G
Darlington, WI 53530

I am writing to urge you to vote against the proposed rule for handling redistricting cases without hearing the voices of non-political bodies in the general public. We want a non-partisan redistricting process. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Donna Pahuski
W8883 Deer Run Trail
Cambridge, WI 53523

Dear Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

The recent rule change request by WILL regarding legal challenges to new electoral maps is very concerning to me. Wisconsin is already among the most gerrymandered states in the country. Our WI legislative map is so far skewed toward one political party that the opposing party will more than likely not be the majority for at least one whole generation. That being the case, without maps that are more fairly drawn (i.e. like the non-partisan IOWA model which has been the gold standard for redistricting for the past 40 years), thorough review by lower courts and an appropriate amount of time before WSC involvement would seem only fair and proper. Further, why is it that only political parties will be allowed to challenge legislative maps? This is outrageous.

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John Binder
421 Ann Dr
Plymouth, Wisconsin 53073

I have concerns about a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court should claim jurisdiction on any future redistricting legislation. I believe claiming such jurisdiction will further politicize our Supreme Court. I want to see full transparency in the redistricting process...unlike what happened in 2010! Governor Evers, by executive order, has created a nonpartisan redistricting commission which he calls a "People's Maps Commission" to draw a new set of legislative maps for Wisconsin following the 2020 U.S. Census. The order mandates no elected officials, public officials, lobbyists or political party officials

can be members of the commission. Instead, it will be made up of experts in nonpartisan redistricting, members from "communities of interest" and residents of each of the state's eight congressional districts. The commission will travel the state to provide communities information about redistricting and take testimony from citizens. They will then draw the maps for legislative approval and the Governor's signature. I like having the people having jurisdiction and not the court!

Dean Peck
12000 W Meadowlark Court
Hales Corners, Wisconsin 53130-1073

Do not turn the Supreme Court into a political entity. The Republicans cheat or stack everything in their favor whenever they can. Not this!

Dennis MCGILLIGAN
4230 Mandan Cres
Madison, WI 53711

I write to oppose any attempts to restrict the election map process to only politicians and political parties. I would like an open, transparent process that gives all citizens the right to participate in this process. For the past 10 years my vote has been worth less than others because of the extreme gerrymandering that has taken place by Republicans in the state legislature to increase their influence and decrease the influence of cities and urban areas. The State Supreme Court must no longer be a party to this anti-democratic effort to suppress votes that are not Republican. Please stop taking partisan sides and allow everyone's vote to count equally. Thanks. Dennis McGilligan.

DAVID THUROW
991 NENNIG RD
NEENAH, WI 54956

I believe that redistricting is one of the most complex and difficult tasks of government. It is fundamental to the principle of one person / one vote. It should never be rushed. On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process. We know that in 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed. Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in

favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Sean Hinton
102 N Dylan Rd
Wales, WI 53183

I request that you deny modification to state statute 809.70 regarding redistricting challenges in the courts. Transparency and a fair process are increasingly important, especially regarding voting districts. Any modification of 809.70 would tarnish the reputation of the Supreme Court due to the appearance of politically influencing the districting review process. I hope you will keep the WI Supreme Court honest and unbiased.

Danielle Johnson
1575 150th St
New Richmond, WI 54017

Fair maps are the heart of democracy. Technology has aided the evolution toward a corrupt system whereby the political party in power can pick their voters, nearly ensuring continued victory. The result is that legislators no longer have to be accountable to all their constituents. There is no motivation to work across the aisle when they are nearly guaranteed a win from their party alone.

Partisan map drawing has also led to grouping people together in districts where they have little in common and dividing communities that share economic interests. For example, my friend and I both live about 3 miles south of New Richmond, yet we reside in different Assembly districts. Hers shares Hudson and mine shares parts of very rural Wisconsin and parts of Menomonie. When partisan maps are drawn, they can so precisely, with the information we have available these days, carve out votes along their borders, that voters end up pooled together with other voters that live and work in very different geographical communities. Communities that share the same centers of commerce are now divided. They are prohibited from working together to solve common problems when there is gerrymandering to the extent we have in Wisconsin.

Fair maps should be created by nonpartisan boards that look beyond how people vote. Populations that are working together and are stakeholders in the same communities should have the same ballot at election time. Lines that make sense should run through low population areas, not down the middle of the densely populated ones. Partisan map drawing needs to end. Politicians and parties should no longer be allowed to pick their voters. A board of nonpartisan citizens should do it. The process should not be rushed. It may be an inconvenient delay for the next election. But the process needs to go back in the hands of the people, no matter how long it takes.

Ellen Langill
227 N. Charles St.
Waukesha, WI 53186

Please don't end the legitimate process of gathering evidence for redistricting

Elizabeth Jensen
49537 State Highway 171
Gays Mills, WI 54631

The proposed rule allowing the State Supreme Court to adjudicate redistricting issues that cannot be resolved by lawmakers only encourages these lawmakers to defer to a court that favors their political party. This clearly is not what the majority of Wisconsin counties are intending as more of them are supporting referendums and resolutions to ensure Wisconsin has fair maps.

Furthermore, I have concerns regarding how the State Supreme Court determines who they will listen to regarding input on redistricting issues. Lawmakers and politicians don't speak for the public 100% of the time! And they don't know all relevant information all the time. The public must be heard.

I fear that we'll have to endure redistricting whiplash with this proposal as lawmaker's will simply defer to the State Supreme Court everytime it suits them. Ultimately the lawmakers won't be doing their job, the State Supreme Court will be busy doing someone else's job, and apparently, no one else matters.

Michelle Citron
5175 County Hwy ZZ
Dodgeville, WI 53533

I strongly oppose this rule change. Regardless of being a Republican or Democrat, redistricting needs to be transparent and non-partisan. That is the only fair way to have fair legislative representation. This rule change will politicize the judiciary, would squelch input from the public, and might disenfranchise me as an individual. If I'm an independent voter my voice will not be represented by either political party.

Cara Knothe
3952 E Survey rd
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Please don't adopt rules that would reduce transparency in redistricting . Wisconsin needs a fair non-partisan redistricting process.

Thank you

Cara Knothe

John Perryman

391 Hawthorne

Williams Bay, WI 53191

Hello

I have deep concerns regarding the Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty's (WILL) petition requesting that the State Supreme Court take jurisdiction on redistricting issues.

One is further politicization of the Court. The Wisconsin Supreme Court should ideally be above the political fray when it passes judgment on various issues. Being involved in the redistricting process threatens this goal.

Second, non-partisan groups must have a voice in this process.

It is my hope that a clear, consistent non-partisan process can be set forth that is transparent and provides a voice for all interested parties. As you are aware, gerrymandering acts to disenfranchise voters. We must do all we can to eliminate this practice. The petition from WILL hinders this process, and should be rejected.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Dorothy Harrell

2284 Boulder Ct

Beloit, Wisconsin 53511

Writing for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Beloit branch #3251, in opposition of the rule specific to legal challenges that may occur to redistricting. This would limit the review and create a path to rush to judgment that would be injurious to the public and draw irrational distinctions solely on differences that are irrelevant to a legitimate government objective. To foreclose the ability of organizations such as the NAACP which is nonpartisan, would be to void the participation of a significant majority of minority population of this state.

The request by the Wisconsin Institute for the Law and Learning to adopt a new rule to circumvent challenges to redistricting is blatant and obvious attempt to disenfranchise low income people and people of color who would usually be represented in these actions by nonpartisan groups such as the NAACP. This appears part of a larger statewide strategy conservatives have adopted that is a form of suppression. It requires a decision based on personal political interests and subverts the will of the people.

Under this new rule, if adopted, it would allow legal challenges to redistricting to bypass state and federal courts to be heard only by the Supreme Court. This is an attempt to politicize the Supreme Court and deny the right of review to lower courts. A new process that skips steps and shuts out nonpartisan groups could prove to be racist as their membership is majority minority and representative of lower income people.

The rule that allows political parties to be heard in a dispute over maps but does not grant the same right to nonpartisan groups or unions denies us a vital role in our democracy. Under this rule, in Wisconsin political parties could manipulate elections districts to choose their voters. In a true democracy, elections and electoral challenges must represent the will of the people.

I reside in Rock County in what was previously Congressional District #1. I would submit to you that the city of Beloit is now in Congressional District #2 to allow individuals in a specific party to avoid seeking representation in an area with more minority voters. This gerrymandering subverted the democratic process in the interest of one political party. Political control of the legislature resulted in drawing boundaries only favorable to them. This means we must have an inclusive legal process that addressed the will of all the people.

This is a critical and timely issue because redistricting occurs routinely following the census. Having just completed the 2020 census and the requirement for areas to be of equal in population not using color or income as a determinant to consolidate power in one political party. It is crucial that the court does not modify or subvert existing and established legal processes and omits judicial review. We need a transparent and fair mapping process that does not erode the public trust in the judicial system. For this and all of the above stated reasons we stand opposed to the proposed rule change.

Dorothy J. Harrell

Dianne Saterbak
1220 7th St
Hudson, WI 54016

To whom it may concern,

Please, vote against the petition put forth by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”) requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and it has insufficient transparency measures. It will also limit the review of maps and rush the process.

This guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. Nonpartisan groups such as unions or membership organizations must also be heard. Under this rule only political parties will be heard by the court when there are disputes concerning new maps. Nonpartisan groups need the right to be heard as well. In the past these groups challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members and we must continue to allow this process.

In Wisconsin we want processes and requirements set forth for districting to be fair and to follow the proper processes and requirements. This rule gives the Court the ability to disregard the processes and

requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Gerrymandering is a manipulative system and has been taken to extremes in order to make sure Democrats could not win power. In 2010, party operatives raised money from corporate donors to make sure that state legislatures would be controlled by Republicans that year, as states redistricted for the following decade. After 2010, Republican controlled the key states of Florida, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Ohio, and Michigan, as well as other, smaller states, and they redrew congressional maps using precise computer models. In the 2012 election, Democrats won the White House decisively, the Senate easily, and won a majority of 1.4 million votes for House candidates. But Republicans came away with a 33-seat majority in the House of Representatives.

Gerrymandering meant that Republicans did not have to attract moderate voters. Instead, Republican candidates had to worry about challenges from further right. Over time, they became more and more extreme. At the same time, without competition, they fielded increasingly weak candidates, who doubled down on inflammatory rhetoric rather than advancing viable policies.

We need representation that advances policies that work for all Wisconsinites, not just the wealthy few who desire to suppress the those who they feel are less than. We need democracy back in our politics. This proposed rule will help to destroy democracy and it can not go forward. We don't need to further harm our political landscape.

Please, vote against the petition put forth by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty ("WILL") requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation.

Dale Schaber
815 East Washington Street
Appleton, Wisconsin 54911

Redistricting is fundamental to the principle of one person / one vote. Public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process.

In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed.

Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high now in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Daniel Schierl

7529 Sunburst Ln
neenah, Wisconsin 54956

We need fair maps to ensure fair elections. Please make sure we do it is our democracy at stake

Dorothy Skye
4145 Birch Point Lane
Rhineland, WI 54501

The Wisconsin Supreme Court should not assume shortcut jurisdiction in redistricting cases. The standard path through the lower courts is critical to allow public input and scrutiny regarding the creation of fair voting maps and to ensure voters' trust of our election system.

Debra Skyrms
116 and a half West Wisconsin Ave
Neenah, WI 54956

Dear Supreme Court,
Please do not take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This severely limits the review of fair maps. People in Wisconsin have supported the end of gerrymandering in 66 counties out of the 72 counties. We would like redistricting done in a fair way like Iowa. The gerrymandering in Wisconsin is extreme, and was done secretly. This isn't what we want Wisconsin politics to look like. In addition, this rule would politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.
Sincerely, Deb Skyrms

Dorothea Torstenson
5605 Laurel Court
Madison, WI 53705

We need to protect our democracy with fair mapping.

Margaret Dunn
6160 Dell Dr
Madison, WI 53708

Hearing 10 years ago and redistricting in Wisconsin. I was never so disgusted in all my life and what I saw and heard. It was supposed to be a hearing of the public and I sat there for three hours I will never forget the unjustness of that meeting it was simply disgusting. I hope that the discussion of the districts in Wisconsin will be better in 2020. we have so twisted the law that it becomes a law at all.

Jedediah Durni
2911 Cornwall Ave
Bellingham, WA 98225

Fair maps and representation need to be a priority in WI.

David Verhagen
1810 Midway Road
De Pere, WI 54115

I am writing to oppose the petition numbered 20-03. It proposes rule change whereby the Wisconsin Supreme Court would take up potential Court cases regarding electoral redistricting directly, bypassing other State or Federal Courts.

Enactment of the rule change would fuel the perception that the Court is acting in a partisan manner. Further, it opens the door to further litigation instead of settling the issue.

Our current maps are unfair. We live in Brown County, outside of De Pere but are represented by a legislator from Two Rivers. Our State Constitution mandates that electoral districts "be bounded by county, precinct, town, or ward lines, to consist of contiguous territory, and to be in as compact form as practicable."

The district we currently live in violates the constitutional mandates in every regard. We have been disenfranchised as a result, as few of the issues we face being in the greater Green Bay metropolitan area are even recognized in our district.

Please allow the process to proceed as it is currently defined. It may be our only chance in a decade to be fairly represented.

DANIEL FOLKMAN
2737 N. Weil st.
Milwaukee, WI 53212

To the Wisconsin Supreme Court

Please accept my comments in opposition to the pending rule petition 20-03 Amendment to Wis. Stat. 809.70 (Redistricting) as petitioned by the Wisconsin Institute for LAW & LIBERTY (WILL).

The intent of this rule change as stated by WILL in its Memorandum of Support emphasizes Court procedural efficiency in the face of an anticipated “frenzy of last minute litigation.”

According to WILL, this efficiency is achieved in several ways. But I, through my study and recorded interviews in communities throughout Wisconsin, am convinced that for each bit of possible procedural efficiency gained, there is corresponding loss in the civic engagement, loss in trust in elections and loss in efficiency for individual voters.

The following are comparisons of the possible procedural efficiencies versus the corresponding heavy losses in our communities, especially marginalized communities:

I.) Settling the State primacy in redistricting matters over Federal claims to concurrent jurisdiction does not justify loss of the voter use of Federal Claims which have served and continue to serve a critical role in protecting voter rights, minority voter rights and “one person, one vote” principles;

II.) Circumventing conventional processes (litigation through both lower State and also Federal courts) does not justify the loss of historical sources of fact finding investigation, loss in assuring transparency, loss in citizen engagement and loss of protection of “one person, one vote”;

III.) The possible streamlining because of this procedural rule that may convenience 2022 political candidates to be better prepared for critical deadlines (caused by COVID-19) does not justify curtailing Federal and lower court state jurisdiction for fact finding, transparency, citizen engagement, and protecting democracy and its principle of “one person, one vote”;

IV.) Assuring that the Governor, either or both branches of the Legislature and the political parties shall have the guaranteed right to be heard by the Wisconsin Supreme Court in any case brought to the court on redistricting fails to guarantee the same rights to impacted citizens, non-partisan local elected officials and communities in decisions that will have a tangible and profound impact on them for decades. Limiting the number and variety of allowable participants in the court processes for the sake of efficiency does not justify suppressing the democratic right of citizens and their lawful organizations from engaging in political and public policy processes including litigation; and

V.) Acknowledging that there have been some times in history when the Wisconsin Supreme Court has had to decide legislative maps does not justify setting a rule that the Wisconsin Supreme Court should always be the deciding body especially when the majority of Wisconsin residents, counties and localities have shown themselves by resolutions and referendums to overwhelming support a nonpartisan mechanism for drawing electoral maps and that remove political self-interest from the process.

Further, it is my fear that by adopting this rule the Wisconsin Supreme Court will reinforce the growing realization that partisan politics, hefty judicial campaign donations and ideology reigns high in our court system. In the name of operating through fair and transparent democratic rules and procedures, please do not adopt the proposed rule. To deny the pending petition will send a clear message that our Wisconsin Supreme Court stands as a fair and just arbiter when an appropriate case comes to it.

The Petitioner writes that “this Court promised that it would not be in the same position in the future (deferring a primarily state matter to the federal courts)” in Jensen. “It is time to redeem that promise.” The Wisconsin Supreme Court has promised to find ways to reduce the frenzy of late court decisions to draw maps. I wish that the Wisconsin Supreme Court would recommend to the State Legislature that they adopt a fair, non-partisan strategy for drawing electoral maps that preserves community trust in elections and in the judiciary.

Thank you,
Daniel V. Folkman
Associate Professor Emeritus of Urban Community Development, University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee

Dave Wester
420 WHITE SPRUCE AVE
BARABOO, Wisconsin 53913

I am writing this letter to oppose Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. Wisconsin’s racist gerrymandering has caused nation-wide embarrassment for the state, besides being grossly immoral. Rule Petition 20-03 would only serve to institutionalize that racism by putting the final decision for gerrymandering in the hands of the very people who made it racist in the first place. Legislative districts should not be determined by politically driven legislators or politically driven judges, and in Wisconsin both are politically driven. We know that for legislators because they run for election as Democrats, Republicans, or other party affiliation. We know that for judges because in every Wisconsin election, judges run as conservatives or liberals, and once elected, there is not a soul in Wisconsin who cannot reliably predict how they will decide on political issues. It is undemocratic and shameful. Legislative districts should not be determined by politically biased entities, and in Wisconsin, the legislators and judges are politically biased.

Dave Wester
420 WHITE SPRUCE AVE
BARABOO, Wisconsin 53913

I am writing this letter to oppose Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

Wisconsin's racist gerrymandering has caused nation-wide embarrassment for the state, besides being grossly immoral. Rule Petition 20-03 would only serve to institutionalize that racism by putting the final decision for gerrymandering in the hands of the very people who made it racist in the first place. Legislative districts should not be determined by politically driven legislators or politically driven judges, and in Wisconsin both are politically driven. We know that for legislators because they run for election as Democrats, Republicans, or other party affiliation. We know that for judges because in every Wisconsin election, judges run as conservatives or liberals, and once elected, there is not a soul in Wisconsin who cannot reliably predict how they will decide on political issues. It is undemocratic and shameful. Legislative districts should not be determined by politically biased entities, and in Wisconsin, the legislators and judges are politically biased.

Dale Wiehoff
N13122 30TH ST
GLENWOOD CITY, Wisconsin 54013

I am writing to oppose petition for the Wisconsin Supreme Court to litigate future redistricting plans. The last thing we need is to further politicize our highest court. Redistricting needs to be done in a nonpartisan way to insure that gerrymandering ends in Wisconsin and all citizens get fair representation in the state legislature.

Dan Rolfs
2805 Oakridge Ave
Madison, WI 53704

54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have adopted resolutions in support of open and fair maps, and against gerrymandering. Please support an open and transparent process to draw new maps in 2021 and beyond. Our democracy is counting on it.

Please reject WILL's proposal to do this behind closed doors without public input. Wisconsin has a long tradition of sunshine laws, and drawing nonpartisan maps for legislative districts should be no exception.

Thank you.

Eric Joppe
1854 Lenwood Ave
Howard, WI 54313

Will certainly doesn't have my best interest in mind with this proposal, as a third party voter. I want consistent rules and judgments legal procedural and otherwise especially for parties I don't support ie the libertarian and constitution parties will also be disenfranchised by their proposals.

Elizabeth Bruckbauer
118 N Breese Terrace, Unit J
Madison, Wi 53726

I am respectfully writing the Court in regard to Rule Petition 20-03; relating to legal challenges to redistricting

In the recent election, communities around Wisconsin passed 11 county and 4 municipal referenda in favor of creating Fair Maps. The smallest margin by which a Fair Maps referendum passed in this election was 57%. The passage of these recent initiatives brings to a total of 55 (out of our total of 72 counties) that have passed Fair Maps initiatives. And yet, to date the legislature has refused even to take up such a Fair Maps measure. The overwhelming will of the people has been shunted aside in favor of partisan mapping. Both major political parties have tried to rig the system in their favor and it's the people, us, who are hurt because our voices have become irrelevant.

With this proposed WILL/Jensen rule change, 185o185n185l185y185
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Rebecca Finster
5101 Tonyawatha Trail
Monona, WI 53716

To the Wisconsin Supreme Court,
I strongly object to the Jenson/WILL petition. It will harmfully politicize the Court,
exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation in redistricting,
and has insufficient transparency measures.
Wisconsin citizens want nonpartisan courts, we are counting on you to refuse this petition.
Thank you very much, Rebecca Finster, Monona, WI

Elizabeth Stevens
401 E. Wentworth Lane
Appleton, WI 54913

I oppose the rule change.

A similar rule change was extensively studied and rejected by the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 2009. Redistricting is crucial and essential for our democracy, and the process should not be rushed, as this rule change would do. Rather, complete fact-finding and careful review are important. The proposed rule also gives a seat to political parties but excludes non-partisan groups that want to advocate on behalf of their members. 54 of Wisconsin's counties have passed non-partisan redistricting referendums, often overwhelmingly. No counties who have raised the issue on the ballot of voted against it. This shows the high interest in fair, nonpartisan redistricting. This rule change limits transparency and limits the time spent on this very important issue.

Again, I oppose the rule change.
Thank you for your time.

Earlene Ronk
551 Fairway Cir
Jefferson, WI 53549

Gerrymandering our voting districts will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency . Please support fair maps!

Keith Johnson
340 North Minnesota St. #108
Muscodia, WI 53573-9496

We must not permit any gerrymandering in Wisconsin. All interested parties must have free access to state their opinions on map district allocations.

Elaine Bergstrom
2918 S. Wentworth Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Wisconsin deserves fair and impartial congressional maps, created by a non-partisan group using the information provided by the census. Certainly the legislature should have input but also other groups

and individual citizens. The gerrymandering that has gone on has created a wide rift between the parties, and let the extremists on both sides hold sway. As a result, I do not support the proposed rule change.

Eleanor Moore
3436 East Ave So.
La Crosse, WI 54601

I am writing to express my opposition to a petition filed this past June by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty requesting the Wisconsin Supreme Court to take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. (PETITION FOR PROPOSED RULE TO AMEND WIS. STAT. § 809.70 (RELATING TO ORIGINAL ACTIONS). PETITION FROM SCOTT JENSEN AND WISCONSIN INSTITUTE FOR LAW & LIBERTY)

I believe the proposed amendments are harmful to the public interest. For example they require that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process. I also think the proposed rule changes give the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs.

Eleanor Gaalswyk
424 S WORCESTER ST
SPRING GREEN, WI 53588

This rule change seems to shut out public opinion and reduce transparency at a time when 52 of 74 Wisconsin county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. These represent about 80% of Wisconsin citizens. It would seem it is a nonpartisan issue, so why do you propose shutting us out?

Edward Gleason
4001 Monona Dr. #403
Monona, WI 53716

Gerrymandered districts do not allow every citizen of Wisconsin an equal voice in choosing their representatives. The proposal that the state Supreme Court should claim jurisdiction on future redistricting legislation concerns me greatly!

I am opposed to the petition filed by WILL which would allow the state Supreme Court to claim jurisdiction on any redistricting legislation. This would limit review of fair maps. It also allows political parties to be heard in disputes about new maps; but it doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups such as the League of Women Voters.

This rule will politicize the Court which should concern every Wisconsin citizen.

Ed Jeannette
1206 Winston Dr
Edgerton, WI 53534

Honorable Supreme Court,
Please reject the rule proposed by Wisconsin Law and Liberty that would fast track redistricting cases. Wisconsin is already highly gerrymandered.
Thank you,
Ed Jeannette

Elaine D. K. Rattunde
1243E. Dayton St
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Gerry Mandering is spelling the end of Democracy in the state of Wisconsin !!!!! This must stop!!!! WE MUST HAVE FAIR AND NON PARTISAN DISTRICTING LINES DRAWN AT THIS NEXT OPPERTUNITY !!!!!!!!!!!

Ed Morganroth Jr
2161 Shadowview Circle
Plover, WI 54467

As a WI citizen and voter living in a grossly gerrymandered district (just look at Portage Cty), I urge you to rule against the petition filed by WILL that would have the WI state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This is because if the Supreme Court took immediate jurisdiction, it would limit the review of the maps, restrict input outside of the two main political parties and provide insufficient transparency of the entire process. Thank you.

Eileen Fredericks
4609 KEATING TER

MADISON, Wisconsin 53711

The Wisconsin Supreme Court already has a tarnished reputation for partisanship that has no place in the judiciary. This rule will further politicize the Court. This rule change proposed by WILL is an obvious attempt to have the Court sanction political gerrymandering. This rule will not allow full participation from nonpartisan groups.

Kathryn Egan-Bruhy
W62N822 Arbor Dr
Cedarburg, WI 53012

I am writing to express my opposition to the WI Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) petition asking the WI Supreme Court to adopt a new rule specific to future lawsuits regarding redistricting. My opposition is based on several factors: 1) If adopted, this rule would limit which court may hear redistricting challenges and how much judicial review maps are subject to; 2) what evidence (if any) can be presented; and 3) who gets to participate in any court hearings.

By design, the judicial process works best when it plays out in full. Instead of letting a case work its way up from a trial court, through an appellate court and then to the WI Supreme Court, this rule would have the process start at that last step--in the, WI Supreme Court. This limits review and the opportunities to develop the record, providing additional information and arguments along the way.

Further, the proposed rule only considers partisan interests. Political parties would be given automatic standing to present maps before the Court, while nonpartisan groups and voters impacted by the new districts may be excluded under the proposed rule.

Additionally, adopting this rule risks increasing the politicization of the Court and decreasing public trust in the Court. Inserting itself in this area of partisan conflict so early in the process, and so thoroughly that the Court is necessarily going to decide where the district lines wind up, threatens to give the impression the Court is a political branch rather than a neutral referee.

In the past, when the Court considered special rules for redistricting litigation, it spent years engaging experts and the public to examine potential procedures. After thorough review, the Court decided not to adopt special rules for redistricting. This time, instead of years of review, we've had only months for the Court to consider a proposed redistricting rule taking a radically different approach than the experts recommended last time.

The proposed rule would limit the flow of information, and even who could make arguments before the court. In short,-the proposed changes to the legal process would limit Wisconsin citizens ability to be involved in the redistricting process.

Ellen Garb
1447 La Salle Street
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

I am a Wisconsin citizen. I have been against the OBVIOUS unfairness of gerrymandering in Wisconsin. It is opportunism in the most contrived manner. Completely slants election votes UNfairly. All I want are FAIR elections. NOT rigged partisan gerrymandering. It is an insult to my family and others. My family has lived in Wisconsin since 1887 and this State used to have the highest reputation of democracy, education and putting its Citizens first. One party "outsmarting" the other through gerrymandering should NOT continue in any ANY form. The proposed rule lacks transparency and will harmfully politicize the Supreme Court. Unfortunately, recently, Wisconsin's Supreme has acquired a tarnished reputation. This proposed rule needs to be fairly amended.

Shari Eggleston
77510 Houghton Point Road
Washburn, WI 54891

I am not in favor of this proposed rule change. It is important that lower courts be allowed to hear these matters first. They provide the appropriate forum for the introduction of information about proposed voting district maps.

As a member of a nonpartisan organization whose mission it is to promote good government and facilitate voting that is fair and impartial, I believe it is important to allow such organizations to challenge voting district maps when they have been drawn unfairly, and to take advantage of the full legal processes our system provides to ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

This rule change would further politicize the Supreme Court and diminish its credibility. I very much hope it is not adopted.

Edmond Gorell
S12399 County Road F
Eleva, Wisconsin 54738

Adopting a specific rule, like the one from Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty about redistricting, will politicize the Court by encouraging lawmakers to settle redistricting disputes through litigation. State Supreme Court judges are elected and receive campaign support from political parties, political action committees and individuals. This could put a judge in a position to have to return favors made by the above mentioned groups and individual contributors. Historically, civic groups and citizens have

engaged in redistricting litigation to challenge district maps; this rule could prevent them from doing so in the future. It will also reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. When drawing the legislative maps it is best to keep political interests at a distance and always allow public input into the process.

Emily Hafermann Wasshausen
224 Greateon Rd
New Richmond, Wisconsin 54017

This new rule threatens to politicize the Court by inserting itself so early and thoroughly into a partisan conflict. The Court is NOT a political branch, and this new rule should NOT be adopted.

Eilene Stevens
8576 N Pelham Pkwy
Bayside, Wisconsin 53217

It is imperative that we have redistricting maps drawn in a fair manner. That means that the process must be transparent. The current maps disenfranchise too many in the state. Fairness and equity should never be optional.

Elaine and Severin Swanson
W10732 Triangle Road
Pickett, WI 54964

I write from east central WI, where our family is privileged to live on 50 acres of a wildlife sanctuary which we have been establishing for the past 30+ years. We have a deep respect for the land, the wildlife, and the people in our community and beyond. I am writing concerning Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I speak for myself and for my husband when I say that this rule would harmfully politicize the Supreme Court. It would exclude non-partisan groups from full participation. It simply has insufficient transparency. This rule proposal does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that would ensure the Court has the necessary facts it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review. We the people, the ordinary citizen, have the right to be heard. Maps not fairly drawn disenfranchise voters. Severin and I believe the WI Institute for Law and Liberty's petition should be denied. Thank you for acknowledging having received this submission.

Mariaelena Calhoun
2796 N 71 St
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53210-1155

Honorable Judges, Gerrymandering is one of the most important issues to affect the voices of the electorate in my State of Wisconsin. The Republican controlled legislature has taken away our votes and voices. They have as a result tied the hands of the elected Democratic officials, led by Governor Tony Evers. They refuse to participate in legislating important issues that affect the health and well-being of our citizens. If they are called to assemble, they gather and then in 15 minutes they gavel out without addressing any concerns (COVID). Many decisions have been made at the highest level of the courts have not addressed fairness. Gerrymandering is a critical element of voter suppression. Everyone's vote should count. In a similar fashion, SCOTUS ruled that "corporations are people" and as a result corporations were allowed to pour millions of dollars into their issues and causes. How does that help the citizens of this country to see how the courts rule against those who are "We the people...". This State is controlled by one party (not the majority party), and they have swindled their power from the people with no end in sight. Issues of importance are not heard, people are forced to go to the polls in the middle of a pandemic. They no longer work for the people. Please help us fix it by ruling to protect the rights of citizens to choose their legislators. Please do not allow the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty further make it more difficult for citizens to "right this grievous error", and rushing to

Ron/Elinor Towle/Riley
6 Springwood Cir.
Madison, Wisconsin 537179

We disapprove and object to this change to Rule 809.70 (Redistricting Process). This limits the review of maps and rushes the process. It eliminates the introduction of evidence and materials obtained from lower courts. This proposed rule change requires that political parties be heard in a dispute but nonpartisan groups, unions, voters, citizens, etc. are excluded. The process becomes less transparent instead of more so.

The people of Wisconsin have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to the large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. Legislators are not listening.

This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to assuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency.

Again, this process is being planned to be rushed and we do not need to rush it even more.
Respectfully, Ron Towle and Elinor Riley

Elise Moser

1200 Water Street
Sauk City, Wisconsin 53583

I am writing today to request that the desperately needed process of redistricting not be limited by the proposed rule excluding the broadest participation of citizens' groups. This should not be the domain of political parties, but rather be a nonpartisan, small-d democratic process. Furthermore we deserve the most transparent possible process. Our votes are extremely important and any redistricting process should treat them with utmost respect. To repeat, the people of Wisconsin require an open, nonpartisan redistricting process.

elizabeth miller
13140 Kittridge Ct
Brookfield, WI 53005-1913

This proposed rule change will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation and offer insufficient transparency measures.

Elizabeth Riley
16026 W 4th St
Hayward, WI 54843

I am strongly opposed to this rule. It is harmful, and will do nothing else but politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation in democratic processes, and has insufficient transparency measures.

I see this as just one more desperate attempt by Wisconsin Republicans to further divide their constituents and to keep their gerrymandered thumbs on the scales that benefit them at the expense as of everyone else.

I don't know how any of you sleep at night.

Ellen Rider
284 State Road 65
River Falls, WI 54022

I oppose the petition from the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on future redistricting litigation. This guidance is harmful to the public interest by excluding nonpartisan and other groups in helping to guide the redistricting process.

ELLEN FRANTZ
1936 State St
La Crosse, WI 54601

Re: Rules Petition 20-03 I file this comment on the proposed rule because of the importance of fair, non-partisan redistricting and the overwhelming support, more than 70%, for the implementation of a better process than what we have now. The proposed rule serves to heighten partisan-ship instead of moving in a non-partisan way. The Supreme Court has had more than 8 years to provide rule making on this issue and has failed to take any action at all. Now the proposed rule would seek to provide original jurisdiction in the Court. This is problematic on several fronts. It is the federal district courts that have experience with redistricting, not the state state courts. Currently, litigants are able to choose the forum, federal or state court. There is no good reason to prohibit that choice by litigants. Nor is there any good reason to limit the parties seeking resolution on redistricting. To do so only enhances the sense of those that already see this system as unfair. It is the trial court the carefully develops the record. The process suggested by the rule is backwards. That is not how an issue of this importance should move through our courts. Granted, the rule allows the Court to send the matter to a trial court or referee for fact-finding. But the controversy should start in the trial court, in the forum of the litigant's choice. Overall, we live now in hyper-partisan environment. Redistricting should be a process that is transparent, and as much as possible able to be perceived by those on both sides as fair in the making and as it travels through court review. Changing the rules now will increase the view held too many--that the Court is also partisan. Ellen M. Frantz, member of the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area

Jordan Ellenberg
2146 KEYES AVE
Madison, WI 53711

I am a mathematician and a Wisconsin voter who has written extensively about the quantitative issues around redistricting. These issues are complicated. They merit extensive and thorough discussion in full view of the public. Rushing the process of assessing maps, removing iterations from the cycle, and excluding testimony from expert third parties will all serve to make our districting process less transparent, less democratic, and ultimately less fair. I ask the Supreme Court not to adopt this rule change, but to maintain the existing process which has served our state adequately in the past.

Eleanor Anderson
N35W7031 Greenway Terrace
Cedarburg, WI 53012

A rule change to reduce the input of the people of Wisconsin does a disservice to all of us! Voters deserve to pick their representatives!

Ellie Anderson
N35W7031 Greenway Terrace
Cedarburg, WI 53012

I oppose any rule change that limits transparency in the re-districting process - that is how we ended up where we are. I also oppose any rule that will limit the input of nonpartisan groups - we need voices besides those with a political interest in the outcome. Thank You!

Doug Ellingson
794A Emerald Dr
Hartford, WI 53027

How about 1 equal vote to 1 equal person? This gerrymandering is the clever result of clever politicians taking care of their wealthy and privileged constituents. Its flip side is that it reduces the power of the true majority of votes from "un" representative to "dis" representative, leaving the true majority with the privilege of going through the motions of voting but casting a vote of no consequence. A gleeful situation for some of our politicians and our wealthy.

Patricia Stefancic
1655 Jennie St
Menasha, WI 54952

I am against the proposed rule change because this rule will harmfully politicize the Court by excluding nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Emily McFadden
13400 MARQUETTE AVE
ELM GROVE, WI 53122

We cannot accept this proposal. Wisconsin is losing faith in the institution of our Supreme Court. This proposed rule change will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation and offer insufficient transparency measures.

Gregory St. Onge
5735 S Lake St
Brule, WI 54820

Please allow all Wisconsin citizens whether a member of a party or not to make comments or suggest changes when redistricting is the question because it affects everyone not just those who are members of particular political parties.

Emilee Hendricks
140 W Gorham St
Madison, WI 53703

All citizens should have a voice, not just Republican/Democratic partisan citizens. Fair maps are too important to rush through without listening to independent Wisconsinites.

Emily Hodge
478 Canyon Blvd.
Hudson, WI 54016

I strongly oppose the rule that would allow the state Supreme Court to take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. Please do NOT politicize the Court. Nonpartisan groups should be allowed to be heard by the court. And we must have transparency with the process!

Emily Landmann
6337 County Road N
Avoca, WI 53506

I oppose the proposed rule change and favor a non-partisan redistricting solution. Two weeks ago in a public election nearly 80% of the citizens of Wisconsin spoke in referenda that they favor a non-partisan method of redistricting. This new rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. Don't do this!

Erik Leveille
1227 Titan Court
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

John N. Englesby
1606 Redwood Ln
Madison, WI 53711-3328

I support eliminating gerrymandering by both parties. To that end I want an independent commission to set legislative districts, similar to what has been done in Iowa for many years. I want voters to choose their representatives, not the other way around!

Myra Enloe
3887 Norwegian Hollow Rd
Dodgeville, WI 53533

“Objection to Petition 20-03 Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70 (Redistricting Process)”

I am writing to you to oppose the petition brought forward by Scott Jensen and the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty proposing a rule to amend Wis. Stat. §809.70 that would bypass lower courts in any legal disputes related to redistricting of voting district maps, instead having only State Supreme Court review of the process. I oppose this rule change for the following reasons:

- The proposed rule change is unconstitutional. According to state and federal constitutions, the legislative and executive branches are to deal with redistricting first. This rule change allows any party to request the Supreme Court take over the redistricting process as soon as census data are released, before the other branches have created any maps. This takes away the power of the legislative and executive branches in the redistricting process, and it would be premature for the Court to take over the process before there is a “case and controversy” for the Court to address.
- The people of Wisconsin have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. Legislators are not listening. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. In my county, Iowa County, the referendum passed in November 2020 with 73.8% of voter support. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair.

- The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. This is where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps.
- This rule change further politicizes the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its credibility in the eyes of the public.
- This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.
- Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to assuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency,
- There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being rushed and I demand a 60 day continuance.

Thank you.

Myra Enloe

Robert Enloe
3887 Norwegian Hollow Rd
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Please do not limit the review of Fair Maps to the public. Persons granted a position by way of gerrymandering should not look further to maintain that position by not allowing citizens to speak. There is reason in a name "Fair Maps" not maps for a "specific legislator from any party". Free speech, not money talks.

Robert Enloe

Sandra Jones
1591 South Shore Drive
Arkdale, WI 54613

To the Wisconsin Supreme Court,

The people of Wisconsin have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. They are not listening. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair. No public interest groups are asking for this rule change?

As you know, the work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. The lower courts are the appropriate place where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps.

This rule change further politicizes the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its credibility in the eyes of the people.

This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to ensuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency.

There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being rushed and I demand a 60 day continuance. That is only fair on such an issue.

I object to the constitutionality of the requested rule change. The petition seeks to authorize the Court to take immediate jurisdiction of the redistricting process upon the request of any party the instant the census is released and then issue an immediate stay. Taking jurisdiction at that early point is premature; there is not yet any case or controversy. The request rests solely on the speculation that, with a divided government, there "may" be a future impasse between the Legislature and Executive Branch.

Having the Court take over the process at that premature point violates the state and federal constitutions because it would usurp the authority of the Legislature and Executive branch to address redistricting matters in the first instance. While the Court may eventually be the proper party to review actual disputes about redistricting, based on the actual facts then of record, it is not the constitutionally authorized body to usurp and decide redistricting matters in the first instance.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please, uphold the rights of Wisconsinites.

Eric Frydenlund
62834 COLLINS LN
PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, WI 53821

The process of drawing congressional and state legislative boundaries in Wisconsin has become overly politicized. Gerrymandering by state legislators has superseded any meaningful input by the Wisconsin citizenry. This was illustrated following the 2010 census when Republican state legislators drew highly partisan maps outside the capitol in the offices of legal counsel without public input or oversight.

Indeed, legislators viewing the maps had to sign non-disclosure agreements, the epitome of backroom politics. I respectfully request that the Wisconsin Supreme Court not allow the Court to bypass normal judicial review and become similarly politicized, undermining the public confidence in the redistricting process and the Supreme Court itself.

I understand the basic premise of redistricting after a census, but do not understand the legal nuances, leaving that to your expertise. I do understand the basic premise of fairness. Gerrymandering is legalized cheating. With all due respect for your judicial oversight, we are lost as a nation if we have to consult a law book to understand the difference between right and wrong; between basic fairness and duplicitous cheating, however cloaked in legal reasoning that deceit might be presented.

I respectfully urge you to allow citizen input and nonpartisan participation in the sacred right of determining the method of our representation.

Thank you,
Eric Frydenlund
Prairie du Chien, WI

Emilyn Linden
619 a pellet St.
De Pere, WI 54115

I object to the proposed rule, because it does not allow for citizen participation that a normal court proceeding would provide.

Esther Roberts
2775 11th Place #812
Kenosha, WI 53140

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Ellen Browning
128 sunrise lane
FALL RIVER, Wisconsin 53932

Please do not support the proposed changes in jurisdiction.

This change would DC politicise the court..decrease transparency and efurther exclude nonpartisan groups.

We certainly do not need further divid in political matters
Thank you

Eric Maixner
1213 W Brewster St
Appleton, WI 54914

Opposition to the rule. This rule would further politicize the already polarized WI Supreme Court, it would exclude nonpartisan groups from participating, and has insufficient transparency measures. WI districts are already a laughing stock of the nation. By enacting this rule, the Court would only get biased views of the issues it legally reviews.

erica wilkinson
2835 monterey blvd
brookfield, WI 53005

This proposed rule change will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation and offer insufficient transparency measures.

Eric Andersen
419 Pheasant Run, Kaukauna
Kaukauna, WI 54130

Wisconsin should adopt a non partisan districting formula which allows independent public oversight. Neither Party should determine legislative district boundaries.

Eric Gulbranson
W6990 S Silver Lake Rd
Wautoma, WI 54982

Let the people pick the politicians instead of the politicians picking the voters

Eric Wanta

930 Falcon Dr
River Falls, WI 54022

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court,

I am writing to you regarding the rules change being proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. I find it ironic that an institute with that name would propose a rules change to create LESS transparency in the process of such an important procedure as drawing maps of legislative districts.

Our liberty depends on our being able to weigh in on important issues. Few things are more important to a democratic republic such as ours than the vote. And yet through gerrymandering our votes are being wasted and ignored.

I was disappointed that the U.S. Supreme Court did not take a more definitive stand to promote fair voting districts in Wisconsin. It's very difficult to build a waterproof house when you are IN the water. Our state was left to make changes to end gerrymandering on its own. We've been working toward that end, and this rules change will undermine the efforts of regular citizens throughout the state.

Simply jumping the case straight to the Wisconsin Supreme Court will eliminate testimony and evidence that would normally accompany a case that you would see if it had worked its way up through regular channels. Under the rules change, only political parties may testify. What about membership organizations, and regular citizens who just care deeply about justice in our state?

A great state in a great nation has nothing to hide. Transparency is its strength and a reason to be proud. I hope you will agree with me on this and refuse this rules change.

Thank you,

Eric Wanta

Erik Larsen
W6863 Disappearing Creek Road
Phillips, Wisconsin 54555

I am one of hundreds of Wisconsinites who started working years ago on the Fair Maps Project. Communities and Counties around the state have made it clear through their decisions, based on feedback & referenda from citizens, that we the people desire the state to reach a consensus on drawing the lines after the next census. This is a people's, for better or worse.

Erik Phelps
1302 Taft Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54701

I oppose the proposal that the WI Supreme Court take jurisdiction of future litigation over voter districting maps. These maps profoundly affect the expression of the will of the WI electorate, and their creation requires the input of many and varied stakeholders.

Thank you.

Ernestine Whitman
1101 N Briarcliff Drive
Appleton, WI 54915

I am opposed to the proposed change of taking jurisdiction about redistricting straight to the Wisconsin state Supreme Court. In a time when we need more transparency, this rule would reduce transparency. In a time when we need wider citizen participation, this rule excludes nonpartisan groups from participating in the process. It encourages decisions skewed towards a limited group of voters. Please do not pass this proposal.

Esperanza Gutierrez
2662 S 16th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53215

Please, let the process to draw fair map go on without rushing it for the proposed rule by, WILL, will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures

It is in a democracy, that the people's vote who should represent them. We have a constitution that is not perfect but we can work towards it, that represents the will of the people. Protect it.

Jennifer Essak
2401 E Jarvis St
Shorewood, WI 53211

To ensure fair maps, the Supreme Court should hear from all interested parties regarding drawing lines. Also, it is clear that gerrymandering has occurred when you look at the crazy lines drawn. It is an

obvious tactic by the Republican legislature to hold on to power. Please do not continue to give them this power. Our legislative representatives do not truly reflect who we are in Wisconsin. If they did, the Republicans would allow for new maps to be drawn.

Deb Essenburg
N2105 Pine Beach Rd N
Oostburg, WI 53070

This proposed rule would be harmful to the public interest. It will politicize the court and exclude nonpartisan groups from participation in the process. I am totally opposed to this measure.

Elizabeth Stellfox
13020 kittridge court
Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005

This proposed rule change will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation and offer insufficient transparency measures.

Calvin Dexter
915 Winton Street
Wausau, WI 54403

Extreme partisan gerrymandering has severely harmed democracy and good government in this state. I ask the Court to resist the efforts of WILL to try to use the Court to exclude participation by nonpartisan groups and undermine transparency for this process. Please do not let our Supreme Court become a tool of partisan politics.

Kat Molitor
15118 Shellington Dr.
Cazenovia, WI 53924

Wisconsin needs independent, non-partisan redistricting. We have one of the WORST problems with gerrymandering. So, I am asking that the process be more transparent to the citizens of WI, we the people should be able to challenge the system currently used for redistricting, we want change.

Brian Haynes

822 Heather Dr
Elkhorn, WI 53121

I urge you to reject the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty's, petition requesting that the Wisconsin Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation.

The guidance requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process.

The proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Finally, this guidance will further politicize the Court when the state is already very divided. The Court must be transparent and not take actions that give the appearance of favoring one side before arguments have been heard.

Fanou Walton
6615 Clyde Rd.
Spring Green, WI 53588-8930

We have asked and put signs outside our property for a Fair and non-partisan maps redesigned of our state. We would like our voices to be heard and respected.

David Faust
536 North Cleveland Street
Poynette, Wisconsin 53955

Letter to Supreme Court on proposed rule change for future redistricting litigation

Greetings, my name is David Faust and I am and have been a Citizen of our great state of Wisconsin my whole life. I am writing to express my opposition to the rule changes proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) for cases involving redistricting. I am strongly opposed to these rule changes as a citizen who believes in good and transparent government.

I strongly believe this process shouldn't be rushed. It is my understanding that prior to this the Court engaged experts and the public to examine potential procedures for redistricting review. However, the court determined there was not an adequate judicial solution in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The process seems much more rushed this time, the review has spanned a mere few months and there has been little engagement with experts or public review.

Fred Strand
3240 Strand Road
Iron River, WI 54847

Redistricting of voting districts should be non-political. Citizens should choose their electors. Electors should not choose their voters by the creation of districts which favor themselves/their political party. The petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Liberty and Law would politicize the Court by encouraging redistricting disputes to be settled by litigation. The proposed rule would exclude nonpartisan parties while allowing only partisan parties to intervene in redistricting cases. Transparency would be reduced. For these reasons and concerns I ask you to dismiss this petition.

Susan Weishaar
S83 W24105 Artesian Ave.
Big Bend, Wisconsin 53103

Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition To the Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices: I am writing concerning rule petition 20-03 regarding redistricting.. we do not need more gerrymandering by political parties only. For 10 years the Republicans have assured their reelection to Senate and Assembly districts. THIS MUST END!

John L Fiedler
10848 Trillium Ln
Sister Bay, Wisconsin 54234

It is not the place for the Wisconsin Supreme Court to to redraw our district lines. The Wisconsin Constitution

John L Fiedler
10848 Trillium Ln
Sister Bay, Wisconsin 54234

The Wisconsin Constitution requires that the legislature approve redistricting. No role for the State Supreme Court is identified. What we need is a non-partisan redistricting process similar to the Iowa model and relying on Wisconsin's Legislative Reference Bureau to draw the maps.

John L Fiedler
10848 Trillium Ln
Sister Bay, Wisconsin 54234

November 20, 2020

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

RE: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

Dear honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

We, the officers of the Democratic Party of Door County, are writing to provide comments based on our own experience and also to provide comments on behalf of other members of the Democratic Party of Door County (identified below) regarding Rule Petition 20-03.

We oppose the proposed rule petition for the following reasons:

1. Enacting this rule change would contribute to making the process of redistricting less transparent and would undermine trust in our electoral system.

The process of redistricting in Wisconsin has been subject to gerrymandering, which has enabled the majority party to abuse its authority by redrawing maps in ways that make it easier for its members to be elected. This practice has undermined representative democracy by making it less competitive: rather than voters choosing their representatives, it allows the politicians redrawing the maps to choose their voters, violating the principle of "one person-one vote." The proposed rule change would shorten the time the case is before the public, thereby short-circuiting the time citizens have to tune-in and learn about the evidence in the case and the arguments being presented by both sides, thereby rendering the process less transparent. Furthermore, the proposed rule change would allow the Supreme Court to create or affirm maps without hearing evidence or providing for public input. The current system which is already too non-transparent, would become even more opaque.

2. Enacting this rule change would restrict standing as to who could present maps before the Court, limiting it to only partisan interests, while excluding other communities of interest from expressing their views or concerns.

To remind the court of but one example: the original redistricted maps of 2011 were ruled unacceptable by the Court because they disenfranchised the Hispanic community of Milwaukee. Under the proposed rule changes—which would limit standing to partisan interests—this community would not have standing to express its view of redrawn maps to the Court. By circumscribing standing to political parties—and excluding other communities and membership groups, including the League of Women Voters, Conservation Leagues and unions—the proposed rule changes would restrict who could be represented and thereby would undermine democracy.

Moreover, limiting standing to political parties, risks further politicizing the Court and further undermining the public’s trust in the system. This is a particularly relevant consideration in the case of the State Supreme Court because its judges serve limited, 10-year terms and are not afforded the protection from partisan influences that federal judges—who are appointed for life—are provided.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Hayes, Chair, 111 South 7th Ave., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235. ddixonhayes@gmail.com

Kris Sadur, Vice-Chair, 2685 Eden Lane, Brussels, WI 54204. ksadur@gmail.com

John Fiedler, Treasurer, 10848 Trillium Lane, Sister Bay, WI 54234. fiedler.jack@gmail.com

Elizabeth Renstrom, Secretary, 34 Bluebird Drive, Sturgeon Bay WI 54235.
Elizabeth.j.renstrom@gmail.com

Carol Jensen-Olson, Membership Officer 112 S. 16th Place, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.
jenniegraham1313@gmail.com

Richard Girod, Southern Door Representative, 4159 Hammerstrom Rd., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.
rgirod2@gmail.com

David Kellems, Sturgeon Bay Representative, 120 Alabama Ave., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.
djkellem@gmail.com

Robert Scieszinski, Administration, 1218 Texas Ave., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235. rscieczinski@gmail.com

William Gregory, Sturgeon Bay Representative, 187 N. 9th St., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.
Bigwillystyle1@gmail.com

Phyllis Zatlin, 6138 Lakeshore Rd., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235. pzatlin@hotmail.com

Janet Evers, 304 Nautical Dr. Apt. 2, Sturgeon Bay, Wi 54235. jtwe41@gmail.com

Chris Wendler, 4406 Hillside Road, Egg Harbor, WI. 54209. cmwehdc@yahoo.com

Janis Schmitz, 1949 Cedar Lane Brussels, WI 54204. r Wolfejschmitz@centurylink.net

Dennis Skahen, 1035 Louisiana St., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 dskahen@sbcglobal.net

Amy Phimister, 3710 Glidden Drive, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235. phimiab@charter.net

Kelly Swingen, 318 S Hudson Ave., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235. kswingen@yahoo.com

Cathy Laba, 8950 Bittersweet Road, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235. cathy.laba@gmail.com

Cynthia Holmes, 8500 E. Bues Point, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202. cholmeslaw@aol.com

Jeff Maras, 6278 County T Egg Harbor, Wi 54209. JeffMaras750@hotmail.com

Paula Jung
PO Box 151
Washburn, WI 54891

We are disgracefully overdue for fair maps done by INDEPENDENT NONPARTISAN procedure !!!!!

Forest Weishaar
S83 W24105 Artesian Ave.
Big Bend, Wis. 53103

To: Supreme Court Justices, Since 2010 the politicians, who gained control of our Senate and Assembly have hired law firms to use powerful computers to redraw districts to guarantee their political party will have the advantage in each election cycle. For ten years the people of our state have been held hostage by this power grab. This MUST CHANGE.

LouAnn Graf

2404 W Seneca Dr
Appleton, Wisconsin 54914

I oppose the rule of letting the Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This is not a process to be rushed. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court and will also feed into mistrust of the Court. The transparency and openness that is needed will be lost. Nonpartisan groups will be excluded from full participation. More than ever people are interested and concerned about one person - one vote. Please do not rush this process for future voters. We need a fair set of rules for all with openness, trust, and transparency.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

LouAnn Graf

Forest Jahnke
43188 Guthrie Rd
Rolling Ground, WI 54631

I was alarmed to learn that in June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty filed a petition asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to adopt a rule that would create a fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases. The rule would undermine our system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process.

Adopting a specific rule for redistricting could politicize the Court by encouraging lawmakers to settle redistricting disputes through litigation, rather than making every effort to avoid litigation by drawing maps that are acceptable to both political parties. This is of particular concern in the State Supreme Court where, unlike the U.S Supreme Court, Justices are elected by voters and often campaign with the support of political parties and partisan groups.

The proposed rule could exclude nonpartisan interests. While the rule allows the governor, legislators, and political parties to intervene in redistricting cases, nonpartisan organizations and voters impacted by the new district maps could be left out. Historically, civic groups and citizens have engaged in redistricting litigation to challenge district maps; this rule could prevent them from doing so in the future.

The proposed rule would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing proper evidence or input from members of the public.

We all deserve representative districts, not tailored to any party preference. This is foundational for democracy.

Thank you for considering my comments,
Forest

Barbara Flom
N7198 190th St
Knapp, WI 54749

Regarding Rule Petition 20-03: legal challenges to redistricting:

Please do not allow a fast track for challenges to our redistricting process as proposed by WILL. It is unnerving for Wisconsin citizens to witness 11th-hour attempts to change laws and processes that have been in place for many years. We are getting whiplash watching the changes that have been instituted immediately after elections with outcomes not favorable to the ruling party in the legislature.

Citizens in many counties have passed referenda supporting a fair process for redistricting. The current checks and balances are there for a reason. Any changes should be legislated, not wildly imposed by an activist court.

Please remember what the word "Conservative" means: Cautious and discreet about adopting new policies or practices. WILL goes far beyond conservatism with its proposal. The WILL proposal significantly bypasses citizen awareness, process, and opportunity for participation in hearings.

I do not belong to either political party, yet I care deeply about redistricting. Citizens like me will be completely discounted by this proposal. Please oppose this rule.

Leanne Homb
952 E. Meadow Circle
Edgerton, WI 53534

Leave the maps as is.

Jerri Foster
S3767 Canyon Ave
La Farge, WI 54639-8525

Please do not shut citizens out of the district mapping process! If you really believe in democracy, you must in all truthfulness to your consciences support fair non-partisan mapping. If not, then please think about what your stand really means.

Thank you.

Randell Fox
N8810 Starr Rd
Portage, WI 53901

Legislators should NOT be allowed to pick there voters. The result is evident in state elections since then; where roughly 2/3rds of all votes cast went to democrats yet they make up just 1/3rd of the legislature. This is clearly Anti-American. It MUST STOP.

CHRISTINA BURKHOUSE
124 280TH ST
OSCEOLA, WI 54020

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices,

I am highly concerned about this new rule concerning redistricting in our state. Our society, especially right now is so politicized that it can appear that Democrats and Republicans are the only players in our democracy. In addition, they often exist only in relation (or reaction) to one another. As you know, however, we are much more complex. In any redistricting effort, in order to be fair, we need to have the input of citizens beyond this polarizing, reactionary and narrow orientation. We need a process that doesn't further our divide, doesn't further our extremely politicized culture. We need a process that is measured, inclusive and transparent. A process that includes non-partisan groups fully, that is clear and practical. We need a process that is thoughtful and not reactionary. In order to accomplish this we need to set it up for success, not for the same old repeated failures.

Thank you for your serious consideration and your leadership in this matter.

Mary Koczan
2829 ERIE AVE
SHEBOYGAN, WI 53081-3629

THIS RULE SHOULD NOT BE PASSED!

John Snyder

Lot 13, Lasonia Estates,
Green Lake, WI 54941

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

As property owner in Green Lake, I oppose Rule Petition 20-03 so as to

-- maintain the current local first redistricting decision process - not just jump to Wisconsin Supreme Court - as current locally driven process works just equally for all different interests whereas elevation to SC just puts process in hands of politically elected SC.

-- Does not make sense to eliminate input from groups "other than just the 2 political parties" - redistricting affects federal \$\$ allocations for recreational, cultural and civic activities that are not at all partisan. Non political parties should be able to weigh in.

John Snyder
Green Lake, WI
--

Debra Byars
N3653 Tipperary Rd.
Poynette, WI 53955

My name is Debra Byars. I am retired and live in a rural area outside of Poynette, Wisconsin. I have lived, and worked, and paid taxes in Wisconsin since 1977. I take my right to vote and my obligations as a citizen very seriously. I vote in every election. I moved to Wisconsin as a young adult, brought, in part, by Wisconsin's reputation for good and clean government. Until recently, I found it to be so. I oppose the proposal made by WILL for the following reasons:

1) Bad Process: I am outraged by the fact that I even need to write this letter to express my opposition to the proposed rule change being proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) that would change the legal process for challenges to redistricting in Wisconsin. WILL should have no legal standing to propose this rule change. It is a partisan organization that does not represent the majority of citizens of Wisconsin. WILL has been elected by no one and makes this proposal solely for its own benefit. If changes are to be made to the Judicial process for redistricting review, it should be done under the auspices of the Court with a process that allows for public scrutiny, public input and the best thinking of a panel of independent legal scholars. The WILL proposal is none of these things.

2) Disenfranchisement of Non-Partisan Litigants: Under the Will proposal, only political parties are given standing to represent voters in litigation before the Court with regard to redistricting. This effectively disenfranchises Independent voters like me and non-partisan organizations representing groups of voters. This is undemocratic and fails any basic test of fairness before the law.

3) Loss of Transparency: By eliminating litigation before lower Courts, in favor of a direct route to the Supreme Court, the rule proposed by WILL would eliminate the discovery process which is critical to establishing the fairness or unfairness of the redistricting maps under consideration. The public has a right to see this evidence, hear the arguments made in an open court of law, and provide input to the Courts as part of this process.

4) Politicization of the Court: Rushing the process directly to the Supreme Court further offers the opportunity for the Supreme Court to be seen as a partisan entity, being used as a tool of the political parties, rather than an independent Judicial body. The vast influx of partisan funding of Supreme Court candidates in recent years has already brought a taint upon the Court. Having the Court essentially serve as a back room rubber stamp for the party that “brung ‘em” would irretrievably tarnish its credibility.

I ask that you reject the proposal made by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL). Wisconsin citizens deserve Fair Maps.

Sincerely,

Debra J. Byars

Frederic Dike
2613 Waltham Rd
Madison, WI 53711

This rule will harmfully politicize the court. It will keep nonpartisan groups from full participation and has insufficient transparency measures.

Fred Domann
1210 Camp St.
Platteville, Wisconsin 53818

Its high time Wisconsin adopt zoning committee ala Iowa, so that people can choose their political leaders rather than the other way around!

PLEASE SUPPORT FAIR MAPS!

David Froemming

559 S. Harrison Street
Lancaster, WI 53813

Lower courts and non partisan groups must be heard in order to correct gerrymandering in Wisconsin and create fair voting maps.

Franklin Peot
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-1717

Please allow the people to be a part of the redistricting process. The government was formed by the people and for the people, so they need to be involved in this process. It has nothing to do with the Supreme Court.

Fraser Gurd
1526 Jefferson Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

I do not support the proposed rule because it would further remove public input from the districting map drawing process. Politicians should not be able to choose their electors. We, the people, must be able to choose those we wish to represent us.

With jurisdiction going straight to the Court, facts and viewpoints that normally become part of the record in lower court actions would not exist. Furthermore, making optional the procedures in the proposed rule would create either a restrictive non-rule or, potentially, a legislative opportunity for the Court. It would be much better that the Court retain its appellate focus..

Joyce Radtke
5469 S. 23rd St
Milwaukee, WI 53221

I am writing to you regarding the redistricting process in Wisconsin. The preference of the majority of WI citizens is to have a non-partisan redistricting process. A majority of county boards have passed resolutions urging the legislature to pass a law requiring independent, non-partisan redistricting. Please reject a rule change proposed by an independent group to fast-track the process and not allow input from the public in order to fast track the process. Please reject this rule change and keep the process independent. We need redistricting to be independent and non-partisan.

Laura Toerck
N8356 Louisa Rd
Crivitz, WI 54114

Create fair maps, stop gerrymandering!! The public demands independent, nonpartisan redistricting!

Mary Von Ruden
407 pearl St.
Sparta, Wisconsin 54656

I live in the 70th AD it covers 1/2 the state. Our votes have not counted in 10 years. please end and make our votes count

Gail Merkel
5129 Stage House Trl
Madison, WI 53714

We need to have transparency on redistricting and input from the public and other groups. Deciding behind closed doors without this input is not democracy.

gail lamberty
7216 Saint Dominic
Sauk City, wi 53583

7216 Saint Dominic Street
Sauk City, WI 53583
November 19, 2020

Wisconsin Supreme Court
Office of Justices
16 East State Capitol
PO Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

RE: Rule Petition 20-03

Greetings:

The corner stone of democracy is one person one vote. Recent gerrymandering tactics have put that principle at more than serious risk.

We are paying a serious price for that in constraining the voice of the people. This only weakens our governing for the good of all Wisconsin's citizens.

Political parties are not the only organizations that have interest in fair elections. It is beyond unconscionable that the voices of citizens and other interested organizations would be excluded.

Gail Blohowiak
3084 Gothic Court
Green Bay, WI 54313

Fairness. You have a chance to make us better.
Thank you!

Gail Pierotti
348 E Marquette
Berlin, Wisconsin 54923

I want fair maps in Wisconsin

Georgia Berceau
3500 N Meadowsweet Lane
Appleton, Wisconsin 54911

Your Honors,

I am writing with great concern about the request to re-route electoral map litigation to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This move would be harmful to the public interest as it would push the court to be more politicized, favoring political parties over nonpartisan groups.

The new rule would undermine much needed transparency and limit community input, including my own. The redistricting litigation does not belong in the Wi Supreme Court and I implore the court to deny this request from WILL.

Regards,
Georgia Berceau

Garry Fay
1531 Andersen Scout Camp Road
Houlton, WI 54082

One person, one vote is what we should have. Equal representation is what we should have. What we have is like in Animal Farm some are more equal. As a Nam era vet I think the people should choose their representatives rather than the reverse. Thank you for listening and doing the right thing.

Gary Rebholz
1007 N Cass St #485
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

I oppose the flawed rule submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL). I feel it's aim is to subvert the Democratic process.

I oppose jumping any legal challenge to redistricting immediately to the Wisconsin Supreme Court rather than letting that challenge work its way through our courts in a normal fashion. The aim of this rule is to repress public input by subverting the process.

I don't believe nonprofit public interest organizations and concerned citizens should be kept out of any hearing on redistricting. That would be undemocratic and would subvert the democratic process.

The ability to disregard procedures and requirements of the proposed rule is preposterous, and in effect, no rule at all, which would also be blatant corruption of the Democratic process.

Sincerely,
Gary R. Rebholz

Gary & Linda Pulford
15790 W. Victory Heights Circle
Stone Lake, Wisconsin 54876

We object to this rule change because, if adopted, it would further politicize the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its credibility in the eyes of the public even beyond its low point today.

We further object to the requested rule change because if adopted it would be rendered unconstitutional under both the state and federal constitutions. The petition seeks to authorize the Court to take immediate jurisdiction of the redistricting process upon the request of any party the instant the census is released and then issue an immediate stay. Taking jurisdiction at that early point is premature; there is not yet any case or controversy. The request rests solely on the speculation that, with a divided government, there "may" be a future impasse between the Legislature and Executive Branch. Having the Court take over the process at that premature point violates the state and federal constitutions because it would usurp the authority of the Legislature and Executive branch to address redistricting matters in the first instance. While the Court may eventually be the proper party to review actual disputes about redistricting, based on the actual facts then of record, it is not the constitutionally authorized body to usurp and decide redistricting matters in the first instance.

Gary & Linda Pulford

Gary Wetzel
N8382 Arcade Glen Road
Ripon, Wisconsin 54971

I'm writing to you about Rule Petition 20-03.

I am opposed to Rule Petition 20-03 It's just a blatant attempt to ensure that the present gerrymandered legislative districts are continued for at least another 10 years.

I understand that the State of Wisconsin constitution says that the Legislature shall set the legislative districts. But I don't see why that means that only the political parties should be able to comment on this matter or why the lower courts should be cut out of the process. What is so awful about letting this go through the normal court processes?

Thank you.

Stephen Gauger
2985 Norwegian Trail
Mt Horeb, WI 53572

It appears that the proposed rule does not provide for adequate judicial review of disputes over new redistricting maps nor does it allow other groups other than the major parties to participate in the process. The creation of fair maps should not be the province of only the party in power at the time and the process should not preclude lower judicial review before advancing directly to the Supreme Court.

Debra Gauger
2985 Norwegian Trail
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Re: Petition 20-03

I am opposed to Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) presenting a rule proposal that would promote gerrymandering in our state. This would establish a bad precedent and block lower courts' involvement, as well as prohibit the citizens from learning about the case as it moves through the system. The usual pathway allows transparency for all.

Rules need to be followed by ALL. Jumping ahead and receiving special favors have no place in our system of government.

Connie Jo Zwettler
3619 Cty JG
Blue Mounds, WI 53517

Dear Justices.

I am writing regarding Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

I do not understand why challenges to redistricting should go directly to the Supreme Court and not start through the lower courts first. I believe this is a subversion of the normal process and lacks transparency for the citizens of this state. Why should only political parties be heard by the court in any map dispute and why does the rule allow the court to disregard certain parts of the rule?

Really! Let's for once do this fair, just, and right. We should be thinking long term what is in the best for all not just who has the power at any given time.

Gary Crevier
37 Ramlen Ct
Appleton, WI 54915

We need to hear from non-partisan groups such as unions and membership groups going through the state's lower courts. Where is the voice of the 70% who want to have changes in redistricting? We run the risk of politicizing the state supreme court if that is the only court to rule on redistricting.

Gary Crevier
37 Ramlen Ct
Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

To the Wisconsin Supreme Court, we the members of the Fox Valley area ESTHER organization, an affiliate of WISDOM, explicitly state that it is our mission "...to address systemic economic and social injustices and work for more equitable communities...". Therefore we strongly ask that you NOT approve the Petition for Proposed Rule to Amend Wis. Statue 809.70 (Relating to Original Actions) and numbered 20-30. Decisions to be made addressing the plight of gerrymandering and the property redistricting of our state cannot be limited only to elected officials and partisan voices. Our Wisconsin Constitution states that "governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." Let the voices of the governed be heard. The proposed amendment does NOT allow this to occur. We ask that you not approve this proposed rule change.

Gary Crevier
ESTHER President

Glenn Disrude
33 2ND ST
MILTON, WI 53563

The Supreme Court should not take over any future redistricting litigation. Redistricting should be non political and not be done to provide one political party voting blocks which favor that party.

Gordon Lind
510 E Wayfarer Lane
Appleton, WI 54913

Our state supreme court must not be the only group to decide questions of voter redistricting. The June petition (WILL) subverts fair elections and severely compromises our democracy. Please act with fairness in mind and with fair voter maps.

Janet Gebhardt
2610 6th Ave
New Auburn, WI 54757

This guidance undermines judicial process and is harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations such as the League of Women Voters. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process. The proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional.

This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and limit judicial transparency.

Cathy Geier
2816 Rolling Ridge Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. Dear Sirs, I'm writing to urge WI Supreme Court justices to reject the rule proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty that would pre-empt the process for the drawing of legislative and congressional district maps and likely lead to another gerrymander in Wisconsin. By leapfrogging over trial courts and appeals courts directly to the WI Supreme Court, the legal challenges to proposed redistricting maps, as proposed by WILL, would eliminate the customary and necessary legal procedures of discovery and fact-finding, as well as testimony from many involved parties. The proposed rule also gives the Court leeway to disregard the procedures and requirements laid out in the rule itself, thus eliminating any rules and procedures at all, if such is the Court's decision. This does not seem like a sound way to render legal decisions that would set precedents for the future. Perhaps the most upsetting and undemocratic part of this proposed rule change is that it limits testimony solely to partisan political bodies. It is the people of Wisconsin who suffer most from what has been quite accurately described as its 2011 "hyper-partisan gerrymandering"—and neither they, nor those nonprofit groups or membership organizations concerned with drawing fair redistricting maps would be allowed to testify about the effects new redistricting maps would have on them. I urge you to reject this proposed rule and to abide by the rules already in place which allow legal challenges to redistricting maps to go through the customary and necessary legal channels before reaching the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Thank you for your time,
Cathy Geier 2818 Rolling Ridge Drive Waukesha, WI 53188

Gerhard and Sonja Re Luetschwager
9763 County Rd A
Mt Horeb, WI 53572

Re Rule petition 20-03; This rule should not jump a challenge directly to WI Supreme Court. It should work its way thru lower court in normal way. It appears that concerned interest groups would not get any voice in hearings on the redistricting maps. This is silencing any opposition to the redistricting maps! What is happening to free speech and giving any opposition groups the chance to voice their opinion? Please rethink the writing of this rule!

George Hall
2724 Regent Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

I just learned of this "hidden" petition a few minutes ago, too late to meet the 5 pm deadline.

With all the political rancor and turmoil over every topic imaginable in Wisconsin right now, the last thing the state Supreme Court should do is fast-track a rule that will disenfranchise even more of us, by further locking in gerrymandered boundaries calculated to assure perpetual Republican rule.

I do court-ordered mediation for a county circuit court, as well as foreclosure mediation, and occasionally run up against cases involving parties running afoul of state statutes that wouldn't be present but for a majority-party strangle-hold over equitable consumer protection, banking, and other related laws and administrative codes. One easy and clear example is our current watered-down pay-day lending and usury statutes. Wisconsin citizens of every stripe deserve better, instead of having Koch-brother funded and inspired rules snuck in under the dead of night.

Gerard Strong
1406 riverdale dr
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Gerald Flakas
293 Fieldstone Rd
Delafield, WI 53018

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty ("WILL"), filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process.

This guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process.

Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for

everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

For the reasons above, I am OPPOSED to the proposed rule.

Bradley Geyer
3834 Whitman Lane #204
Madison, WI 53704

We need government representative of the people, with as much transparency and objectivity as possible. WILL is trying to short-circuit the process and send the decision to a body controlled by big money. . Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty is a tool of the big money, Bradley Foundation and their partisan Commerce and billionaires like Hendricks, Uilhein, Menard and others. Wisconsin government is as corrupt as they come after the last decade of deregulation to help the rich insiders. Please stop this nonsense. We are as corrupt now, as we were in the Gilded Age. As Robert M. La Follette said "The supreme issue, involving all others, is the encroachment of the powerful few upon the rights of the many...."

Dianne Grage
43805 County Highway D
Cable, WI 54821

Wisconsin deserves a redistricting process that is fair, open, accessible and transparent. There is an obligation of all involved to creating fair districts in the process. The rule changes submitted by WI Institute for Law & Liberty are not acceptable. The WILL plan would politicize the Court, exclude non-partisan groups from full participation, and limit transparency, review and public input in the process. There is no need to rush. The way to get Fair Maps is by making sure the process is thorough, fair and transparent. We have a dire need to bring Fair Maps to Wisconsin this decade! The voters of Bayfield County saw the need, and recently voted 77.1% in favor of non-partisan redistricting.

Gary Hendricks
2003 Wildwood Dr
Suamico, WI 54173

NO, makes for much less public input. Gary Hendricks

Kaye Gilbertson

2163 County Road K
Barneveld, Wisconsin 53507

To the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

I am concerned that the proposed rule before you regarding redistricting will limit input by citizens and amplify input by political voices. This should be a process governed by the public, not by politics. Please take this under advisement as you vote. The gerrymandering should end.

Thank you!

Gina Cerminara
3105 14th Lane Unit 3B
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53144

Please give a fair map for the voters of Wisconsin

Gina Emily
21600 Siskiwit Shores Drive
Cornucopia, WI 54827

Dear Supreme Court,

Virginia Quay
923 9th Avenue West
Ashland, WI 54806

As a Wisconsin resident and voter, I have grave concerns about a rule change that impacts the way drawing state district voting lines is handled in the courts. I understand that a request has been submitted that any lawsuit about future maps go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, bypassing the lower courts. There are several reasons that this would be harmful to me and other voters in our state.

One issue this changes would be the elimination of relevant evidence and materials supporting concerns about proposed maps. This information is appropriately obtained in the lower courts.

Voices of voters would be therefore be suppressed and disenfranchised. Further, the proposed rule change requires that political parties be heard in a dispute, but nonpartisan groups and voters who have challenged maps in the past would be excluded. If litigation of contested district voting maps were to ensue, voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government would be prevented from

fully participating. This proposed rule would have the effect of eliminating dissenting voices of a large number of voters from the process of litigating unfair maps.

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to ensuring good government. The proposed rule change not only diminishes transparency, its adoption following a limited time for public comment would politicize the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damage its credibility in the eyes of the public. We must have a 60-day continuance for public comment!

Virginia Bean
17740 River Rd
Argyle, WI 53504

Please keep total and complete transparency, and the ability of the public to comment, in all issues regarding districting and redistricting. It is appalling that there would be a movement NOT to do so. Democracy requires participation and this is a fundamental part of that.

Virginia Pease
466 Lac La Belle
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

The proposed rule from WILL is a terrible idea! It is short-sighted, single-interest, politically partisan and thus an extreme shift away from a rule making process that I could support and trust. Like the majority of Wisconsin citizens, and even the majority of Waukesha County citizens, I want a transparent process to take on the serious public policy problem of gerrymandering; one that gets us closer to fair maps.

Through actively working for transparency in the Village of Lac La Belle I've seen first hand how bad habits and the influence of money among our local government end up working against what neighbors in this small community expect. For example, every 10 years SEWRPC (Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission) requires each local community to engage citizens in a refresh of its Smart Growth Plan. But our local leaders chose to write it themselves so that they could grant a lucrative favor to a corporate entity. In doing so they destroyed trust in their future decisions.

When important public policy and rules are being made, ordinary people like me are shut out because of ignorance or intent. It is so clear that this proposed rule intends to shut us out. The proposed rule intends not to provide adequate information to, or input from, the public. I've seen what happens locally because the Village of Lac La Belle has no agreed upon process or governance policy for its work. This results in insular decision making, citizen dismissiveness, and expensive legal messes. In the same way and with the same result, the last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting

process failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could be heard.

The process WILL has proposed would not solve this, and in fact would allow the Court to sidestep consideration of any arguments by groups other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or public input.

I am opposed to the supreme court rule change,

Virginia Pease

Gregory Quandt
405 Sethne Ct
Monona, Wisconsin 53716

Wisconsin should draw our legislative district maps in a nonpartisan way. Perhaps using a nonpartisan group dedicated to mapping our districts fairly to properly reflect the population.

Tony Glaser
502 McCall st
Waukesha, WI 53186

Don't politicize the courts! It will undermine its legitimacy.

Also, allow the lower courts to do their business with challenges before it reaches the supreme court.

LAURA CISLER
511 Maiden St
Mineral Point, WI 53565

All,

I am writing to object to Petition 20-03 proposed amendment to rule 809.70 (Redistricting Process).

I voted during the November 3rd election with the expectation that my vote for the referendum on fair maps would count as a serious vote, on a very important matter for my state and me. Instead I find out that this whole process is possibly being fast tracked to the State Supreme Court.

Our elections have shown there is a large majority of citizens who want a nonpartisan process for voter district maps. Fifty five counties have passed resolutions. An additional 28 counties have passed a referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. Why, if there is push back on this issue, do we not have the due process of the lower courts available to work with? Who benefits from a rushed decision by taking this referendum to the Wisconsin Supreme Court?

Important information can be added to support concerns about proposed maps in a lower court when there is an unhurried process. Do the vast majority of people who voted on this referendum have the right to go through the next step without being fast tracked to the Supreme Court? It makes me feel LIKE MY VOTE IS NOT REAL. Does my vote matter anymore, because it sure doesn't seem like it and that is truly sad.

Where to from here? Stop the fast track to the Supreme Court and work through the lower courts as it should be. A continuance of 60 days or more should be allowed. Don't damage the credibility of the Wisconsin Supreme Court as well as MY VOTE and the 73.8% who voted for this non-partisan transparent process for drawing voting district maps.

Geralyn Leannah
522 Grant Ave
Sheboygan, WI 53081-2858

The petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process. This guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process. Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.res.

Geralyn Leannah
522 Grant Ave
Sheboygan, WI 53081-2858

This rule should not be passed.

It seems the powers that be are looking toward preserving our state's gerrymandering. The proposal is for any litigation on the matter to go directly to the State Supreme Court. This rule shall not be passed.

Gene Lemmenes
17100 Bark Bay Road
Herbster, WI 54844

Wisconsin State Supreme Court

Re: Opposition to Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty petition on redistricting procedures

Dear Justices,

November 21, 2020

Given the current status of Wisconsin as one of the most gerrymandered states in the nation, the contrast between that fact and the intent of the constitutions of this state and nation to fairly represent the people, the need for transparency in any process that addresses fair representation, and the importance of a slow and thoughtful procedure for fairly redrawing district maps, I encourage you to reject any attempt to reduce the input of the governor, the legislature, constitut230i230o230n230a230l230 230s230c230h230o230l230a230r230s230,230 230n230o230n230g230o230v230e230r230n230m230e230n230t230a230l230 230o230r230g230a230n230i230z230a230t230i230o230n230s230,230 230a230n230d230 230t230h230e230 230p230e230o230p230l230e230 230o230f230 230t230h230e230 230s230t230a230t230e230 230o230f230 230W230i230s230c230o230n230s230i230n230 230i230n230 230t230h230e230 230c230r230e230a230t230i230o230n230 230o230f230 230f230a230i230r230 230r230e230d230i230s230t230r230i230c230t230i230n230g230 230m230a230p230s230.230 230 230 230 230l230t230s230 230b230e230e230n230 230a230l230m230o230s230t230 230l2300230 230y230e230a230r230s230 230s230i230n230c230e230 230W230i230s230c230o230n230s230i230n230 230b230e230c230a230m230e230 230a230 230s230t230a230t230e230 230t230h230a230t230 230n230o230 230l230o230n230g230e230r230 230r230e230f230l230e230c230t230s230 230t230h230e230 230w230i230l230l230 230o230f230 230t230h230e230 230p230e230o230p230l230e230,230 230a230n230d230 230t230h230e230 230l230e230g230i230s230l230a230t230i230v230e230 230a230n230d230 230p230o230l230i230t230i230c230a230l230 230r230a230m230i230f230i230c230a230t230i230o230n230s230 230o230f230 230t230h230a230t230 230i230n230e230q230u230i230t230y230 230w230i230l230l230 230b230e230 230f230e230l230t230 230f230o230

Madeline Uraneck
3311 Leyton Ln
Madison, WI 53713

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 85% of Wisconsin's citizens. We so need a FAIR means of redistricting. Both (all) parties will benefit, voters will have more faith in the electoral process, and democracy will see more sunlight.

Gloria Rozmus
16145 Cathy Ann Lane
Brookfield, WI 53005

Please consider this my personal objection to changing the existing rules by forwarding initial redistricting plans directly to the state Supreme Court. I believe that a deliberate and studied approach to districting and a consideration of arguments on both sides should progress through established levels of the judiciary, involving lifetime appointed judges who can be more free of political pressure than the Supreme Court Justices can be. Since this possible rule change has already been considered and rejected and since gerrymandering is a significant threat to fair elections, I believe it is in every Wisconsinite's best interests to keep the process intact.

Gloria Adams
1216 S Farwell St
Eau Claire, WI 54701

It is not appropriate to send redistricting controversies straight to the Supreme Court. First, it is a court with a bias. Second, it eliminates opportunities for citizens' input. Reality has proven that the current redistricting is heavily weighted in favor of Republicans showing that short cutting decisions would most likely end up in their favor. Voters must have fair, unbiased opportunities for input.

Josephine Goebel
330 County Rd K
Fond du Lac, WI 54937

To the Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices:

Redistricting only occurs every 10 years. It is important that we get it done correctly and not rushed and that it be open and transparent. The public's voices need to be heard.

A rule change to have proposals go directly to the State Supreme Court would be counter to public input. It also goes against at 2009 ruling of the Wisconsin Supreme Court which decided against such a change.

Adopting a rule change on redistricting to go directly to the State Supreme Court would likely further politicize the State Supreme Court and erode the public's trust in its decisions. This is not the time to exclude the public's testimony.

Sincerely,

Sister Josephine Goebel, CSA

Patricia Belongie
2834 Stoney Bach Street
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54902

I am writing to express my objection to the proposed rule change of taking the disputed maps directly to the Supreme Court. Public interest is very high on the redistricting process and in Wisconsin 54 of 72 counties have passed board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact the referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote with more than 70% support. In rushing this rule change we risk politicization of the court, limit fact finding, and exclude input from citizens and other nonprofit groups. Time must be taken to resolve this very complex issue in a transparent manner.

Peter Goldberg
2105 N. Summit Av., Apt. 202
Milwaukee, WI 53202

I oppose the proposed rule submitted to limit the procedure and rules for challenging any legislative redistricting submitted in a petition by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty. The procedure unnecessarily and improperly makes the matter one between two political parties to the exclusion other interests, including non-partisan groups and organizations, some of whom have historically challenged proposals and have vested interests on behalf of their constituencies. Neither should the procedure be one of original jurisdiction with the Supreme Court. Already the Court is taking an unprecedented number of original jurisdiction cases, a role it is not organized for, limiting the type of necessary fact-finding and input otherwise fulfilled by the normal judicial and appeal processes. Moreover, this tendency has the appearance of partisanship, undermining the appearance of neutral legitimacy desired in a high court. The procedure also is apparently optional, nullifying the critical certitude and confidence the public desperately needs to regain in its political processes, including in this Court. The sentiment of the public overwhelmingly favors a neutral redistricting process. This rule, with its vagaries,

inaccessibility, and susceptibility to a rushed decision, will militate toward a lack of transparency, a lack of deliberativeness, and the possibility of injustice or at least the appearance of such, which is not what the times or due process call for.

Bruce Neeb
2027 Eighth St.
Eau Claire, WI 54703

I'd like to think our Legislature will welcome public involvement in the task of redrawing legislative district boundaries following this year's census, including the ideas forwarded by the non-partisan redistricting commission. Should it not, however, I'd ask the court to support maps designed to restore accountability of legislators to their constituents vs. accountability to their party leaders. Hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin citizens currently feel they have no voice in the decisions of their elected representatives. That's just not right. Thank you.

Carole Briggs
4806 Regent Street, Apt 116A
Madison, WI 53705

The Supreme Court should not be a tool for politicians to force a power grab. Fair maps rather than gerrymandered districts are a must if we are to have a democracy. Powerful politicians do not want that. The Supreme Court is not a place to push their agendas.

Rebecca Goodman
E103 County Road Q
Wonewoc, WI 53968

Dear Justices,

When I became a Wisconsinite 41 years ago, I was so proud to belong to a state with a Progressive heritage. Sadly the political situation in this state has slid into something akin to a horror movie. One party has become so pumped with power, that they can circumvent the will of the people, ridicule the executive office, and even manipulate the esteemed body of the Court.

The rule change before you concerning the new post 2020 Census map is just a prime example of this power and manipulation all accomplished behind closed doors. Wisconsinites have overwhelming spoken out for fair maps in 55 county resolutions and 28 county referenda.

I implore you to reject this rule change before you in the respect to the citizenry, Democracy, and Wisconsin's Progressive heritage. I look forward to having the pride I once coveted.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Goodman

John Gosling
1102 W. Prospect Ave
Appleton, Wisconsin 54914

We Wisconsinites are the strong progressive force that our people and Nation need. We have led the nation in many supportive areas and now we need to join with Iowa and lead the rest of the Country toward a FAIR legislation representational system so Voters select their Representatives, not vice versa. The Vice approach is UNFAIR and does not demand our Legislators WORK for their area!

Mita Mukhopadhyay
4002 W Gazebo Hill Parkway
Mequon, WI 53092

Wisconsin is the most gerrymandered state and its residents were looking forward to getting fairer maps drawn in 2020. However, the petition by WILL requesting the state Supreme Court to take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation would limit the review of maps and rush the process. Accepting this rule risks politicizing the court, reducing trust that the court is a neutral arbitrator of conflict and gives the impression that the court is a political branch.

In the interest of fairness, we urge the State Supreme Court not to rush the process

The State Supreme Court should ensure that the process is fair and not harmful to the public interest.

The petition requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process. Input from non-partisan groups is vital to the process of creating fair maps. Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

We strongly urge the court not to rush the process and create or allow maps without hearing evidence or getting input from the public.

Gordon Gasch

N 5875 Co Rd JJ
BRILLION, WI 54110

Please move Wisconsin to a non-partisan method of drawing legislative boundaries! Our current system prevents compromise.

It is not a partisan issue.

PATRICIA OSMUSS
210 EAST RIDGE DR.
NEW LONDON, Wisconsin 54961

A rule change for redistricting maps would severely limit the democratic principles of our nation by ignoring the will of the voters. A large majority of Wisconsinites feel that each person has a voice. The non-partisan People's Map Commission would adhere to what has been learned from public hearings and use qualified professionals in the areas of demographics, statistical analysis and map-creating software to create fair maps. No rule change should be made.

Gerald Lausted
215 15th st se
Menomonie, wi 54751

With modern technology it is not difficult to create fair political districts. That is what most people want. Lets do it.

Lorna Grade
413 E Birch Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53217

I strongly urge the Wisconsin Supreme Court to rule on the side of democracy and fairness. District borders should be drawn based solely on population and not gerrymandered to favor candidates and political parties over the choice of the electorate. The current makeup of the Wisconsin legislature v. the number of actual votes for particular parties is hard evidence of biased districting. In these charged political times, any ruling that supports bias over nonpartisanship cannot be deemed as just.

Ann Weigl
109 Edgewood Lane

Oxford, Wisconsin 53952

Let's show everyone how our state values equal representation for all Wisconsin voters. I refuse to believe that the state where I was born, educated, and now live in would not be one to adopt non-partisan redistricting. I realize that it is hard to give up power no matter if it means a minority sets policy in this state. There is always a backlash - let's try to avoid this. It is possible. I live in a rural township. I have lived in Milwaukee. My vote should NEVER be worth more because I live in Adams County, not Milwaukee County.

Do your duty.

Grant Haynes
1252 Creekside Lane
Grafton, WI 53024

I wish to see an open non partisan redistricting in the state of Wisconsin. This rule change will hurt the fairness of redistricting by reducing transparency by excluding non partisan groups and politicizing the court.

Gail Carpenter
W3828 Gilbertson Rd
Monticello, WI 53570

I am opposed to this proposed rule change for the following reasons:

Adopting a specific rule for redistricting could politicize the Court by encouraging lawmakers to settle redistricting disputes through litigation, rather than making every effort to avoid litigation by drawing maps that are acceptable to both political parties. This is of particular concern in the State Supreme Court where, unlike the U.S Supreme Court, Justices are elected by voters and often campaign with the support of political parties and partisan groups.

The proposed rule could exclude nonpartisan interests. While the rule allows the governor, legislators, and political parties to intervene in redistricting cases, nonpartisan organizations and voters impacted by the new district maps could be left out. Historically, civic groups and citizens have engaged in redistricting litigation to challenge district maps; this rule could prevent them from doing so in the future.

The proposed rule would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political

parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing proper evidence or input from members of the public.

FL Morris
n4596 dutch hollow rd
monroe, Wisconsin 53566

This is not acceptable. I strongly appose the Supreme Court having jurisdiction over the next redistricting maps in Wisconsin. This should be the work of a non partisan committee, leaving nothing much to debate. It should be The Governor that signs the maps into law - to protect the authenticity of our state's democracy for the next decade.

Gerald Campbell
1821 Camelot Drive
Madison, WI 53705

The most recent WI elections were unfair to me from the outset. I have lived in Wisconsin since 1973 and for most of that period I believed state elections gave me an equal chance in voting for elected officials. The most recent redistricting provided districts that favored one party. The degree of "gerrymandering" to favor Republicans in Wisconsin became part of the facts that prove voter interference in media and academic studies across our country. Fair elections for every voter in Wisconsin is a condition for WI to be considered a leading state in creating democracy. Look at the results of past gerrymandering as crime against democracy. Restore the reputation of our State and our Wisconsin Supreme Court as leaders in assuring that every WI voter is in a district where fairness periodic redistricting is real.

gregory parker
1210 N. Clark St.
Appleton, Wisconsin 54911

If the political parties cannot sell their policies on merit they shouldn't gerrymander to win.

Gregory J Peyer
W8043 Duck Creek Ave
Westfield, WI 53964

To Whom It May Concern:

As a Wisconsin citizen I believe it is very important that every vote counts equally in every election. Wisconsin has a long history of supporting fair government and new ideas. It is time again for Wisconsin to lead in the area of Fair Nonpartisan drawn Districting Maps for all elections reflective of the results of the 2020 Census. I strongly encourage that Wisconsin adopt a plan similar to the one currently in use in Iowa and that the Court allow input from citizen groups in this process.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gregory J Peyer

Glen Ridnour
53 Park Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Gerrymandering is wrong, whether it's done by Democrats or Republicans! Each district should be based upon logical, natural boundaries each containing similar populations not divided up to give one district more power than another or one political party access to a "for sure" voting block or to reduce the voice of a particular racial or political group.

Marjorie Carlson
2209 S Gladys Ave
Appleton, WI 54915

This rule will politicize the court and not give non partisan groups a chance to participate. It lacks sufficient transparency measures also.

Barbara Roberts
W5576 Southdale Drive
La Crosse, WI 54601

Greetings:

I value a nonpartisan, transparent redistricting process. The state Supreme Court should not claim jurisdiction on any future redistricting legislation as requested in the petition by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL). If this petition 20-03 is granted, it will limit the review of fair maps, will politicize the court, and will exclude nonpartisan groups from participating in redistricting efforts.

Please reject this petition in order to provide fairness and inclusivity.

Norda Gromoll
1717 Watersmeet Lake Road
Eagle River, WI 54521

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Kate Cronin
204 N SHUMAN ST
VERONA, WI 53593-1132

Wisconsinites have overwhelmingly shown support for fair maps to be drawn when the state is redistricted. This should not be in the purview of the state supreme court. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. Please deny WILL's petition.

Helga Guequierre
1313 N. Franklin Place #1101
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Maps will only be fair to all voters if they are drawn by a nonpartisan committee. No elected officials should be involved.

Carl Armstrong
7290 Thunder Hill Lane
Saint Germain, WI 54558

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This action limits the review of maps and rushes the process. You are well aware that the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. The citizens of Wisconsin demand a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, and an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review that will NOT harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

George Vernon
N2698 Ullom Road
Monroe, Wisconsin 53566

Dear Court. Partisan gerrymandering is ruinous to good government in Wisconsin. It has eliminated any incentive to communicate with politicians across party lines and reach consensus decisions. We now see the results of 10 years worth of experience. PLEASE do not let a partisan lobbying group dictate the process for the next decade. I do not understand how we can look around and see what our wonderful state has become-a dog-eat-dog system of one-upsmanship instead to working together toward common goals. Public support for bi-partisan or non-partisan redistricting is overwhelming. We have a good model just across the river in Iowa. This is not a Democrat or Republican issue. This is maybe the most important issue that will be on your docket in your entire careers as justices. Please listen to the people, not to the pols. Please do all in your power to introduce and insure fair and balanced maps so pols can start talking to one another again and making even feeble first steps toward centrist compromise positions in the interests of all citizens in Wisconsin--not just the Dems in Madison and Milwaukee; not just the Repubs in all of the red counties. We are not Hungary. We are not Poland. We are not Russia. You hold the power to stop our slide in that sorry direction. Please do your duty for the benefit of all Wisconsites, not just the 47% or the 51% or whatever slice is encouraging you do otherwise. thank you for your consideration of my views.

George Vernon
N2698 Ullom Rd
Monroe, Wisconsin 53566

Hyper-partisan politics are well along in the process of destroying meaningful political debate in the legislature and any attempt for negotiating "meet-in-the-middle negotiations on the host of problems affecting the state. A tyranny of the majority is harmful enough. A tyranny of the minority is more harmful still. The solution lies in the hands of the Wisconsin courts, since the legislature is unlikely to fix itself in the current winner-take-all environment. Please do your best to see and evaluate this matter through a non-partisan lens. Save us from what we have become.

George Wagner
3300 N Newhall St
MILWAUKEE, WI 53211

The petition to the Wisconsin Supreme Court by WILL to expedite the redistricting process should not be granted. It would exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, rush the review of maps, and has insufficient transparency measures. It would only further the idea that the Court is totally politicized.

Gloria Welniak
4275 Vilas Rd.
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

Please do not allow the state courts to have jurisdiction on redistricting. Prevent gerrymandering.

David Wenninger
7110 Woodson Street
Hazelhurst, WI 54531

Please do not change the rules regarding redistricting. Most county boards in the state oppose this as well. Thanks, David Wenninger

Candice Haight
6901 N. Rockledge
Glendale, WI 53209

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court and exclude non partisan groups from full participation. It was also have insufficient transparency measures. Allow the existing process to work so all groups can be heard, which allows transparency that is needed to restore trust in our democratic process.

Sophia Halloran
3270 North Colonial Drive
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53222

The proposed rule will damage Wisconsin democracy by politicizing the court, excluding nonpartisan groups from participation in democratic processes, and is insufficiently transparent.

Alex Hancock
765 Westbrook Dr.
Plain, WI 53577

The process for drawing redistricting maps is being needlessly rushed. Large majorities around the state have expressed support for fair maps; Petition 20-03 Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70 will make such maps less likely by eliminating these voices from the process of designing new maps. When legislators refuse to listen to the majority of votes, the Supreme Court has a responsibility to ensure that these voices be heard.

Kevin Kempf
615 Monroe St
Neenah, WI 54956

Voting district maps should represent a region of similar geographical location for the purpose of representation rather than be used as a campaign strategy. Past results of votes cast compared to elected representatives show a discrepancy. I understand you do not write laws but instead judge on the intent of the law. I'd argue the intent of having an election is for it to be a fair representative election and voting districts should reflect that..

Stuart Hansen
1106 Emerald Dr
Mount Pleasant, WI 53406

My name is Stuart Hansen. I am a lifelong resident of Wisconsin, except for a few years during college and a few years spent volunteering overseas. I am writing today about the proposed rule changes concerning how challenges to redistricting are handled. I am opposed to these changes for the following reasons.:

First, there is no need to rush the rule making process. If redistricting procedures are to be fair, then the process of establishing these procedures should follow a rigorous review by the Court and external experts. As you are aware, the Court has previously considered, and rejected, adopting a rule on this topic. At that time, it was determined there is no adequate judicial solution in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The rule proposal before the Court now offers no reason for the Court to reverse its previous conclusion.

Second, the proposed rule would further politicize the Court. Strengthening the public's trust in the Court requires the Court to behave in a prudent, thoughtful and transparent way. For the Court to insert itself into redistricting challenges as early as the rule proposes is not healthy, particularly when there is no real need for it.

The public trust issue extends beyond the Court. The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting process failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could be heard. The proposed rule changes do not address these concerns.

Finally, the proposed rule change is rooted in partisan politics. Only political parties are mentioned as concerned parties. I am not a member of any political party and recognize that there are many nonpartisan groups that have legitimate concerns in redistricting. These include governmental entities like counties, municipalities and school districts. It also includes nongovernmental groups like business organizations and environmental groups.

For all these reasons I ask you to reject the proposed rule change for the Court's involvement in redistricting.

Sincerely,
Stuart Hansen

Harry Davis
125 N Pine St, 125
Adams, WI 53910

The people of Wisconsin have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. They are not listening. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties, including Adams County, have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair. Are there any public interest groups asking for this rule change? NO!

Harriet Horwath
N2481 220th Street
Elmwood, US 54740

The proposed rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

In the interest of justice and equality for ALL, this rule should not go forward.

Ronald Harris
2802 50th St S

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

Ronald Harris
2802 50th St S
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Re: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. A. The WILL petition would send any challenge to redistricting immediately to the Wisconsin Supreme Court rather than go through the courts in a normal fashion. B. The WILL petition, in Section 5(b), requires only that the political parties be heard by the Court in any dispute over the maps. It does not allow other interested parties to be heard. C. The proposed rule that WILL is advancing gives the Court the leeway to disregard the procedures and requirements laid out in the rule itself. Ridiculous!

Harry Read
2545 Van Hise Ave
Madison, WI 53705

I am writing to oppose the petition submitted by Wisconsin Law and Liberty for adoption of rules governing the redistricting process in Wisconsin. I believe that the redistricting process in Wisconsin is too partisan and that the current maps are unfair, being deeply gerrymandered to favor one party. I strongly believe that gerrymandering is anti-democratic. The politicians should not be the ones to choose their voters, and when one party controls the process, and is able to apply modern software to the extensive voter data available today, the result is extreme gerrymandering. Within districts that are safe for one political party, the only contest that matters is the primary of the controlling party, and this tends to favor more extreme candidates. Wisconsin's gerrymandered maps have resulted in a legislature that does not reflect to political balance of the state. This is what we have lived with for the past decade.

It is critical for our state's democracy that this travesty is not repeated for the maps that will shape our government for the coming decade. Citizens have voted for numerous successful ballot initiatives calling for a fairer process to draw new maps. County-wide non-binding referenda calling for an end to gerrymandering and adoption of a fairer process for redistricting have passed with large majorities in 28 of our state's counties. Many county boards have also adopted resolutions calling for a fair process for drawing district lines, and numerous citizens' groups have organized around this issue. The politicians who executed the gerrymandering of our state hope to perpetuate their power, and the lock they hold on power makes it very difficult to change the redistricting process through legislation.

With the newest iteration of redistricting imminent, the citizens should have a voice in the process and in the inevitable disputation over new maps. Wisconsin's split government (a governor who is a

Democrat, against a Republican legislature) guarantees that no agreement will be reached on the new maps and that their dispute will end up in court. My understanding of the rule changes in WILL's petition is that in the event of a deadlock, the final decision on maps would be determined by the State Supreme Court, with no involvement of lower courts, no opportunity for citizen input, no discovery and no trial. The only input would come from politicians. This would be an injustice and an affront to the citizens who clearly want maps that are fair. So please, reject this petition.

Harry Freedman
1820 Summit Ave
Madison, Wisconsin 53726

As a citizen of Wisconsin, I fiercely oppose the proposed rule changes. I believe these will exclude citizen voices and the will of the people from the rule-making process and contribute to a State that is ruled by just a few powerful interests rigging the system in their own favor. These rules will politicize the Court, wrongly exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and create opaque measures that only lawyers can understand. This is not how justice should be done in the Great State of Wisconsin. Thank you.

Harry Freedman
1820 Summit Ave, Apt 3
Madison, WI 53726

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court, on proposed rule change for future redistricting litigation

My name is Harry Freedman and I am writing regarding the proposed rule change on the process around redistricting. I am strongly opposed to the proposed changes for a variety of reasons. I am writing not just for myself, but on behalf of my community, Summit Avenue Cooperative, a business and residence containing fifteen citizens.

The most important reason I oppose this rule is that it will likely contribute to the erosion of public trust in our court system, by putting the court at the heart of an intensely political –and partisan - matter. By putting the Wisconsin Supreme Court in the position of drawing electoral lines without input from the public and non-partisan interest groups, you make the court an arbitrator between political parties instead of an objective interpreter of the law working for the public good. In a Democracy that is already struggling to see it's institutions as legitimate, I believe this would only add credence to claims by some that the court system is simply a corrupted tool of political creatures.

Additionally, I believe that a transparent and thorough review is necessary to drawing fair electoral maps. Without transparency and time to hear arguments from experts and independent reviewers, we

risk making poor decisions. When elections for the next decade are at stake, we should be cautious and open in our approach. The proposed rule does not provide adequate time nor transparency.

Our great state must have a fair process for redistricting if we are to survive these troubled times. The proposed rule change does not facilitate a fair process. I urge you, in the name of Democracy, to not adopt this rule change.

Sincerely,
Harry Freedman

Harvey Halvorsen
1520 96th st
New Richmond, WI 54017

I strongly request st Croix city get mapped fairly.

Evan Blattner
651 E Court Street
Viroqua, WI 54665

This is to express my opposition to the petition filed by Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty concerning the court's involvement in drawing district maps. I think the proposal asks the court to behave in a way that is not transparent enough and is too partisan. ALL interested parties should be able to be heard on the subject of district maps - not just the 2 major political parties. I think the ruling will further harm the people of WI and the way we get our voices heard by our legislators. Thanks you

Jacob Hautala
1704 Dublin Trail
Neenah, WI 54956

Hi

Pat Hawthorn
1745 Roberts Lane
Abrams, WI 54101-9422

When did districting become politicized? When did our courts?!? NO to using our judiciary system to further muffle the voice of the People!

Helen Findley
6225 Mineral Point Road, C61
Madison, WI 53705

I am very concerned about the proposals regarding redistricting our state. The rule change will politicize the Supreme Court. It will not provide a fair set of rules or a process for giving th Court the information that it needs to make a fair decision. Please reject the proposed rule change

Iras Humphreys
10705 N Linden Rd
Hayward, Wi 54843

write in support of fair maps for voting districts in Wisconsin and in opposition to the rule changes being proposed presently. Fair maps procedures for contesting maps must include: 1) involvement of lower courts to receive information and concerns, engaging of voters and non-partisan participants, not just political parties 2) assuring the Supreme Court is the final arbiter of concerns, as judicially understood, NOT the sole determiner. The constitutionality of the proposed change is suspect in that the higher court assumes lower court functions, and dissolves important transparency issues for voter and non-partisan participation.

I reside in Sawyer County, one of 28 counties who has passed a referendum in support of fair maps voting districts. 55 Wisconsin counties have passed resolutions which support Fair Maps. To have this volume of concern and interest, promotes a comment period beyond the unnecessarily restrictive 30 days. I want an extension for comments of another 60 days.

Thank you for your review and consideration.

Heather Geye
10 Bellingrath Ct
McFarland, WI 53558

Gerrymandering is cheating. In 2010, the Republicans won a big electoral victory, taking 60 of the 99 seats in the State Assembly. After the 2011 redistricting, they created “the worst partisan gerrymanders in modern American history,” according to the Whitford plaintiffs. Then in 2012, there was a 430,000 vote swing in the Democrats’ favor, but the Republicans still came back with 60 seats. Despite the

Democrats' big win in the election, the Republicans still had an overwhelming majority of seats. This is CHEATING!!!!!!

Helene Iverson
4708 Timber Row
Appleton, WI 54913

11-19-20

Supreme Court of Wisconsin

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to add my voice to the chorus of voters asking you to decide against the rule change proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty.

One person, one vote is the bedrock of our democracy. Unfortunately in Wisconsin, some voters' votes don't and can't influence an election because of the unfair redistricting that exists here. 100% of the referenda put forward for Fair Maps to Wisconsin voters have passed, most with more than 70% support.

The redistricting process is still many months in the future, so why the urgency? Public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process. This is not the time to exclude public testimony and input.

Adopting this rule increases polarization of the Court and a continued decrease in citizens' trust in the Court.

Please vote against this rule change.

Helene Iverson
4708 Timber Row
Appleton, WI 54913

Hollis Helmecki
706 W 5th St N
Ladysmith, WI 54848

The decision to circumvent the proper steps of moving through the various levels of court rulings, and moving directly to only one court, denies the people of Wisconsin the fair actions needed for creating districts. The legal steps currently fulfill the process for public knowledge about the actions taken to create districts. The voters have supported this throughout the state. The Supreme Court should not deny the citizens of Wisconsin a transparent and open process.

Heidi Wilhelm
1525 Longview St
Madison, WI 53704

I am writing in regards to Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. This petition will lead to another 10 years of gerrymandered districts in Wisconsin. The residents of Wisconsin deserve to choose their own representatives in a fair way, as had been done for decades before the most recent maps. Governor Evers has already begun this process, with maps to be developed by independent, non-partisan citizen groups for the benefit of no political party.

Gerrymandered districts allow representatives to act in their own best interest above that of their constituents as there is no accountability. They know their seats are safe regardless. This has been abundantly obvious during the pandemic, as the legislative leaders who benefit from our gerrymandered maps refused to even meet to discuss pandemic relief.

We need fair maps and this petition will virtually ensure we never get them.

Alexis Peter
11 N 17th Dr
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

I am vehemently against this proposed rule change. Democracy is hinged on one person, one vote and representatives that are responsive to constituents. Failure to deny this rule change will exacerbate an already perverted system.

Debra Heitkamp
2317 13th Street
Monroe, WI 53566

I oppose the proposed rule change. It will exclude non partisan groups from being part of the process, and has insufficient transparency. We need to keep our court out of the political turmoil.

Helen Lambron
3925 North Downer Avenur
Shorewood, WI 53211-2443

Wisconsin should have fair maps.
"fair" should be actual practice.
All voices should be heard and represented.
Liberty, equality, justice for all.

margaeret Schwartz
1659 Riverbend Terr #7
Green Bay, WI 54311

A democracy as I understand means that all people have a right to agree or disagree. I want my viewpoint part of the choice.

Margaret Helen Schwartz
1659 Riverbend Terrace#7
Green Bay,, Wisconsin 54311

I am opposed to the Law and Liberty Petition on issues affecting redistricting and other issues affecting Wisconsin citizens. I have always trusted the Supreme Court in its consideration of facts and decisions based on the welfare of ALL its citizens. It seems that the courts are becoming too influenced and restrictive at the hands of politicians. Avoiding communication with ALL citizens who come to the courts must be more transparent and more inclusive regarding rules that limit and restrict a public dialog. Redistricting should be a local decision based on Community involvement, not by the politicians, Democrat or Republican!

Margaret Helen Schwartz
1659 Riverbend Terrace #7
Green Bay, WI 54311

i am opposed to the Law and Liberty petition since it restricts non-partisan groups representing membership communication about law changes and their restrictions in being at the table. The Supreme Court has a responsibility to be accountable and open to all its citizens. There seems to be too much influence from politicians that want only their opinions to be considered. Communication with

the Supreme Court should be available to all citizens and it should be factual, honest and transparent. There must always be availability to all citizens, groups or other organizations to an open dialog sincerely,
M. Helen Schwartz

Rachel Henderson
N3060 630th St
Menomonie, WI 54751

The proposed rule giving the state Supreme Court jurisdiction over redistricting poses unacceptable limits on the process of legislative map redistricting. The people of Wisconsin overwhelmingly support a non-partisan approach to redrawing maps in 2021. I'm horrified that this rule would cut out or limit the participation of non-partisan groups, non-profits, and PEOPLE! Additionally, this rule would highly politicize the state Supreme Court. We NEED to have faith in our judicial system, and the idea that the courts are skewed in favor of the most powerful undermines that. PLEASE reject this rule change and allow the people of Wisconsin to have our say in redistricting.

Julie Henke
2879 Morrow Road
Omro, Wisconsin 54963

I am writing concerning Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

Deadline Nov 22

I don't believe it is in the best interest of the citizenry to have the state supreme court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation.

The state supreme court needs to allow people and independent groups to challenge district maps which should be drawn for the purpose of fairly and competitively selecting our government representatives.

Maps that are not fairly/competitively drawn, I believe, disenfranchise voters because their vote, and hence their independent voice, doesn't count in a stacked deck, which favors monied special interest groups.

The process of drawing fair maps should not exclude individuals and nonpartisan groups from full participation, and should be done providing full public transparency. Our current set of maps were drawn in the dark of the night and lacked any form of transparency.

While our statewide election vote tallies are pretty evenly split between the two major parties, our representation at the state district level doesn't even come close to reflecting the statewide vote. The Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty's petition should be denied. The entire process needs to be reviewed for fairness. It does not need a final chokehold by putting it in the jurisdiction of the supreme court.

Thank You.

Julie Henke

Carol Hermann
2636 Quartz Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711-4934

The proposed rule change undermines judicial process and is harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations such as the League of Women Voters. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process.

Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Judith Herr
2916 73 st
Kenosha, WI 53143

I am writing to oppose the possibility of the Wisconsin Supreme Court taking jurisdiction over any litigation concerning the drawing of district maps. I feel that would invite more political partisanship and exclude the input from citizens. Our districts are the most gerrymandered in the states as it is. That is the problem that needs to be worked on, not safeguarding power.

Justin Peterson
1425 Western Ave
Green Bay, WI 54303

Please protect democracy and reduce partisan ability to modify district lines. We the people don't want partisan courts, and we want to be able to see how proceedings occur. We need less gerrymandering, not more!

Lisa Williams
1935 Underwood Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

We are writing regarding the petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty requesting that the Wisconsin Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation and require nearly any lawsuit about future maps to go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. We submit this letter on behalf of the PerSisters, a community activist group of more than 600 members throughout Wisconsin.

This petition would limit the review of maps and rushes a process that must be transparent and provide adequate information to, or input from, the public. The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting process was conducted largely behind closed doors and failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could be heard. The process WILL has proposed would not solve this, and in fact would allow the Court to sidestep consideration of any arguments by groups other than elected officials and political parties. It also would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or public input, the end result of which would be diminished public trust and confidence in the highest court in our state.

Gerrymandering has already eroded our trust in other public institutions, most specifically the Wisconsin State Legislature, and Republican legislators in particular. As a community activist group, we've sent thousands of letters, made phone calls and sent numerous emails throughout the past four years, which mostly go unacknowledged when sent to Republican elected officials. Safe in their highly gerrymandered districts, these politicians feel free to ignore their constituents if they identify as Democrats. We already feel as if our vote doesn't have the full weight that it should. Gerrymandering also reduces our voice in state government and effectively silences our concerns, opinions and suggestions when offered to Republican elected officials.

We also take issue with the petition in that it sidesteps the normal legal process and sends the situation directly to a court not accustomed to making decisions about facts, but instead focuses on reviewing legal conclusions. Why would the normal process not be followed here?

The proposed rule also sets out how the court should handle redistricting lawsuits, guidance that is sparse and could be harmful to the public interest. For example, political parties could be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but not nonpartisan groups like unions or membership

organizations—the very groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering would be excluded from the Court’s process. As such, the proposed rule only considers partisan interests.

Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself—making any procedures optional.

Harry Pulliam
W5120 County Road W
New Glarus, WI 53574

This is to advise the Wisconsin Supreme Court that I as a Wisconsin citizen firmly oppose any changes to the rule on redistricting that would limit participation by nonpartisan groups in the process. I feel strongly that leaving the public out of the discussion would introduce an unnecessary level of politics into the workings of the Supreme Court and make redistricting an even more opaque and under-the-table exercise than it already is.

Heidi Blanke
525 28TH ST S
LA CROSSE, WI 54601

I believe nonpartisan groups should be included in any redistricting process. As it is proposed, the WILL petition allows for political parties to maintain control over districts to their advantage and, in addition, limits the transparency of the process.. This is anathema to the democratic ideals in which our state is based..

Heidi Hankley
N7968 Gould Hill Rd.
Blanchardville, WI 53516

Let the citizens of this state be part of the redistricting process. We want NON-PARTISAN redistricting.

Heather Heimbuch
1156 134th Ave
New Richmond, WI 54017

I’m writing in opposition to the redistributing rule proposed by WILL. The citizens of Wisconsin have been excluded from our state’s decision making for long enough. The rule would politicize our Supreme

Court, and leave non-partisan groups out of the redistributing process. We need a fair, transparent, inclusive redistributing process, not another secretive process. Thank you for ensuring open participation in this important activity.

Kay Gruling
231052 County Road O
Wausau, WI 54401

To Members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court,
Please support nonpartisan redistricting. It is important that we follow Wisconsin's long history of being independent minded and supporting the rights of all citizens rather than the desires of a few partisan elected officials and other powerful interests. That is the definition of democracy. Please use the power invested in you to prevent the few from taking away the power of the citizens of Wisconsin. Please leave the current systems in place and avoid fast tracking redistricting plans.

Sincerely,
Kay Gruling

Heather Jerrie
N11423 520th St.
Wheeler, WI 54772

The Court has before it the daunting challenge of evaluating the voting maps for our state so that they are fair and just. This proposed rule seeks to hinder the Court in its work by setting limits on vital review tasks and seeking to rush the process. Further, it proposes changes that will limit equal participation by the public and gives the Court the option to even disregard portions of the rule itself, undermining the integrity of the Court's work and public confidence in its decisions.

In the vital act of casting a ballot, every voter needs to be confident that the playing field is laid out fairly. This proposal seeks to limit the Court's work to make sure that every vote in our state counts equally. I urge the Court to do all it can to make Wisconsin's elections fair again.

Helaine Kriegel
5020 RISSER RD
MADISON, WI 53705

I do not support the proposed rule, for several reasons. I fear it will limit the participation of all those groups that would be impacted by it. I believe it would politicize the Court, and I believe that is dangerous. Finally, I think it would not allow enough transparency in terms of access to all facts and points of view.

Steven Wilensky
8 Oak Creek TRL
Madison, Wisconsin 53717

By state constitution, electoral districts must “be bounded by county, precinct, town, or ward lines, to consist of contiguous territory and be in as compact form as practicable.” and how being packed or split apart lessens your voice.

Holly Bland
2945 S Delaware Ave, Apt 9
Milwaukee, WI 53207

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Daniel Holzman
E12196 County Road U
Baraboo, WI 53913

Dear Supreme Court,

Elections should be fair and unbiased by Gerrymandering. Judges should draw even districts, so the issues decide the winners, not the party in control of the government. Gerrymandering gives minority parties control of government, like in Wisconsin where the majority vote democrat but Republicans control the seats. Fair districts could result in majority rule like the US Constitution intended.

Hope Owens-Wilson
3501 N. Humboldt Blvd
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212

It would be unethical to prevent people from full participation in the reviewing of drawing fair maps in the state of Wisconsin by steamrolling in lawsuits. Fair Maps are important but they take time and the communities heavily affected by these issues deserve time for them to gather resources and information to make their issues known. Furthermore, it should not be the sole job of the Wisconsin supreme court to determine the fairness of the maps as not every city or group has the means to bring about a legal challenge. Keeping these issues in the court will prevent people from the public forum to

voice their concerns, directly to the people that commit the harms. a right they are ensured through the 1st amendment.

kim horst
423 Doty
Mineral Point, WI 53565

No Redistricting Legislation !!!!

Nancy Howard
605 W Merrimac St
Dodgeville, WI 53533-1413

I am writing to object to Petition 20-03 for the proposed amendment to Rule 809.70, which would change the redistricting process in Wisconsin by requiring all lawsuits regarding the drawing of future maps to start immediately in the Supreme Court, bypassing lower courts where evidence, individual testimony and materials are more thoroughly discussed. In addition, that amendment would limit those participating to the political parties, leaving out voters' voices.

I don't understand the need for this petition. As a long-time voter, one who lives in a clearly "gerrymandered" district, I look at it as one more way for my vote to be ignored or manipulated. The process for determining the redistricting maps in Wisconsin should be open for all to see and, should there be a need for litigation about the maps, then that litigation should allow for voters and nonpartisan groups to participate. Political parties alone do not represent us; they are more a tool. The tool should not control the process. Thank you.

Howard Rosen
6609 Inner Dr
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

Making most things not just political but highly partisan results in a polarization of the electorate and a government that is gridlocked and unable to effectively meet the needs of the public - which is the ultimate purpose of government. Having a redistricting process that is more partisan-driven will only serve to make our problems worse.

The proposed rule for redistricting specifically excludes non-partisan organizations and individuals from actively having their voices heard. And the proposed rule would not require transparency that would allow the public a voice or access to the redistricting process on which the Court makes its decision.

This proposed rule would only serve to make our government less responsive to the people. If the people are no longer the ultimate judge, we will have lost our Republic - a government of, by and for the people.

Heidi Rose
2840 N Cramer st
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Fair representation is essential in a democracy and this rule should not be passed. Additionally, it politicizes the court and is not sufficiently transparent.

William Brooks
1402 S River Rd
Buffalo City, WI 54622

A non-partisan group should make the recommendation for new district maps. Following the Iowa model would work. Using groups like the League of Women Voters would ensure educated, dedicated voter involvement in the process. WI spent millions ten years ago on complex new technological ways to draw gerrymandered lines that it is a disgrace and an affront to our democracy. That was done so the Legislators could select their voters instead of setting up districts based on sensible boundaries. Boundaries like school districts, city council districts, county lines, township lines, etc.

William Brooks
1402 S River Rd
Buffalo City, WI 54622

Any litigation about how electoral districts are set should not in any way be a partisan process. The process should follow the normal steps used in all other matters before our courts. A non-partisan citizen advisory group should be used to make recommendations as to how redistricting is to be done in this state.

William Brooks
1402 S River Rd
Buffalo City, WI 54622

Our two largest national political parties must be stopped from being allowed to choose who votes for them. Voters in common geographic areas should be guaranteed the right to decide who their elected

officials are. We need to have elected officials be serving their constituents, not their big donors and their political party. The new computerized way of doing gerrymandering is costing us way too much money for partisan results. It needs to be outlawed.

Marieta Huff
7939 34th Ave
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53142

Redistricting is meant to ensure the ideal of one person/one vote. Every vote noted and every vote having equal weight. This is complex time-consuming work that should be done by people who do not have a bias to one party or another! It should be independent of the court or the legislature! The judicial system is supposed to protect us from going too far left or right. The courts should not cater to one party over another or the purpose of separation of powers is thwarted. The majority of people in Wisconsin are frustrated by the thought that numbers and districts can and have been manipulated to the distinct advantage of one side over another. A Court perceived to have a political agenda decreases citizen trust in the court and the justice it gives out.

Kelly Bevan
2057 Church St
East Troy, WI 53120

November 22, 2020
Clerk of Supreme Court
Attention: Deputy Clerk-Rules
P.O. Box 1688, Madison
WI 53701-1688

RE: Rule petition 20-03 Amendment to Wis. Stat. § 809.70 (redistricting)

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

I strongly oppose the proposed rule change regarding court cases about redistricting. Cases submitted to the courts related to the drawing of district maps should not skip ahead to the Wisconsin Supreme Court bypassing the lower courts.

Fair maps are central to our democracy and are undoubtedly an area that Wisconsin and other states desperately need change and improvement. Removing the due process procedures currently in place represents a change away from fair maps for citizens. This change will lead to increased partisanship and long term poor districting.

The State Supreme Court limitations on who may testify in such litigation severely and substantially limits the people's rights. Traditionally these voices are heard in lower courts prior to State Supreme Court involvement. Mr. Beets and colleagues said it well:

"The interests of Wisconsinites are myriad and cannot adequately be represented solely through political party representatives. Many people do not affiliate with any political party, and many who do — either through voting, volunteering, or contributions— do not necessarily support in whole or even partially the actions of party leadership and their litigative agendas. Political parties do not always act in the best interest of their supporters or the populace as a whole. Thus, limiting testimony to only political parties leaves many Wisconsinites with absolutely no voice in this critical governing mechanism. This is unjust and will severely erode people's trust in political processes, the state's courts, and the rule of law."

The People's Maps Commission endeavors to redistrict with transparency and citizen voice to create maps that more accurately reflect the will of our voters. While this is a positive step forward to solving an insidious problem, this initiative will need to be coupled with adequate judicial processes to come to a democratic solution.

The disadvantages of this change greatly outpace its potential benefits. I'm hopeful that we will be able to do better with redistricting this time around. It would be unwise to rush any court proceedings related to this challenging process.

I appreciate and am grateful for the opportunity to submit my public comment on this matter.

Warmest regards,

Kelly Bevan
East Troy WI Resident

Julia Hickinbotham
1296 Frances Way
Menasha, WI 54952

I strongly oppose the rule change to bypass lower courts on redistricting plans. This rule change would be dangerous for our democracy by rushing through an important process that should ensure all residents are fairly represented. It is wrong to politicize it even more than it already is, and by providing the option to disregard the guidelines means they are basically meaningless. Do not ignore the people's needs in favor of a political agenda!

Janet Pedder
5268 COUNTY ROAD H
RIDGEWAY, Wisconsin 53582

I am very concerned about the upcoming rule change that is before the Supreme Court. It damages credibility of Supreme Court by politicizing the Court. I strongly favor a non partisan group to decide the redistricting, it is much more transparent. It disenfranchises voters by eliminating all voters from having a voice in the process of litigation of fair maps. The majority of Wisconsin voters want a non partisan process for drawing voting district maps. Please listen to us!!

Michael Arney
1447 Saint Charles Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Redistricting is an important process that should include public input and should not be politicized. Bypassing lower courts and excluding non-political-party entities short-circuits that process. As a native of Maryland, I am keenly aware of how gerrymandering disenfranchises voters and pushes candidates to more extreme positions. I would love to see both my native and adopted states take a thoughtful and non-partisan approach to redistricting this time around.

Julie Yirkovsky
587 Lincoln St.
Mosinee, WI. 54455

All people should be able to vote on gerrymandering.

stephen fabos
w8707 sawmill rd
blanchardville, WISCONSIN 53516

This fast track proposal is clearly undemocratic. Citizens who elect the legislature have a right to have a say in decision making.

Keith Moore
S410 Hirst Road
Reedsburg, Wisconsin 53959

We urge rejection of the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty's petition requesting that state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This is a naked attempt to limit the review of maps and rush the process.

This guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process.

Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Wisconsin has become a poster child for gerrymandering, and it is time for this to end...as resolutions passed by the majority of WI county boards, representing 80% of its population, have affirmed. Political interests currently benefiting from unfair maps would do well to remember that the pendulum eventually swings the other direction. It is in the best interest of ALL of us to establish fair, non-partisan procedures in order to prevent abuse now, and in the future.

Duane Lottig
11083 S Ellen Smith Rd
Solon Springs, Wisconsin 54873-8300

I am writing in response to Rule Petition 20-03 regarding redistricting maps. I am opposed to this measure. I think it damages due process. It disenfranchises the citizens of Wisconsin. It will make the process of map drawing more opaque and less transparent. It will be a politicization of the Supreme Court. It will make the courts unbiased judicial prudence suspect. Allow these map drawing cases to move through the normal channels that other legal challenges must do. Moving through different court proceedings makes the issues involved more transparent to the public, thus educating the citizens of Wisconsin to issues that literally effect their day to day lives. All citizens should be able to be heard and have input to the map drawing process. It should not be allowed to simply be pushed through rapidly in closed meetings and rushed to the Supreme Court by either one of the two political parties and leaving many independents, non profits and other groups that make up the social fiber of the state with no voice and no clear vision of what is taking place.

Thank you

Jack Ingersoll
10556 Cornell Drive

Viola, WI 54664

I do not believe that the state Supreme Court should take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. If the legislature and governor can not agree on a fair maps re-districting plan then The court should hear it or deciding not to take it a non partisan group should decide. In any case all involved in the re-districting such as counties, citizens groups such as unions and business groups and the like should have input including just plain citizens. W need re-districting to reflect the will of the majority in order for our state government to live up its ideal of democracy and the courts should support this. .

Christine Jeske
4413 Libby Rd
Madison, Wi 53711

I am very concerned about this attempt to break down states that have developed across our nations history to keep voting districts fair and our democracy intact. I ask you to protect transparency and the important input of non partisan groups. Please do not support this proposal.

Bernard Gallagher
3809 Nakoma Rd.
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

As a political moderate, I request that the Supreme Court justices serve the public interest in allowing for a nonpartisan way of drawing electoral boundaries in our great state. I would like to have as many as possible contested seats throughout the seat so that we can minimize the number of "safe seats" that allow for politicians from the extremes of their parties get elected and feel emboldened to pursue damaging policies that do not represent the best interests of the majority of the state's population. In addition, contested seats encourage greater citizen engagement and voter turnout. Let's have a healthy democracy in this state!

Meegan Iverson
661 Brittingham Court
Portage, WI 53901

Rules, changes and all processes concerning redistricting must be transparent and subject to input by all interested and affected parties involved. All information must be taken into account before changes can be made.

IT
3492 century
Middleton, WI 53562

We want fair districting

Inge Wintersberger
1612 Summit Dr.
Cedarburg, WI 53012

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and limit judicial transparency.

Jeri Nelson
784 Sunshine Ln
Neenah, WI 54956

WI

Opposition to Petition to Supreme Court filed by Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty related to voting district litigation

As a citizen of Wisconsin I feel beaten down by the pandemic, and the political wrangling in our state and in the nation. It has become obvious at the state and federal level that when power is too skewed in one direction our state and country both flounder as our representatives with the majority of power have forgotten they are elected to do the will of the people (and in theory for the good of the people) and they do not make sincere efforts to negotiate the legislative matters that need to be accomplished.

The gerrymandering of districts contributes to this problem. 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. Any litigation regarding the upcoming redistricting results should be allowed to proceed through the lower courts so input from all interested citizens and groups can be considered. Through this process perhaps Wisconsin will eventually arrive at a system such as California & Iowa have in place where district lines respect municipalities and other consequential boundaries - allowing the more equitable allotment of votes, much less confusion for the voters, and I suspect would be more cost effective.

John Kussmaul
10725 County Road C
Woodman, Wisconsin 53827

I respectfully urge the Court not to adopt the rule that would permit fast track for redistricting. The process of redistricting should be open, transparent and subject to judicial review of the facts and the process.

Thank you.

John Kussmaul

Jacqueline Hoffman
N7973 Hatch Lake Rd
Iola, WI 54945

Redistricting is one of the most complex and difficult tasks of government and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person / one vote. It should never be rushed. On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process.

In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed.

Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote.

Jacob Grace
108 N Brearly St
MADISON, WI 53703

I am deeply concerned at the proposed rule to have the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. I believe this will harmfully politicize the court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and provide insufficient transparency in an essential democratic process.

Jane Ellis
1550 19th St
Baraboo, WI 53913

Attention Supreme Court of Wisconsin

I am writing in regard to Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I strongly oppose this rule. The 2020 census was just underway. It is of utmost importance in a democracy that every

citizen be equally represented; therefore, our government must be completely transparent and represent all citizens. It must be applied in a fair and just manner to all Wisconsin citizens.

Sincerely,
Jane Ellis

Karen Lawrence
4222 Glenwood Ct
Sheboygan, WI 53081

I am very concerned about the further politicizing and redistribution of the courts and decisions that will unfairly affect nearly half of our WI population

Jan Rosenberg
11449 N Creekside Ct
Mequon, WI 53092

Please make the maps fair. The current maps are not good.

Sherry Klitz
874 Woodfield Rd.
Neenah, WI 54956

The Supreme Court of Wisconsin should not be the one controlling the drawing up of our political maps. A bipartisan committee should be appointed for this so that it can be done by neutral decision.

Jane Hauser
316 E. Monroe St.
Spring Green, WI 53588

Please vote against the petition for the WI Institute for Law & Liberty regarding a fast tracking process in handling re-districting cases. This ruling would undermine our system of checks and balances and prevent public opinion from being heard

Jane Wester

5707 Cardinal Court
Greendale, WI 53129

I urge the Supreme Court to NOT approve the new rule change regarding the maps for redistricting. The public already feels they have no voice, and that was not the intention of our founding fathers. We should be able to take part in decisions that directly affect our lives and have tarnished our elections in the past. We need transparency. We need the appropriate amount of time to be spent on this, by engaging experts and the public. By adopting this rule, it risks increasing the politicization of the Court and decreasing public trust in the Court as a legitimate institution.

Jane Becker
N6557 BLACKHAWK RD
PORTAGE, Wisconsin 53901

A petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Jane Benson
3672 Hallers Creek Rd
Suamico, Wisconsin 54313

21 November 2020

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

Re: Rule Petition 20 for proposed rule to amend WI Statute 809.70

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court,

It has been ten long years of gerrymandered maps and lopsided politics in Wisconsin, while we have waited for the maps to be redrawn in 2021. The Republican-led legislature used such an opaque process when they drew the last maps and were so unfair that lawsuit after lawsuit forced them back into court. Each of those lawsuits revealed something more about the effects of the maps and gave many different voices a chance to be heard.

So, what does the Republican-led legislature want now? They do not want a non-partisan method for drawing maps that the wide majority of people of the state of Wisconsin want, as proved by numerous referendums and polls. When Gov. Evers proposed a commission to develop a non-partisan method in his last budget, the Republicans removed that budget item. No. Instead, they want to be able to circumvent all lawsuits except for ones at the Supreme Court level where it is suggested only political parties could present on the maps. We could then be in a situation where there will be another set of unfair maps drawn without public input and there would be no chance for other individual citizens or non-profits to testify.

Please allow sunlight on the process for drawing maps in this state by refusing to limit lawsuits on the next maps. Our fervent hope is a fairer process will be used in 2021 to avoid all the lawsuits that cost Wisconsin taxpayers more than \$4 million dollars in the last ten years. Republican leaders hired outside attorneys at taxpayer expense to draw and then defend gerrymandered maps. It was a waste of money because of leaders determined to manipulate the vote and retain power at any cost. Please do NOT let the Wisconsin Supreme Court become the only deciding body on the next maps. Hopefully, you can understand that the voters of Wisconsin are quite wary of the map-drawing process now. We want the whole Wisconsin legislature to know that a variety of judicial bodies will scrutinize the maps through different lawsuits, if necessary. We believe this may prove to help fairer maps be drawn in 2021.

Sincerely,
Jane Benson
3672 Hallers Creek Rd
Suamico, WI 54313

Jane Durment
4350 Lighthouse Drive
Racine, WI 53402

District maps drawn after the 2020 census will determine if my vote, and the combined votes of WI residents, really count in determining how we are represented in the state legislature. It also impacts our Federal representation. Something this important should not be cut off from the standard judicial process, including trial courts. Any party harmed should have the right to be heard in court, whether that party is partisan or not. If an independent organization, non-partisan commission, puts forth a proposed district mapping plan, they should have a right to be heard.

This proposed rule is far too political, and the Court will no longer be viewed as having any independence. Full transparency and full access to the process, including through the full judicial system, including trial courts, and both state and federal courts are critical to protecting our right to vote, and equity in the power of our vote. We have constitutional rights. Those rights are too be

defended at every level of court in this great country of ours, and no party should be denied access to them.

Jane Jaszewski
#006 South 56th Street
Miwaukee, WI 53219

Dear Justices of the Supreme Court,

The proposed rule change to take disputed redistricting maps to the Supreme Court denies citizens a fair and transparent process, which by right belongs to the Legislative, not the Judicial branch of Government. I am concerned that the adoption of this proposal will further politicize the Court, and erode public trust in Democratic rule. Therefore, I urge you to consider these risks when making your determination.

Thank you for your interest

Sincerely,

Jane Jaszewski

Jane Barnett
2273 Sugar River Road
Verona, WI 53593

The people of Wisconsin have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. Legislators are not listening. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair.

The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. This is where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps. This rule change further politicizes the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its credibility in the eyes of the public.

This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary. Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to assuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency,

There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being rushed and I demand a 60 day continuance.

Jane Johnson
615 Sommers St.
Stevens Point, WI 54481

I am opposed to WILL because it silences voices in the process. Our judicial system, if we are to have a true democracy, cannot become partisan; they must remain (as best they can) nonpartisan for the sake of the good of the people. We need fair maps in WI that are free from gerrymandering so that the people are represented fairly in our systems. Thank you. The Rev. Jane Johnson

Janet Quail
6112 N. Lydell Ave.
Whitefish Bay,, WI 53217

As a concerned citizen of Wisconsin, I would like to submit a public comment to the State Supreme Court concerning the petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation.

Our democracy depends on a fair and impartial justice system. One of my concerns is that by requiring only political parties to be heard will limit nonpartisan review of fair maps. Nonpartisan groups such as the League of Women Voters will not have the same rights as political parties. The result will be that the rule will harmfully politicize the court. A fair judicial system allows for facts and viewpoints to be heard through an inclusive legal process. In addition there are insufficient transparency measures.

I will eagerly await your decision on this rule change. I hope that democratic principles will guide you to decide that the rule is harmful to the public interest and rushes the process.

Janet Quail

Janet Brandt
7565 Mellum Rd
Arena, WI 53503

The citizens of WI have gone to great lengths to express their opinion and recommendation that our State Legislature use a nonpartisan process to draw district maps. The record on this is clear. Voters are expressing bi-partisan support for a non-partisan process to draw fair maps. It is our Legislature's

responsibility to listen to voters and develop the rules for that non-partisan process. If the Supreme Court adopts its own rules on settling unfair gerrymandering, you would essentially be disenfranchising the voters who have spoken clearly on this issue.

Secondly, approving this rule petition would just be another blatant example of a highly political and partisan decision by the Justices. PLEASE - reject this rule and start to accept your role as nonpartisan justices. There is a constitutionally correct reason to reject this petition.

Janet Miller
32 A Fountain St
Mineral Point, wi 53565

I request that the court deny the Wisconsin Institute for Law And Liberty's petition that would create a fast track process behind the scenes for handling redistributing. This is completely counter to the Fair Maps the voters said they wanted in the recent election.

Janet Murphy
711 S Orchard St. Unit 105
Madison, Wisconsin 53715

I don't see any advantage to redistricting "jumping the line" in the judicial process. It risks making the court appear partisan when the courts and redistricting should be non-partisan.

Janet Rowe
N1727 Schroeder farm drive
Greenville, WI 54942

We need fair non partisan redistricting.

We must have transparency in redistricting. The preference of a majority of Wisconsin citizens is to have a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process.

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 80 percent of Wisconsin's citizens. Citizens matter not political parties.

Janice Cooney
305 Birchwood Lane
Verona, WI 53593

I am opposed to the Supreme Court weighing in on the redistricting maps in the state.

Janice McCarthy
2320 Canter Lane, #8
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54304

I strongly oppose bringing the districting petition directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. It is vitally important that all citizens of the state be heard. Since this is not possible under the proposed rule, I oppose bring the petition to the Supreme Court.

Janine Edwards
6767 FLW Ave. Unit #101
Middleton, WI 53562

Please reject the petition for a rules change for redistricting from WILL. Your judicial integrity is already doubtful; d not further injure your ability to judge to render impartial decisions.

Janine Edwards
6767 Frank L. Wright Ave. Unit #101
Middleton, WI 53562

The process for redistricting requires the counties and municipalities to draw their boundaries first. Then the legislators should use those boundaries to draw their maps. This should be done in a non-partisan manner so that all persons' votes count equally. The rules petition is an attempt to subvert that process. Both democrats and republicans have gerrymandered voting maps in this state. Please do not rule in favor of this petition. Please maintain judicial integrity; do not vote in favor of one political party over another. If a lawsuit is filed after the legislators draw their maps, allow the lawsuit to go through the prescribed process in the lower courts so that our state constitution can be maintained. Thank you.

Jan Swenson
6565 High Point Rd
Arena, Wi 53503

My village of Arena was ripped out of the district we'd been in for many years! The district our schools are in , the district where we shop and the district we consider home. Look at the map! Our tiny village has been forced into the Baraboo district! This political game playing must stop! We want the case

brought up thru the court system so that ALL voices and ALL information can be shared before it gets to the Supreme Court!. Just look at how many voters are demanding a stop to gerrymandering! Please do not rush this important issue!

Norine Janzen
N101 W17383 Tanglewood Drive
Germantown, WI 53022

The committee who is responsible for laying out districts MUST be non-political and should be made up of all interested individuals. Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and general public. The rule could harmfully politicize the Court, exclude non[artisan groups from full participation, and has does not include complete transparency measures. We have had too much of the "behind closed doors", which is not a democracy, instead a sham that destroys my vote and basic freedoms.

John Duffin
1202 Southfield Dr.
Menasha, WI 54952

I am concerned about the petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty requesting that the WI Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would unnecessarily limit the review of maps and rush the process. Redistricting is one of the most complex and difficult tasks of government and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person / one vote. It should never be rushed. On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process.

In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed.

Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

I ask that this petition be denied. Fair and proper voting districts are a cornerstone of democracy.

Judith Schure
1201 Euclid Ave
Sparta, WI 54656-1537

I feel it is only fair that we have a bipartisan committee to draw our legislative districts. I want to get to know my representative in my district better and that is almost impossible with the huge, irregular borders that now exist. This would be fair for both Democrat and Republican and any other future party that will exist. It is about serving the people not serving the parties.

Jean Ashmore
E778 Plum Valley Rd
Wonewoc, WI 53968

Your Honors,

The proposed rule change regarding voting maps is not one you should take up and/or support. The Supreme Court, whether state or federal, must attend to litigation that has made its way there through adjudication at a lower level. To do that, in the case of voting maps, challengers to maps must be able to present evidence, engage witnesses and experts, and receive decisions from lower courts. Should this only include those from political parties? Me thinks not since often the loudest voices prevail. It is important to listen to input from non-partisan groups, a feature this proposed rule will eliminate. Additionally transparency of evidence is essential in adjudicating any matter, but most especially a voting map since it will be "set in stone" for a ten year period. PLEASE do not support the proposed rule change on voting maps. I do not believe that any and all disputes about voting maps should be handled by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Jason Neton
W5725 County Road H
NEW GLARUS, WI 53574

Greetings most honorable justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. As you appreciate, the practice of Gerrymandering electoral maps to favor either political party is undemocratic and harmful to our open and fair process for electing our leaders. I am very concerned about the current petition from the WILL organization that will limit the entire normal judicial process and exclude other interested groups from having a voice for their particular members.

We need greater transparency these days in all walks of government to help restore the citizen's faith in our democratic processes. Trying to pre-determine favorable outcomes by working the maps to favor either side is not in our best interest, and we need the process to get this corrected to be transparent, fair, and equitable. This proposal from WILL will further obfuscate the process again eroding confidence in fairly conducted elections.

Restoring this confidence and achieving truly non-partisan measures and parity is the only thing that will help to heal our hurting country and help shore up the institutions that are under assault with the prevalence of misinformation and propaganda.

Please reject this proposal by WILL, and keep things as non-partisan and fair as can be and help restore faith in government and our court system to the good people of the United States and Wisconsin.

Thank you,

Jason Neton
New Glarus, WI

Jason Stephens
W14118 Crestview Drive
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Non partisan redistricting is essential for the state supreme court to maintain a non-politicized status. This process needs to be a transparent. I have so little time and mental break estate to devote to a lengthy or well thought out email - considering the state of things these days (I'm a small business owner, father of two, and have been negativity impacted by the pandemic).

Please do not continue to further politicize the court. Wisconsin needs nonpartisan transparent process for district mapping. Anything less is vile.

James Balk
4347 South Packard Ave
Cudahy, WI 53110

the state constitution does not call for the elected officials to choose their voters. It calls for elected officials to be chosen by the the voters

Jan Bliss
N4063 Deep Lake Rd.
Sarona, WI 54870

So many people, by means of their counties, have spoken supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing voting district maps. There are NO public interest groups asking for this change! If the lower courts are eliminated in the whole process, there will be no chance for concerns to be

expressed and prevents voters from participating in the process of contesting voting district maps! This all smells of political gain at the expense of democratic procedure.

Jim Black
11317 Beach Rd
Sister Bay, Wisconsin 54234

Wisconsin Supreme Court

Regarding Rule petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting (this is a corrected letter correcting the previous one which miss-stated the petition as 20-10)

To whom it may concern:

My name is James F. Black. I represent the Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist State Action Network. I live in Sister Bay, Wisconsin. I am writing in opposition to "Rule petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting". I believe the substance of the proposals in the petition will lead to a poorly developed judicial record, a tainting of the public view of the independence of the Wisconsin judiciary, and potentially deprive Wisconsin citizens of their right to seek redress in the Wisconsin courts.

Redistricting, for an entire decade, affects the political maps of Wisconsin and has a profound impact on the democracy in the state. Justice Kavanaugh, during oral arguments, expressed that gerrymandering does serious damage to our democracy. The way to avoid gerrymandering and damage to our democracy is to fully develop the judicial record. Evidence can be fully admitted, expert testimony taken, maps and past elections studied in depth, and lower court judges can offer their legal opinion when the judicial record is fully developed. The petition proposes to exclude the lower courts from the equation. The lower courts, and not the Wisconsin Supreme Court, are the venues to develop the record for such a significant and lasting decision.

If the Wisconsin Supreme Court were to adopt a rule, which excludes the lower courts from developing the record, the citizens of Wisconsin will not see the Wisconsin Supreme Court as an independent judiciary. It will appear that the Court sought to favor one party over another. Our country has always rested on the confidence of an independent judiciary. Adopting a rule which undermines this confidence will move our country away from its origins.

The petition proposes which parties have standing to challenge redistricting maps by expressly identifying two parties to the exclusion of all others. This could be used to deny citizens of Wisconsin as

individuals, or members of groups, the right to voice their opinions in court. This silencing of Wisconsin citizens further undermines the sense of an independent judiciary, a judiciary where an aggrieved citizen can seek redress.

For the above reasons I urge the Wisconsin Supreme Court to not adopt the proposed rule.

Thank you,
James F. Black, president Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist State Action Network (WUUSAN)
Sister Bay, WI 54234

Jessica Michaud
1857 N. 73rd St.
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

I disagree with the proposed rule change for the Supreme Court. The division we have in our communities between right and left is a false divide, and it doesn't make sense to give weight to political parties for this purpose. All interested parties, no matter the party, should be able to comment on redistricting. Thank you for your consideration.

Julie Keown-Bomar
117 W Spring St.
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Wisconsin Farmers Union firmly opposes this rule change. Non-partisan organizations, like the Wisconsin Farmers Union, will be left out of litigation. Those with political interests will have more opportunity to pursue litigation which has always been a right for all citizens. Redistricting is a fundamental mechanism of self-governance and it should never be taken out of the citizenry's control. What about the rights of people who do not affiliate with any political party? Many of our members are in that group and they have been very dedicated to drawing up non-partisan fair maps. We must be mindful of the long term ramifications of closing nonpartisan groups out of litigation. We believe that this rule change will actually increase partisanship in Wisconsin and limit free speech. Our constitutional right to petition the government for redress of grievances includes a right to file suit in a court of law-- please do not take that right away from us.

Judith Brey
2101 Winfield Drive
Reedsburg, Wisconsin 53959

The proposed rule, submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL), has the following flaws: First, it would jump any legal challenge to redistricting immediately to the Wisconsin Supreme Court rather than let that challenge work its way through the courts in a normal fashion. The establishment of a record at the lower court level would enhance transparency and enable the citizens of Wisconsin to grasp the evidence in the case and the competing arguments as they wend their way through the courts. Second, nonprofit public interest organizations and concerned citizens could get aced out of any hearing on redistricting maps before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The WILL petition, in Section 5(b), requires only that the political parties be heard by the Court in any dispute over the maps. It does not allow room, explicitly at least, for groups that have a longstanding interest in this issue to be heard. Redistricting is not simply a dispute between the parties. Third, the proposed rule that WILL is advancing gives the Court the leeway to disregard the procedures and requirements laid out in the rule itself. So that's no rule at all if it allows you to toss everything out and just do what you want. If you're going to have a rule, it should be abided by, and it should be transparent, and it should be applied in a fair manner.

James Steinbach
19 Mountain Ash Trail
Madison, WI 53717

Honorable justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

Please protect the ability of everyday citizens to have input into your decisions about redistributing. There's too much distrust and cynicism everywhere. Transparency and public participation are essential as we move forward. Thank you.

Jeffrey Labudda
N 14774 Shady Knoll rd
Park Falls, Wisconsin 54552

I most strongly oppose the Rule Petition 20-03 regarding Supreme Court primary jurisdiction of legislative redistricting matters. As with most legal matters, primary and initial jurisdiction must remain with lower courts. And, I most earnestly object to provisions in the Rule Petition that would restrict the parties eligible to challenge redistricting matters, before the Supreme Court. suffered politically and principally with the offensive, undemocratic gerrymandered legislative districts that are currently in place. No political party, Democratic nor Republican should have the power that currently exists to perversely reform legislative districts. Wisconsin sorely needs a non partisan legislative districting authority. Please do the Right Thing regarding this pathetic Rule Petition. Thank you. Jeff Labudda Wisconsin has

Joan Callan
522 Robert St.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538-1449

Regarding Rule Petition 20-03 Legal Challenges to Redistricting. The proposed changes to the system for challenging redistricting should not be approved. By sending challenges directly to the Supreme Court rather than going through lower courts and by restricting the challenges to the political parties, citizens will be further disenfranchised from participation in the democratic process in our state. We need to be making it easier for citizen involvement, not more difficult. Decisions about voting districts are crucial to our democracy. Citizens and their advocacy groups must have a means for legal challenges, not just the political parties. Please maintain the current system of legal challenges.

Jeffrey Carlson
155 Dewey Street
Sun Prairie, Wisconsin 53590

Dear Supreme Court Justices,

This is Jeff Carlson asking you to please deny the rule set forth by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty regarding redistricting cases in Wisconsin. The process of drawing district boundaries needs to be open and transparent to the people of Wisconsin for them to accept that their government represents them.

Gerrymandering through geographic information systems is now an exact science. I know, I am the President of Carlson Mapping & Analysis with over twenty years in the industry and a Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in spatial information science and technology.

If the process is kept in the dark, algorithms will draw maps that optimize the political advantages of whoever runs them. That is not democracy. That's rigging the system and it's destructive to our faith in government.

Please deny this request and require an open and fair redistricting process.

Thank you,
Jeffrey D Carlson

Jodi Chojnacki
609 West 5th Street

Marshfield, WI 54449

Wisconsin citizens deserve fairly drawn district maps. This rule could politicize the court further eroding public trust. The rule excludes non-partisan groups from full participation in redistricting & has inadequate transparency.

Juliana van Clausen
9900 County Road Y
Mazomanie, WI 53560

We need to have a non-partisan task force to create redistricting maps for the state of Wisconsin, like the state of Iowa does. In order to be fair, the process must not be taken over by the party that happens to be in power at the time. We must embody the democracy under which we function, in order to function fairly.

Do the right thing. Create a nonpartisan, fair minded task force to create our voting districts in Wisconsin. Its the best way to preserve our democracy. Thank you for standing up for fairness.

Joanne/Jim Collins
86360 Meyers-Olson Rd
Bayfield, WI 54814-4510

Until recently, we've been proud to say we're from Wisconsin, a state that has prided itself in fair and open processes regarding redistricting and elections. Our concern now is that unacceptable rule changes are being proposed and have been submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL). The WILL agenda, or should I call it "scheme" would further politicize the Court process and exclude full participation by non-partisans. We need transparency and opportunities for public input throughout the redistricting process. Our county voted over 77% in favor of non-partisan redistricting or fair districts. We encourage you to promote FAIRNESS, THOROUGHNESS AND TRANSPARENCY throughout the redistricting process.

Joanne and Jim Collins
86360 Meyers-Olson Rd
Bayfield, WI 54814

Jay Townley
N1377 Southern Road
Lyndon Station, Wisconsin 53944

I am asking that the Wisconsin Supreme Court reject or otherwise deny the Petition filed in June 2020 by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty ("WILL") requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation.

This Petition proposes a rule that would unnecessarily limit the review of maps and rush this vital and important process in a manner harmful to the public interest by excluding nonpartisan groups.

The proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review relative to redistricting.

Carol Cate
N7776 Union Street
Ripon, Wisconsin 54971

Enough of the gerrymandering! For the past 10 years I have been stuck in a district that has been so heavily gerrymandered in favor of the Republicans that my vote has not counted during all those years. The people should select their representatives, not the representatives choosing their voters! Please do not allow our State Supreme Court to be used to participate in more gerrymandering. It doesn't matter what party draws the lines, the redistricting line should be drawn by a nonpartisan group. Please!

Joan Hall
2724 Regent Street
Madison, WI 53705

Redistricting must be open to the public for comment and must be transparent throughout the process. This once-a-decade exercise is too important not to include all affected parties.

Darlene Jakusz
8380 Ambrose Ln
Amherst Junction, WI 54407

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and

viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review. It doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations.

Judith Klingsick
507 5th St
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016

More than anything else, free and fair elections provide a foundation for democracy. The hyper-partisan practice of drawing convoluted districts to insure party wins violates the democratic election process, and now the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty petition pushes that partisanship to the extreme! By-passing legislators, the peoples' representatives, it wants to send re-districting disputes directly to the state Supreme Court . . . where party-affiliated (biased!) judges rule. The petition also eliminates fair, non-partisan participants from the review process. Please, do not allow this petition to proceed. It most certainly diminishes the voices of citizens and threatens free and fair elections.

League of Women Voters of Beloit League of Women Voters of Beloit
2318 Parkmeadow Dr
Beloit, Wisconsin 53511

We, the 60 members of the League of Women Voters of Beloit, are asking the Supreme Court not to rush the procedure of deciding on Fair Maps that would alleviate the gerrymandering that our current maps provide. Over 90% of Wisconsin Counties have asked for fair maps. To be a responsible republic we need to choose our representatives, not the way it is now where the district you live in, decides who your representative will be. The way this rule change is written risks increasing politicization and lessening trust. Section 5 says the nonpartisan groups can't take a dispute to the Court. There is no legal process to ensure a fair review, if only a limited number of voices can be heard. Transparency and trust in the process are key factors needed in creating fair maps and insuring our Citizens are fairly represented,

Joyce Metter
1336 Moore St
Beloit, Wisconsin 53511

I am, asking the Supreme Court not to rush the procedure of deciding on Fair Maps that would alleviate the incredulous gerrymandering that our current maps provide. Over 90% of Wisconsin Counties have asked that our maps be fair. To be a responsible republic we need to choose our representatives, not the way it is now where the district you live in, decides who your representative will be. The way this plan is written risk increasing politicization and lessening trust. Section 5 says the

nonpartisan groups can't take a dispute to the Court .There is no legal process to ensure a fair review ,if only a limited number of voices can be heard .

Trust in the process is the key factor needed in creating fair maps and insuring our Citizens are fairly represented , The citizens of Wisconsin deserve no less .

Joseph Meudt
4645 County Rd Z
Dodgeville, WI 53533

There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being rushed.

Jean Henderson
W4723 Pine Ct
Elkhorn, WI 53121

We need ur maps and policies to reflect ur population, As it is, our current arrangements give undue vice to a few due to gerrymandering and this would only make things worse and even less fair and representative. It is clearly wrong t set up policies t ignore the true vice of the majority of our populations

Jeannr Meier
318 Tenth Ave
NEW GLARUS, Wisconsin 53574

Our Supreme Court is supposed to be fair and judicious. Adopting a rule to support gerrymandering in the redistricting process serves not the people in their quest for fair district maps. The Court should reject this naked attempt to influence our elections by continuing to construct districts in shapes to serve a party's purposes.

Jeanne Neu
5230 22ND ST
KENOSHA, WI 531441369

Please make sure that all voices are heard. Not just the politician's voices. It is about time that the people are represented and not only the political parties. Please search your heart and mind and make

the right choice. You owe it to the future generations. Make fair maps available for everyone to comment on and benefit from. Remember not just the political parties. Thank you, .

Jeanne Leep
6204 West Gate Road
Monona, WI 53716

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court,
I urge you not to support a system that further justifies unfair voting practices in our state of Wisconsin. As a concerned citizen of the state I would like to see the END gerrymandering and other unjust practices regarding voting. Please make every effort support fair voting maps in our state as anything less is harmful to the greater good of democracy and the public's best interest.
Jeanne Leep

Helen Onsrud
221 23rd Street South
La Crosse, WI 54601

Regarding the petition filed by the WI Institute for Law & Liberty:
I fervently hope that Wisconsin will adopt a redistricting process that will end gerrymandering and lead to fair maps. This proposed petition appears designed to negatively impact litigation that may be necessary to make that a reality. It will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has limited transparency measures.

Jean & Mike Parulski
2415 N 114th St
WAUWATOSA, WI 53226-1227

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Jean Sweetland
827 WINFORD AVE
GREEN BAY, Wisconsin 54303 4066

Wisconsin Supreme Court

P.O. Box 1688
Madison WI 53701-1688
Re: Rule Petition 20 for proposed rule to amend WI Statute 809.70

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court,

As you are considering the issue of accepting the presentation of district maps following the 2020 census directly from the legislature, please consider there will be concerns that will be lost in the process. With the present process there will be testimony from many more concerned parties, including those under served and disadvantaged. It will be a more open and transparent process with an opportunity for public discussion. The voters have indicated through the November 3, 2020 election that they prefer a non-partisan redistricting process. As a non-partisan Court, I hope you will respect the voters wishes and keep politics out of your decision.

Please make your decision to keep the present process to review and accept district maps in place.

Regards,

Jean Sweetland
827 Winford Ave.
Green Bay, WI 54303

Joan Elias
11140W Edwards Rd.
Saxon, WI 54559

Gentlefolk,

The Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty's petition requesting that the Wisconsin Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation is ill-conceived. If granted, the process would be rushed, jumping directly to the State Supreme Court while skipping over the trial court and appellate court. By going directly to the State Supreme Court, opportunities for review are limited, as are the ability to gather information for the record and identify and correct mistakes.

The proposed rule would allow political parties to be heard in a dispute over redistricting, but does not grant nonpartisan groups the same rights. It limits the public's ability to review the maps, hence does not provide adequate information to the public. It also does not provide adequate opportunity for public input, including testimony.

The proposed rule is needlessly vague and allows the Court to follow or disregard the processes as it sees fit, which would further the perception, if not the actualization, of a politicized the Court. Without an explicit set of rules the proposed process would not be fair to all parties wishing to provide comment.

I urge you to reject the petition requesting that the Wisconsin Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation.

Jeffrey Kotnik
PO Box 347
Egg Harbor, WI 54209

November 19, 2020

To: Wisconsin Supreme Court of Wisconsin

Regarding: Rule petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

I am writing as a citizen of Door County to urge the Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court NOT to accept the new rule suggested by Petition 20-03.

I strongly believe we need to make our redistricting more transparent and less partisan. That is why I voted in favor of the advisory Referendum on the Nov 3rd election Ballot in Door County. The proposed rule would make the situation even more partisan than it currently is, by limiting the participation in a court challenge to the political parties themselves. That surely discounts the importance of our participation as citizens.

It also troubles me that the proposed rule bypasses the lower courts. If the rationale is to hasten the process, I very much disagree. Redistricting has results that last a decade. If a plan is challenged, it will be valuable for it to work its way through the courts in a process that is transparent and thorough, with ample opportunity to make sure it is impartial and fair.

Jeffrey W. Kotnik
PO Box 347
Egg Harbor, WI 54209

jeff.kotnik@gmail.com

Joan Hansen

6189 W Woodview Court
Greenfield, WI 53220

I am very concerned about the rule proposed by WILL regarding drawing the legislative and congressional maps in Wisconsin. For the last ten years our districts in Wisconsin have been manipulated so as to not reflect the will of the voters but rather to maintain certain legislators in their positions beyond the time that the voters would choose for them to be there. In no situation is this fair or right and gerrymandering by either party should not be allowed. The WILL petition could result in districts being drawn that once again favor one party over another. For the good of our state, I ask you to reject this rule and allow the creation of districts to be made in a nonpartisan manner so that people can decide who will be their representatives, not the representatives deciding who their voters will be. Please, do the honest and right thing, for now and for future generations.

Sandra Howe
W5590 Davlin Street
Sheldon, Wisconsin 54766

Get this done!

Jeff Trapp
2540 Upham St
Madison, WI 53704

We need non partisan redistricting now. It is the fair and equal way to do things. Having a situation where you see more votes from one party and the other party gains seats in the legislature shows how ridiculous and undemocratic this situation is.

Jarell Kuney
316 E 6th Street
New Richmond, WI 54017

I believe this rule will harmfully politicize the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, exclude non-partisan groups from full participation and lacks transparency measures. The court should remain non-political and unbiased in order to serve all people in the state fairly.

Stephanie Maud
P.O. Box 751

Bayfield, WI 54814

Please turn down the proposed redistricting rule. It is unfair, unjust and undemocratic. Government processes including the Supreme Court need MORE transparency, not less.

Jean Elvekrog
401 Doral Ct.
Waunakee, WI 53597

This rule change will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. Please vote against it.

Joy Melvin
N102W7278 Drury Ln
Cedarburg, Wisconsin 53012

This rule change would harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and limit judicial transparency.

Jill Mitchler
N308 Candlelite Way
Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

I am concerned about the proposed rule change requested by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty. The WI Supreme Court should not take jurisdiction on future redistricting litigation because it would be harmful to the public interest by limiting the review of maps. Political parties would be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but the same rights wouldn't apply to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. I don't want to see groups who have challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members in the past be excluded from the Court's process in the future. Also, the proposed rule gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court. We need a fair set of rules that ensures full participation by all groups involved. We need an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has all of the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct a transparent and appropriate legal review.

Glen Jenkins
2642 HACKBERRY LN

La Crosse, WI 54601

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I oppose this rule. The familiar mantra of the Republican Party and conservatives in general is that the "Free Market" solves all problems. The more competition the better it is for everyone. Help me understand why that is not true for our democracy. Why do we allow Gerrymandering to take place that limits competition? If we have school choice, health care competition, businesses competing then why not our elected officials. Shouldn't we design districts that encourage competition and an exchange of ideas and possibilities? The people of Wisconsin are in agreement that the Gerrymandering rules need to change. Neither party should be allowed to take advantage of this. Allow the "Free Market" to be part of our democracy. Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty is not acting in the best interest of the people of Wisconsin. They are simply trying to manipulate the laws to meet their own interests. Unfortunately, I believe the Wisconsin Supreme Court (for the most part) is beholden to Wisconsin Manufactures and Commerce and other conservative organizations that have spent millions to place you in office. I ask you to consider the people of Wisconsin and what they want not the people with the money. Remember you work for the PEOPLE of Wisconsin first.

Jennifer Belda
454 Walker Ave
Green Lake, WI 54941

Hello -

I am very much opposed to this rule. I don't see any legitimate reason to bypass local courts and the due process of the courts as it pertains to redistricting. The State Supreme Court is supposed to exist as a step in the judicial escalation process, and not the first one. I think it is a slap in the face to our lower courts. What precedent are we setting here?

Also, by not guaranteeing all groups/organizations the right to be heard by the court, it is inherently limiting the rights of non-partisan groups to speak on their members behalf as it pertains to gerrymandering.

The whole thing smacks of partisan parlor games with nothing but a nefarious end, and in these turbulent times, I urge the Court to not pass this rule.

Jennifer Hofschulte
129 S 77th St
Milwaukee, WI 53214

It is imperative to democracy and the future of Wisconsin that we take the time necessary to draw fair maps.

Wisconsinites overwhelmingly support fair maps as county after county, municipality after municipality have voted in favor of fair maps.

Kids know and adults know that that reinventing the playing field in favor of one side or the other is WRONG.

Please do not rush the process.

Let's work together for a Wisconsin with fair maps.

Jenny Tumas
25 South 12th Street
Bayfield, WI 54814

Hello, I strongly urge you to vote against the proposed rule change that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would harmfully limit the review of maps. will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. It is clearly a wrong-headed idea, unfair to all citizens of Wisconsin. My husband and I moved to Wisconsin 25 years ago, raised three children here, and now have two grandchildren. This rule change, in my opinion, would cast a shadow on the state, making it less livable for residents, and less attractive as a place for newcomers to think of relocating to. Please do not support this rule change.
Thank you

Jennifer Smith
4906 Violet Ln
Madison, WI 53714

Please put an end to gerrymandered maps as one of the single highest threat to our democracy now.

Jennifer Steele
S30W30474 Sunset Drive
Waukesha, WI 53189

It's time for gerrymandering to END in Wisconsin, NOT be reinforced! I am writing to inform you that I think this proposed rule change is bad for Wisconsin. I am concerned that this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and limit judicial transparency.

Jessica Pacheco
1020 Hazel St
River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

This will hurt public interest and lacks transparency. This measure will also politicize courts.

James Rowen
3107 N. Hackett Ave.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

Cutting out the Governor - and a willing Legislature - from redistricting is another power play to keep one party in power while the other party runs up statewide election majorities. This is wrong on many levels.

Jery Phillips
121 S. 11th Street
Bayfield, WI 54814

We must work to create an independent, non political, entity to redistrict our state. Some other states have done this and it appears to be operating very well. We must remove politics and courts from this important aspect of our election system.

Jerry Folk
1433 Wyldewood Drive
Madison, WI 53704

Dear Respected Justices:

I am writing to urge the Wisconsin Supreme Court to deny the petition submitted to the Court by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. I oppose the granting of this petition for several reasons. First, moving any complaint about the redistricting process immediately to the Supreme Court both rushes and undermines the transparency of the process. The process of determining congressional and legislative districts is integrally connected to one of the most fundamental principles of the democratic

system, the principle of a fair playing field. When the field is stacked against one party or another, the whole democratic system is distorted. The redistricting process also affects the level of trust citizens have in the electoral system itself. If it is widely believed that congressional districts are gerrymandered in the interest of one political party or another, trust in our electoral system will diminish and democracy itself will come under increasing threat. It is of the utmost importance that a process this crucial to the functioning of a democratic society be thoroughly transparent and deliberative. Citizens of a democratic society deserve and, I believe, expect such a transparent, unrushed deliberative process. To short circuit this process, as granting WILL's petition would do, would frustrate this expectation

I am also concerned that a decision to grant WILL's petition will further politicize the Supreme Court in the eyes of the people of Wisconsin and further erode their respect for the Court and its decisions.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject the petition of the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty presently before the Court.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Folk, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Jessi Peterson
1929 80th St
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Dear Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court,

I am writing as a private citizen to voice my strong opposition to Petition 20-03, submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL), regarding the process by which legal challenges to legislative redistricting will be heard. I urge you to reject this petition in its entirety. Indeed, doing so is the only course of action consistent with the idea of government by, for, and of the people.

Legislative redistricting is the very foundation of democracy—legislative representation is the vehicle by which voters participate in their own government—yet WILL is asking you, as members of the state's highest court, to restrict private citizens and private groups from having a voice in the redistricting process. The rules proposed in Petition 20-03 require that political parties must be heard by the court on the issue of redistricting, but does not allow private citizens and private groups that same right.

That fact alone should be enough to cause the court to reject petition 20-03 out of hand. The fact that I, and thousands of my fellow citizens, are not members of a political party does not mean that we do not have a legitimate interest in governance. To deny access to private citizens and private groups on this issue is to contradict, in spirit if not in explicit legal terms, the ideal of equal protection under the law as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.

But there is another important reason that petition 20-03 must be rejected: it prevents lower courts from making rulings on this issue, which would provide a much-needed dose of transparency to a crucially important function of government. By following a set of rulings through the courts via normal routines and precedents, the citizens of Wisconsin would be better informed, and have more time to weigh in on issues that directly affect their own governance. It would be irresponsible to agree to WILL's attempt to hasten the decision-making process and so limit public involvement.

Finally, the rule proposed in petitions 20-03 would give the state's highest court the option of disregarding its recommendations anyway. And time and again in recent politics, we have seen that an optional rule is not worth the paper it is printed on.

Wisconsin is currently under the influence of some of the most precisely engineered gerrymandering in the entire U.S. Please ensure that private citizens like me are given the opportunity to seek redress from the courts for this injustice. I urge you, as members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, to reject WILL'S petition. If you do not do so, you will be pounding yet another nail into the coffin of democracy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessi Peterson

Jessica Widmer
3533 Bay Settlement Rd
Green Bay, WI 54311

I object to the proposed rule, because it does not allow for citizen participation that a normal court proceeding would provide.

Jessica Elsing
E10020 Kings Corner Road
North Freedom, WI 53951

I believe this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

John Barker
1615 1st Ave.
Antigo, Wisconsin 54409

I oppose the proposed rule change proposed by Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, based on information presented on the fair maps website. The proposal seeks to limit public input and judicial review of redistricting maps, presumably to preserve current gerrymandered redistricting maps .

Indeed, there are tests for reviewing and ferreting out gerrymandered maps (Science News, , 2020),, such as symmetry based tests, median-mean difference tests, efficiency gap and ensemble tests. Any proposed redistricting map should be subjected to these tests before adopting them and any proposal that would limit such review is undemocratic and should never become law.

Science News, Calling Out Gerrymandered Maps. Analysis of alternative district maps point out hidden bias. Science News, Sept., 12, 2020, pp 24-26.

Joyce Felstehausen
193 Shoto Ln
Monona, Wisconsin 53716

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 85% of Wisconsin's citizens. The proposed rule change is a sneaky, subtle attempt to take citizens out of the process of creating the next decade's maps before it even gets started! Please require independent, nonpartisan redistricting that is done in the public view.

Jeffrey Silbert
410 5th ave e
Washburn, WI 54891

Please stop the polarizing politicalization out of the courts and out of redistricting for fair maps. We need people to pick their representatives, not the politicians to pick their voters. Let democracy reign. I am an independent voter. Thanks
Jeff Silbert

John G Greenwood
110 Spuce Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565

- I have been voting in Wisconsin since 1976 and feel very strongly that my vote has been perverted by the way the maps are drawn. I believe in 1 person 1 vote and majority rules. More Democrats vote and more Republicans win. It feels much like being cheated of my fair vote.
 -
 - The people of Wisconsin have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. Legislators are not listening. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. This rule change would further

disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair.

- The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. This is where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps.
- This rule change further politicizes the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its credibility in the eyes of the public.
- This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.
- Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to assuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency,
- There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being rushed and I demand a 60 day continuance.
- Please pay attention to all the voters in Wisconsin, not just one partisan side. Thank you.

Joni Graves
E4952 Timberline Rd
Spring Green, WI 53588

Please support fair and impartial redistricting by ensuring that nonpartisan groups have full participation in a transparent democratic process.

JeanMarie Hinds
4819 N Apple Rd
Appleton, WI 54913-9321

Wisconsin voters deserve fair representation that depends on maps that are not rushed through, or pushed through. Rather, the entire process should be as fair and exhaustive as necessary to reach a fair result. Going directly to the state high court without due process through the normal federal courts would clearly undermine the process, and therefore the public trust. I urge this rule change to be ignored as it ultimately was in 2009 when it was then attempted. Thank you!

Jane H Kavaloski
57 Lansing Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53714

In the past four years we have learned that our beloved Democracy is more vulnerable than we might have imagined. We have seen the “balance of power” corrupted and eviscerated. There have been attempts to disenfranchise voters. Important decisions have been made on the basis of power and greed instead of on the basis of responding to the needs and wishes of the American people. This kind of governance is not the democracy that the citizens of Wisconsin or our nation deserve.

Now Wisconsin legislators have a unique opportunity to create a system of decision-making at the local level that upholds the basic values of our democracy. Your leadership in creating such a structure can be a model for other states. The drawing of voter district maps needs to be nonpartisan and transparent, and voters need to have their voices heard if they have concerns that the maps are unfair.

This is the essence of our democratic values. History has shown us that this diversity of opinion – the give and take of dialogue and debate at the local level – not only strengthens the confidence of the citizens in their government, but also generates decisions that are more acceptable to all.

The lower courts play a vital role in giving nonpartisan organizations and voters an opportunity to contest voting district maps if they are perceived as unfair. Transparency is critical to this process and a well-functioning government, but transparency is minimized in the Amendment to Rule 809.70

In addition, the 60-day timeline for public comment is also critical to the process. There needs to be a reasonable amount of time for public education and advocacy. The drawing of district voting maps is a critical and long-lasting decision. To rush the process is a disservice to the people of Wisconsin and a violation of the democratic values upon which this country was founded.

We need legislators of all persuasions – Republicans, Democrats, Independents – to work together to create a process of drawing voting district maps that are based on the values of a democracy “of the people, by the people and for the people.”

I urge you to object to Petition20-03 Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70.

Jack Holmes
3215 North Humboldt Blvd.
Milwaukee, WI 53212

Wisconsin needs fair maps !

Jill Delson
804 Highlander Trail
Hudson, WI 54016

I am opposed to the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”) proposal for redistricting rule change. This proposal would undermine nonpartisan involvement in the map making processes and public confidence in our Wisconsin court system. Our legal processes need to be inclusive of all groups affected by the outcome. Wisconsin is the most gerrymandered state in the nation. I urge the Court to support nonpartisan and fair maps for the future of the state of Wisconsin.
Thank you.

Jill Morin
2005 Underwood Avenue, 2005 Underwood Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

I am writing regarding the petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty requesting that the Wisconsin Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation and require nearly any lawsuit about future maps to go directly to the State Supreme Court.

Adopting this rule would increase the politicization of the Court and decrease public trust in the Court as a legitimate institution. It would only strengthen the impression the Court is a political branch rather than a neutral arbitrator of conflict between political actors.

Public trust in the redistricting process is critical. With a citizenry that is already at odds in too many ways, I ask that the Court not add to the increasing level of public distrust, especially in one of our most revered institutions.

Any review of maps must be transparent and provide adequate information to, or input from, the public. That clearly didn't happen the last time maps were drawn, which was done largely behind closed doors and failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could be heard. This proposal would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or gaining public input, the end result of which would be diminished public trust and confidence in the highest court in our state.

The process WILL has proposed would not only decrease transparency and public input, it would also allow the Court to sidestep consideration of any arguments by groups other than elected officials and political parties, and turn a deaf ear to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. And yet, these are the same groups that have challenged gerrymandering in the past.

Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself—making any procedures optional.

This petition does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or offer an inclusive legal process which insures the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

The Court has spent years engaging experts and the public to examine potential procedures for redistricting review. Ultimately, it determined there was not an adequate judicial solution in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This time, the proposed rule-making process has spanned only a few months, with no independent review by a committee of experts. In fact, the Court has considered, and rejected, adopting a rule on this topic. Why would the Court reverse its previous conclusion now?

I have been personally and negatively impacted by Wisconsin's extreme gerrymandering. Not only do I feel as if my vote has much less impact than it should, my concerns--expressed in phone calls, letters and emails to my state senator--are ignored because we do not share the same party. And there is little I can do about it because his gerrymandered district keeps him "safe." He's supposed to represent all of those who live in his district, and not just those who share his political persuasion.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court stands for equal justice for all under the law. This petition fails that statement on every count.

Sincerely,
Jill Morin

Jill McNaughton
4182 Nakoma Rd
Madison, WI 53711

Everybody (!!!) understands Gerrymandering is wrong - don't make a bad problem worse

Jilane Rockwell
20322 State Road 78
Blanchardville, WI 53516

The petition from The Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty to adopt a rule for handling redistricting cases is a sneaky, subtle attempt to take citizens out of the process of creating the next decade's maps before it even gets started!

This directly contradicts the preference of a majority of Wisconsin citizens. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures

Fair maps would cut the confusion and lead to more robust dialogue between elected officials and voters.

Let's stop this madness now

James Grant
N9530 Argue Road
New Glarus, WI 53574

I oppose the adoption of this rule for the following reasons:

- it will further politicize the Court in a time of increasing and dangerous social division,
- it will exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation in the redistricting process,
- it has insufficient transparency measures built in which will only increase the perception of manipulation.

Thank you.

Jim Bowman
701 Canterbury Dr
Appleton, WI 54915

In front of you is a petition from the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty requesting that you take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education asks that you deny this petition.

The Fox Cities has been gerrymandered. In the most recent redistricting in 2011, the party in power in the legislature moved conservative leaning areas out of Assembly District 57 into AD 56. AD 56 became safer for a conservative running for office; AD 57 became safer for a liberal. Parts of Appleton are now in a legislative district that includes Greenville, the Village of Winneconne, and a large rural area significantly to the west of Appleton.

When FCA4PE seeks to advance K-12 education for large Fox Cities school districts that collectively enroll 37,000 students, we communicate with an assembly district representative whose district is populated with small, rural school districts. Their issues and ours are very different.

The current maps are not working.

FCA4PE seeks fair and competitive elections. To achieve that goal, future districts need to satisfy multiple criteria. So that we can participate in a public conversation of those criteria, lower courts should carry out fact finding.

The petition should be denied.

Jim Bowman
Coordinator, Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education

Jim Hess
20002 County Rd. N
Blanchardville, Wisconsin 53516

We need to undo Gerrymandering and this rule is not a step in the right direction.

Jim Hemingway
26855 Faye Ln
Bayfield, WI 54814-4700

Although the following comments have been said before, it is most important to me that we have redistricting that is transparent and fair to all parties.

The proposed rule change raises a number of concerns:

Adopting a specific rule for redistricting could politicize the Court by encouraging lawmakers to settle redistricting disputes through litigation, rather than making every effort to avoid litigation by drawing maps that are acceptable to both political parties. This is of particular concern in the State Supreme Court where, unlike the U.S Supreme Court, Justices are elected by voters and often campaign with the support of political parties and partisan groups.

The proposed rule could exclude nonpartisan interests. While the rule allows the governor, legislators, and political parties to intervene in redistricting cases, nonpartisan organizations and voters impacted by the new district maps could be left out. Historically, civic groups and citizens have engaged in redistricting litigation to challenge district maps; this rule could prevent them from doing so in the future.

The proposed rule would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political

parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing proper evidence or input from members of the public.

James Murphy
P O box 306, 726 Main
Highland, WI 53543

I would hope that the Wisconsin Supreme Court would avoid changes to redistricting that would eliminate lower courts and the involvement of non-political groups.

Julie Nelson
107 Lien Ct
Blanchardville, WI 53516

We need fair maps in Wisconsin. No more gerrymandering. Keep it out of the states Supreme Court. Make it fair to everyone.

joan johnston
6518 Chestnut Drive
Windsor, WI 53598

I oppose rule petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

Jill Jokela
5 Hallows Cir
Madison, Wisconsin 53704

I am writing in opposition to Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. My two main concerns regard the motives for the rule in the first place and the ability for non-partisan participation in the process should it be accepted. Allowing the redistricting process to proceed under current rules provides stability and transparency to the citizens of the state. Who benefits from short circuiting the judicial process should that be needed? Also, as a member of neither major political party, I would like the opportunity to be able to be represented in the process. Regardless of the behavior of our politicians in the past, redistricting should not be a political exercise in the first place and I object to a rule that seems to entrench the idea that it is. The people of Wisconsin need to be fairly represented in the redistricting process and the existing rules provide for that opportunity. Thank you for rejecting this proposed rule change.

Jane Kashnig
6933 Old Sauk Road
Madison, WI 53717

One of the stated purposes of the proposed rule is to expedite the process for reviewing new Congressional District maps to mitigate the delays in the Census process. One proposed remedy is to eliminate steps in the standard review process – specifically steps that are used to gather facts, including limiting the participation of nonpartisan groups that are clearly affected by the outcome of this process, a change that will no longer assure we have a process that results in maps drawn in the public interest.

As a retired Project Management Professional who has been responsible for the implementation of multi-million dollar projects in large organizations, I have direct experience of the significant negative impact of skipping reviews and other quality assurance steps in the process in order to meet a project implementation deadline. The purpose of reviews is to detect and correct errors, especially high-risk errors that will mean the project does not achieve its goals. The goal of redistricting is to produce non-partisan, fair maps that reflect what the citizens of Wisconsin want as shown by the overwhelming number of counties that have passed Fair Maps Resolutions (55 of 72 Wisconsin counties-to-date). If this goal is not met, the process fails regardless of whether it was delivered “on time.”

Janie Riebe
2965 Siggelkow Road
McFarland, Wisconsin 53558

Comment on Wisconsin Supreme Court Rules Petition 20-03

This proposed rule is most assuredly not in the best interest of the people of Wisconsin. If approved, it will result in any decision about the maps to be drawn for redistricting purposes to lie solely in the hands of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The people’s role in this process could be totally extinguished, just like the people’s role in choosing their elected representatives has been eliminated due to Wisconsin’s notoriously worst gerrymander in the country.

The Role of Interested Parties is Extinguished

The people, the voters, the groups that are working to secure nonpartisan redistricting for the next decade, membership groups, etc. historically have been involved in the process of drawing and reviewing voter districts. If this rule is approved, these groups will not have standing and presumably could be left entirely out of the process. In the Supporting Memorandum {IIE.} it states, “. . . no later than 15 days before the deadline for the new maps to be in place (March 31, 2022), a public hearing would occur.” That suggests that any input by interested parties would be purely a formality since it

would be too late for their concerns to be addressed. The people need to be involved in this process on the front end, not the back end. Wisconsin needs a more local approach to drawing maps. The People's Maps Commission's work and the maps that this Commission will submit could be ignored due to not having standing. Groups that have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process.

Where is the Legal Process?

The proposed maps need to work their way through the lower courts so that a record is established and the citizens of Wisconsin are given the opportunity to grasp the evidence in the case and the competing arguments. Were the maps to go directly to the Supreme Court, there would be no discovery, no live or expert testimony, no evidence, no fact finding, no transparency. The Supporting Memorandum {IIC.} states that were fact finding needed, the Supreme Court could defer to circuit court or a referee for determination – a good reason why the Supreme Court is not the place to start the process. If the final decision on the maps went from the lower courts to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, the Supreme Court would have the necessary facts and viewpoints revealed in the lower courts to conduct an appropriate legal review.

What is the Rush?

This map will determine the voting districts for the next decade. It seems that there is a rush to influence the outcome with this petition and proposed rule-making. As we have seen and lived from the past decade of gerrymandered maps, ten years is a very long time to be subject to a particular voting map. This process cannot be rushed. It must be transparent. It must be inclusive to all interested entities. It must not undermine judicial process.

Politicizing of the Elected Supreme Court

Our Supreme Court Justices are elected and are supposed to be nonpartisan. This court has become increasingly politicized. Putting the contentious issue of Redistricting in their hands as the first step will only serve to further politicize the body and dilute statewide trust and confidence in the Wisconsin Supreme Court's ability to interpret the law fairly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janie K. Riebe

JoAnn K. Schober
155 East Main St Apt 307
Platteville, Wisconsin 53818

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court,

I write to request you NOT ADOPT a rule that would create a fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases.

The rule would undermine our system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process.

Kind Regards,
JoAnn K. Schober

Josepha Laners
W281N1873 Golf View Drive
Pewaukee, WI 53072

This rule change is unfair, undemocratic, and overly political. It should not be passed.

JOHN LEONARD
317 BRAM STREET
MADISON, WI 53713-1408

1. Redistricting is one of the most complex and difficult tasks of government and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person / one vote. It should never be rushed. On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process.
 2. In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed.
 3. Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.
-

Julie Lindley
1002 Ernst Dr
Green Bay, WI 54304

This rule change would appear to politicize the court and make the judicial process less transparent. I strongly oppose it.

Jessica Lindner
1904 Jefferson St
Madison, WI 53711

I am writing to express my opposition to a proposal that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on redistricting. This is highly undemocratic and will allow for extreme gerrymandering without giving voice to the citizens of Wisconsin. It is inherently exclusionary, gives power to a chosen few, and is designed to generate a particular political outcome. The position of the Supreme Court as a neutral arbiter will be, at a minimum, tarnished.

It simply removes the power of the citizenry to claim its democratic right of governance by and for the people. It's a very bad idea.

Jeanne Prochnow
3200 E. Hampshire St.
Milwaukee, WI 53211

This rule should not be passed. We need unbiased individuals planning the redistricting.

Luella Winckler
1118 E. Melrose Ave.
Appleton, WI 54911

Adopting this rule increases politicization of the Court and a decrease in Citizen's trust in government. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when referendums have been passed in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. Please listen to your constituents.

James Marousis
94 Shirley Street
Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin 53538

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process. It is apparent that his rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. The citizens of Wisconsin demand a fair set of rules for everyone to play by and an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Cindy Matzinger
2910 Nottingham way
Madison, WI 53713

As a lifelong resident of Wisconsin, which in the past had a reputation of relatively clean politics, I find the gerrymandering of recent years despicable! This rule would allow the very partisan decision making to continue, minimize transparency in the process, and go against the wishes of our citizens. It's time to get back to a place where we can be proud of how the state is run. All Wisconsin citizens deserve to have fair districting and representation.

Stacy Ziemer
4054 S Troy Avenue
St. Francis, Wisconsin 53235

We want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting maps.

Janice Ziemer
4054 South Troy Avenue
St. Francis, Wisconsin 53235

We want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting maps.

Jerilyn Cascino
9004 Tara Hill Rd
Darien, IL 60561

This contradicts the desire of Wisconsin voters for NON-PARTISAN district maps.

John McGwin
W4831 Grouse Drive
Montello, WI 53949

The Supreme Court should not be involved in redistricting. The redistricting maps should be drawn by a non partisan group not affiliated with any political party or political factions.

Judith Havice
729 E. Sylvan Ave.
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

This rule will harmfully politicize the court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation and limit judicial transparency.

Jeana Hein
4272 Sandhill Dr
Janesville, Wi 53536

Voting is our only right. Every time we vote for president the republicans make it harder abs harder to vote. We have a president choosing certain counties where brown and black people live. This is racist. There is no fraud here.

Joyce Luedke
714 Birch Street
Rothschild, Wisconsin 54474

November 22, 2020
Wisconsin Supreme Court
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

Re: Rules Petition 20-03 to amend Sec. 809,70 Stats

To the Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

Instead of the statutory and normal procedure of municipalities setting their boundaries, the redistricting in 2011, went from the top down and municipalities had to try to force their districts and wards into legislative lines. This has impacted the Rothschild, Wausau and Weston areas.

1. The proposed rule change will only give standing to political parties instead of individual citizens and voters who are impacted by the redistricting to voice concerns. Further, this rule change takes away the voice and standing of municipalities, counties, and civic groups to voice concerns about the way in which proposed redistricting affects their communities or constituent groups. The most important voice is the voice of the voters who this rule would further disenfranchise.

2. The proposed rule by-passes the lower courts to complete the fact-finding, evidentiary and legal process to the trial courts for expert testimony and most importantly to address the concerns of the voters. Instead the proposed rule change goes directly to the Supreme Court. Testimony of experts is needed to develop analyses regarding the proposed apportionment and its compliance with the Wisconsin constitutional requirements “to be bounded by county, precinct, town or ward lines, to consist of contiguous territory and be as compact form as practical.” (Article IV, Sec. 4) It must also comply with the US Supreme Court requirements of population among electoral districts, 58 Atty. Gen. 88/

3. The proposed rule timelines do not give sufficient time for interested candidates to know what districts may affect a decision to run for office. It also does not allow sufficient time for federal issues to be addressed by federal courts with regard to the Voting Rights Act.

4. Full transparency and development of facts, issues and evidence is necessary to inspire the trust of the voting citizens in the redistricting and voting process.

5. It is imperative that each voice be heard on this crucial matter regarding redistricting and the impacts redistricting will have on each person in the state of Wisconsin.

Thank you for upholding your oath and being a voice for Justice.

Joyce Luedke
714 Birch Street
Rothschild, WI 54474

Jason Montgomery-Riess
1231 135th Street
Amery, WI 54001

Redistricting is the work of the people. Please do not allow us to be banned from creating the process to fairly draw district lines and choose legislators based on reasonable districting maps. The court should protect the will of the people, not undermine it. Thank you.

Marion Schley
3109 County Road CC
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

This rule will harmfully politicize Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

John Skyrms
116 1/2 W Wisconsin Ave
Neenah, WI 54956

Supreme Court of Wisconsin Rules Petition

My name is John Skyrms of Neenah Wisconsin, and I am writing to express my opposition to the recent rules petition put forward by Scott Jensen and The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty.

The petition seeks the Wisconsin Supreme Court to take original jurisdiction on any litigation pertaining to redistricting. Due the current partisan process for drawing maps in Wisconsin, disagreement and litigation is likely. This change would skip the federal courts and eliminate the opportunity for meaningful fact finding in this complex matter. It would also reduce transparency of the process. If approved the change would only recognize the legislature, the Governor, and political parties as having standing. This would take away my voice and over 5 million other voices in Wisconsin who are directly affected by the maps. Fair and impartial redistricting is essential to ensuring equitable representation; an underlying principle of our democracy.

In addition, the Court should avoid the risk of politicizing itself in this matter. In 2009 the Wisconsin Supreme Court rejected a rule change similar this and it should do so again. Our democracy is at stake.

John Skyrms
116 _ W Wisconsin Avenue
Neenah, WI 54956
920.819.1795

Jeanne Nye
4206 Portland Cir Madison, WI 5371
Monona, WI 53714

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

I urge you to refuse approval of PROPOSED RULE TO AMEND WIS. STAT. § 809.70 for the following reasons.

We need to create an equitable map for all parties and residents dependent on population only. Political affiliation should have no bearing in creating this map.

Joanne Ruzicka
3352 Brugger Pl
McFarland, WI 53558

55 counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a non-partisan and fair process for drawing maps for WI. Legislators have failed to listen to the will of WI citizens. This rule change further disenfranchises WI voters from the process. A DEMOCRACY NEEDS CITIZEN VOICES.

Joan Laurion
2525 CHAMBERLAIN AVE
Madison, WI 53705

November 16, 2020 Dear Members of Wisconsin Supreme Court, I am writing in regards to Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I am against this petition because: 1- I want questions of Congressional redistricting to work themselves through the different levels of the Wisconsin court system to provide for more public deliberation and input and to encourage more transparency of this critical process. 2- I don't want only the political parties to be involved in the discussion of redistricting. No way! I think that all interested and knowledgeable groups should be allowed to be heard by the court in regards to this issue that affects every voter in the state. 3- I want any rules to be abided by and be applied in a fair manner. It should not allow for itself to be thrown out!! This petition is ridiculous in that it wants the rule and the right to ignore the rule. 4- Basically, I want redistricting to be carried out in a fair and rational way. I do not want political parties choosing their voters! I want voters to be given the chance to pick their representatives. This rule seeks to bypass a fair and impartial redistricting process from the get-go. Please, do not rule in favor of this petition!! Thank you. Sincerely, Joan Laurion 2525 Chamberlain Ave Madison, WI 53705

Darren Blankenship
5511 McGann Ln - Unit 209
Fitchburg, WI 53711

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

JOAN WALLACE
2105 CANTERBURY ROAD
MADISON, WI 53711

I am a Wisconsin resident and oppose all attempts to limit the ability to challenge gerrymandering. In fact, we know gerrymandering exists, resulting in an unrepresentative legislature. There needs to be a fair set of rules, and the Court should not have the right to disregard them.

joan janus
1624 n. 60 st
Milwaukee, WI 53208

I am writing to voice my objection to the petition from WILL. I look to the court to be fair and transparent. This proposed rule is neither. And further, non-partisan groups would not be able to be heard in court.

Joan Leannah-Brumm
5500 Mendota Drive
Middleton, WI 53562

Please do the right thing for our democracy and not pass this rule!

Joann Beers
1201st St
Lodi, WI 53555

It is very important that we have a non-political, unbiased group determine our voting districts.

Joanne Kaus
1136 Sunset Ln
Grafton, WI 53024

Do not rush redistricting. The public needs to have confidence that only comes with openness and transparency. This proposed rule will make the Court more political. Non-partisan groups will not have full participation. Citizens will trust the Court less.

JoAnn Macken
4462 N Newhall St
Shorewood, WI 53211

Wisconsin voters want transparency in elections. A large majority of Wisconsin voters supports a nonpartisan redistricting process. Nonpartisan organizations should also be able to participate in the process. With trust in government eroding, this is not the time to make unnecessary changes that would limit citizen participation or rush such an important task.

Jocelyn Mallon
2633 W Deer Path Trl
Janesville, WI 53545

It is necessary that we have a bipartisan committee redraw our maps in Wisconsin to ensure that everyone's votes count and that all people in our state, no matter their party, have a voice in our State government.

Thank you

Jodi Muerhoff
7220 1st Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53143

People who belong to organizations that have an interest in Fair Maps should have the same opportunities to speak en masse as people who are members of political parties. Partisanship does not give one more interest in our state's voting maps. The Courts, like voting maps, should be of and for the will of the people and should not be able to shortcut the viewpoints of its citizens in its decision-making process. The people of Wisconsin have made it clear at the ballot-box how we feel about non-partisan maps and Gov. Evers has created the People's Map Commission as a way to draw maps without politicians and lobbyists. The legislature can then approve, in keeping with our Constitution. Other states have successfully used the Iowa method on which this is based, Wisconsin should be allowed to do the same.

JOE LYNDE
1933 TARRAGON DR
MADISON, WI 53716-2332

Please rule for fair mapping and an end to gerrymandering in the state of Wisconsin. Joe Connie Dana and Justin

Joel Jacobsen
200 Peters Parkway

Burlington, WI 53105

The sophisticated computer programming utilized to draw the Wisconsin district maps at the assembly, state senate, and congressional levels has wrought tremendous damage upon our state in the form of functional governance and in fact has disenfranchised half the state in those voting contests. In 2018, 54% of the vote at the assembly level favored the Democratic candidates, yet resulted again in lopsided representation at the assembly level. This is not only wrong on the basis fundamental to a representative democracy, it increases divisiveness pervasive throughout the entire society. Political power is derived from the will of the governed. That will has been completely stymied under the current maps, and in fact leads to the conclusion that those benefiting from the current arrangement are not legitimate, they are imposters drawing tax funded salaries. The fallout is a disaster for effective government and a tremendous negative impact that our laws only favor one group, often in the minority, and injures respect for the law statewide, and the accompanying chaos that invites. Wisconsin needs Fair Maps to help us restore representative democracy and reject the tyranny of a minority.

Joel Burbach
N1294 hwy F
Montello, WI 53949

I insist that the Court do what is correct and fair for the greatest good of the most people. Please eliminate any political partisanship from all processes. Thank you kindly. Joel

Joseph Maurer
611 Fountain St
Eau Claire, WI 54703

WI deserves fair maps! Please do not exclude the public in the process.

joseph groshek
30650 sky rd.
washburn, wi 54891

I oppose this rule. It will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation and has

insufficient transparency measures. I implore the Supreme Court to reject this rule change because it is unjust for the citizens of Wisconsin.

John Gaydos
128 Sunrise Lane
Fall River, WI 53932

Dear Madame and Sirs:

Non-partisan redistricting is hugely important right now in our state, as in our United States, where political decisiveness is tearing away at democracy. In my all my life I never thought there would be such vehement resentment and mistrust of “the other party.” Slanting election district boundaries to favor ANY party is unfair and eats away at the core tenant of the Constitution: providing EQUALITY for all citizens of the republic.

I can remember hearing many times about political unrest in “banana republics”, where political groups warred in the streets about unfair elections. Where military force was used on demonstrators who felt their voice was subverted. I wondered who was right, who was wrong... or if the SITUATION was the cause. Fair elections with districts that are not manipulated to the advantage of a party in the majority at a given moment give me hope that the State of Wisconsin—that the United States—will never look like one of those banana republics. Please see that fairness over rules partisan politics.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

John R. Gaydos

Jacklyn Fischer
95 Estherbrook Ct
Appleton, WI 54915

As a concerned citizen, I implore the Wisconsin Supreme Court to reject a rule change that would harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation in the process, and make the entire process less transparent.

John Sharp
160 Old Darlington Rd.
Mineral Point, Wisconsin 53565john

The people of Wisconsin have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. Legislators are not listening. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair.

Erik Johnson
267 S Baltimore St
Spring Green, WI 53588

Please work to ensure there is an independent, nonpartisan process for redistricting our voting maps.

John Grove
3536 N. Frederick Ave
Shorewood, WI 53211

In determining the new legislative maps based upon the new census I feel strongly the process be open to input from individuals and groups who are concerned about how the maps are drawn. How the maps are drawn is important to the political health of Wisconsin. If, as requested by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, the State Supreme court usurps citizen's ability to have input in the process and the decision making it will further add to the political division that is so harmful to our political discourse and policy making. It will also add to the politicization of the State Supreme Court and lead many to lose any respect for decisions the court makes. Please do not try to take over the process. There should be public hearings about how the maps are to be drawn. Don't exclude us from the process.

Jonathan Smoots
4516 N Larkin St
SHOREWOOD, WI 53211-1542

Redistricting maps should be drawn by a BIPARTISAN process. Don't politicize the WI SC.

Joni Anderson
2154 W.10th Ln.
Adams, WI 53910

Courts are made up to represent all of us in a fair and equal voice. One group or another should not be ruled out. Unions and Non-Partisan groups of members should not be forced out of the process. We are all equal. The voting lines should represent all of us...not just a few or the elite....

Joy Hagen
55 Meadow Row Court
Appleton, Wisconsin 54913

Please do not change the process so that any future lawsuits over redistricting maps are run through the Wisconsin Supreme Court. We the people of Wisconsin need a fair and unbiased approach to redistricting and it does not include having lawsuits go through the state judicial system, including the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The people of Wisconsin have voiced their strong opinion that they favor a nonpartisan redistricting process. The process to take potential lawsuits through the Wisconsin State Supreme Court has been reviewed and rejected. Please don't go there. If necessary, let the process run through the Federal Courts. We want to enhance the reputation of the Wisconsin Supreme Court that it can be unbiased, rather than erode that reputation.

Joy Perry
5157 NORTH LOOP RD
LARSEN, WI 54947

I strongly oppose the proposed rule change that would automatically elevate any disputes about state redistricting to the Wisconsin Supreme Court rather than being deliberated and processed through the federal court system.

That seems to me to be the opposite of the analysis, deliberation and decision-making that is required, and is inappropriate. The process would allow less direct input from members of local government and the public, exactly the WRONG approach for these crucial decisions. It would bypass fact-finding by lower courts, also exactly the WRONG approach.

Redistricting is complicated and absolutely crucial to fairness in our elections and enfranchisement of all citizens; the proposed rule would result in a rushed process with less public input and is exactly the WRONG approach.

Strongly reject the proposed rule change petitioned by Scott Jensen and the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty!!

Joy Rosenberry Chase

6521 Westin Drive
Madison, WI 53719

This rule change disenfranchises nonpartisan groups, such as parent-teacher groups, unions, and local groups, and doesn't give enough clarity to the process. It would politicize the Wisconsin supreme Court, which is against the very nature of a Supreme Court. We want fair, nonpartisan redistricting, not more gerrymandering!

Jolynn Palmbach
2437 N Dousman St
Milwaukee, WI 53212

I object to the proposed rule, because it does not allow for the citizen participation that a normal court proceeding would provide.

Julie Penneau
4101 W. Squire Ave.
Greenfield, WI 53221

This rule should not be passed.

John Mutschler
706 N Main St
Dodgeville, WI 53533

The people of Wisconsin have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. Legislators are not listening. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. The proposed rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair.

The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. This is where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps.

The proposed rule change further politicizes the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its credibility in the eyes of the public.

The proposed rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps.

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to assuring good government. The proposed procedural change diminishes transparency,

Judy Plambeck
2968 waubesa
Madison, WI 53711

Gerrymandering is against the idea of a fair democracy. Allow fair designs as Iowa does.

Jean Radtke
6750 Maple Terrace
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Historic Perspective: In 2011, the GOP in Wisconsin swept to power, taking over control of the Assembly, the Senate, and the Governor's office, and it took the practice of partisan map rigging to new levels. It also decided to redraw the maps not in public, in the Wisconsin Capitol, but instead in a locked office of the private, pricey law firm across the street, Michael Best & Friedrich. The media wasn't allowed in. The public wasn't allowed in. Democrats weren't allowed in. Even Republican legislators who were not in leadership had to ask to be let in the locked room, and once they got to see their own redrawn districts, they had to sign an oath of secrecy. That's not how the people's business is supposed to be done. The Republican leadership hired demographic specialists and computer experts to employ the latest mapping technology to create maps that were more rigged than almost any in modern history. The leadership then rammed the maps through the legislature in ten days flat. The bill, 2011 Act 43, was then signed into law by Gov. Scott Walker. And the new maps did what they were designed to do: They ensured that the Republicans grabbed more seats. For instance, in the first election under the plan, Republicans won 60 out of 99 seats in the Assembly despite losing the aggregate statewide vote. In lawsuits, maps violated the First Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment rights of the Democrats who sued. The Downsides of Gerrymandering Gerrymandering allows the elected officials to pick their voters rather than the other way around. It allows a political party that happens to hold the state assembly, the state senate, and the governorship on even-decade years to rig maps to keep themselves in power for another 10 years. It deprives voters of other parties of an equal chance at political power, interfering with their First Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment rights. And fundamentally, it leads to unrepresentative government. One major downside of gerrymandering is that it makes more districts more uncompetitive, and as a result, the elected officials in these districts do not have to be responsive to their constituents who are in the minority. This, in turn, leads to hyper-partisanship. When incumbents are in safe districts, they don't need to listen to those constituents who disagree with them. They can be as dogmatic as they'd like because they won't pay any price for it. As a result, compromise becomes nearly impossible, and even plain old courtesy goes out the window. On top of that, incumbents are threatened within their own parties if they dare to stray from the party line; they are

told they will be “primaried” by a candidate who is more in lockstep with the leadership, which will provide a lot of funding for that challenger. Iowa has found an easy and reliable way to achieve fair voting maps. For the past 35 years, career civil servants – and not the leaders of the party in power – have drawn the district maps there, with specific criteria that guard against partisanship and favoritism. It works well there. With some state-specific adjustments, it would work well in Wisconsin, too. Will you commit to doing this? Senator Dave Hansen of Green Bay and Representative Robyn Vining of Wauwatosa have introduced companion bills to adopt the Iowa Model for Wisconsin: Senate Bill 288 and Assembly Bill 303. SB288 and AB303 would give us a fair, independent, nonpartisan way to do redistricting. Their bills are co-sponsored by five Republicans: Rep. Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay), Rep. Jeff Mursau (R-Crivitz), Rep. Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville), Rep. Loren Oldenburg (R-Viroqua), and Rep. Travis Tranel (R-Cuba City). The bills would empower career nonpartisan civil servants at the Legislative Reference Bureau to draw the maps – and not the politicians. My testimony (last two minutes of video) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5J6I5Pnm1s8> , Also, Fitzgerald and Vos are responsible for gerrymandering, voter suppression, taking powers away from the Governor - AFTER Walker lost, making voters stand in line during a pandemic, removing the Stay-at-home ruling by Governor Evers, and losing \$25 million for the state of Wisconsin after delaying coronavirus relief package. #VoteBlue <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2020/05/07/delay-passing-coronavirus-relief-bill-lost-wisconsin-25-m-feds/3089202001/>

Jordan Higgins
611 e. Conant St.
Portage, WI 53901

This proposed rule change is harmful to transparency, to legitimacy of a "non-partisan" court, and to the health of democracy in Wisconsin as a whole.

JANE ROBERTS
N6893 Hunters Ridge Road
Delavan, WI 53115

Fair districts are very important to the democratic process. Transparency in drawing these districts should be a priority. Citizens must have their say at public hearings. The people of Wisconsin have spoken through their votes and through polling that they want fair districts. The public must be assured that this is the case. I strongly oppose the proposed amending of WIS.Stat.809.70 (Rule petition 20-03).

Jenny Wagner
200 State St
Oregon, WI 53575

The Wisconsin Supreme Court should not take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. The rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

J Schieffer
2521 cedar
burlington, WI 53105

NonPartisan State Districting is most fair and mandatory.

J Schieffer
2521 cedar
burlington, WI 53105

All voters need to be represented.

William Werch
122 Leffert St.
Berlin, WI 54923

I am writing concerning Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I oppose this rule. Everyone's voice should be heard by the Court, not just political parties.

James Gibson
123 drammen valley rd.
Mount Horeb, Wisc 53572

This is undemocratic. Someone needs to step up and stop this assault on our democracy.

Jane Shabtaie
1008 N. Gammon
Madison, WI 53717

This is necessary for Democracy.

Janet Slaght
N7048. Bice Avenue
Holmen, WI 54636

Please let a non political facilitator set the new maps for more equitable governance. Follow Iowa's lead. Let Wisconsin become a better state than it is now.

Joyce Stendahl
6911 Maywood Ave
Middleton, WI 53562

This rule is unjust, unfair and should not be passed

Jt Covelli
5501 Tolman Terr
Madison, WI 53711

I write today to discuss the most gerrymandered state in the country, Wisconsin. As I live in one of three counties that are overwhelmingly democrat, the US Supreme Court once denied our plea for help because we lacked standing. It's difficult to explain to my grandsons that the law actually protected the gerrymanderers. Every vote should count. And it doesn't. Not in WI. Gerrymandering should be illegal and as the "finest" legal minds in the state you know this. WILL is asking that you perpetuate the mess made following the 2010 census. The right thing to do is to unwind this mess. Make WI voters equal by clearing up this mess. We should have a non-partisan team that draws fair maps. Once and for all, do the right thing.

Joel Trick
2121 45th Street, Unit L
Two Rivers, Wisconsin 54241

I do not believe that the Wisconsin Supreme Court should be allowed to take jurisdiction on redistricting. The proposed rule will harmfully politicize the redistricting process, by excluding input from outside groups who have information necessary for this process. I also have great concerns about how this would lead to a process with less than sufficient transparency.

Julia Simonson

1851 Twin Bridge Road
Mineral Point, WI 53565

In the absence of Wisconsin residents being able to submit legislation proposals through propositions, and legislators, alone, being able to offer legislation, it seems that anytime Wisconsin residents and voters, are unable to bring their opinions to hearings, town halls, or courts systems and the testimony offered there, Wisconsin residents are shortchanged. This current effort to fast track new voting maps directly to the Supreme Court (Wisconsin), means residents, once again, will be left out of the process. Despite the efforts many people to get fair maps before legislators, these elected officials ignore the will of the people of this state.

Judi Roller
8852 blynn rd.
Mazomanie, WI 53560

Eliminating review by multiple courts limits the review of maps and rushes the process, which would normally involve development of a record, including evidence and testimony. If the rule is changed, only political parties will have the right to be heard, not nonpartisan groups like unions, membership organizations, or other groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members.

Judith golombowski
5859 s frances ave
new berlin, wi 53151

Stop this rule change. It is so sad how republicans are becoming dictators who want to control the people for their own interest instead for the greater good of the people. All people have a voice that you should listen too. Shame on you for trying to silence the people of this state.

Judith Liebaert
9040 East Lake Avenue
Solon Springs, WI 54873

In regard to the proposed rule change to send any challenge to redistricting in the state immediately to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. We are not in favor of this change as it does not lend transparency to the process and, as section 5b requires only that political parties be heard, it excludes other organized groups and citizens, who should rightfully be included in the process. Lastly, it would politicize the Wisconsin Supreme Court and we are solidly opposed to that happening.

Sincerely,

Steven and Judith Liebaert

Judith Blank
W5715 County Road H
New Glarus, WI 53574

Redistricting legislation should not be politicized while leaving nonpartisan groups out of the discussion. Too many efforts have already been made to over politicize the courts and the process. We need fair maps not minority rule maps.

Judith Clayton
315 Mineral St.
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Please reject the WILL petition to limit review of redirecting legislation. The process deserves full attention to all relevant information, including maps. Do not politicize this essential process. The voters of Wisconsin deserve a fair hearing.

Judith Goodnight
1406 Fieldstone Court
Neenah, WI 54956

Redistricting is one of the most complex and difficult tasks of government and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person / one vote. It should never be rushed. On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process.

In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed.

Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

This new rule threatens to politicize the Court by inserting itself so early and thoroughly into a partisan conflict. The Court is NOT a political branch, and this new rule should NOT be adopted.

Judith Archibald
314 Thompson St.
Verona, WI 53593

I feel very strongly that the process for deciding the future district maps in the state should have a fair and open review. Since over 70% of Wisconsin residents favor a nonpartisan group to decide district maps in the state, the governor has formed an independent group to decide these future maps. The process should NOT be rushed and proposed maps need to be reviewed. The entire process should be completely open to the public, and not behind closed doors.

The proposal by WILL for the Wisconsin Supreme Court to take jurisdiction on any future redistricting will disenfranchise nonpartisan groups from full participation in the process, and it lacks transparency. It will politicize the courts. Finally, it is undemocratic to rush the process, which would limit having all facts and opinions needed should the state supreme court need to intervene.

Judy Johnson
240 Lazarre ave
Green Bay, WI 54301

The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”), has filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process. I object to this!

I am looking at this from a nonpartisan perspective. 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.

Judy Neider
50279 Point O Pines Rd
Solon Springs, WI 54873

Wisconsin citizens have experienced unfair and extreme partisanship via gerrymandering for the last 10 years. The recent rule under consideration by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty in dealing with redistricting will politicize the State Supreme Court, exclude nonpartisan groups and interests from

participation, and furthermore will not provide sufficient transparency safeguards. This rule is simply UNACCEPTABLE in a democracy.

Judy Wittig
837 Liebman Ct Apt 6
Green Bay, Wi 54302

Fair maps is what I want—fair for every candidate running in WI

Julie Arneth
2682 Woodfield Court
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54313

The people voted to design fair maps. Therefore WILL should not request the state Supreme Court to take jurisdiction in future redistricting legislation.

Julie Arneth
2682 Woodfield Ct.
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54313

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

Re: Rule Petition 20 for proposed rule to amend WI Statute 809.70

Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court,

Please keep the present process to review and accept district maps in place.

As you are considering the issue of accepting the presentation of district maps following the 2020 census directly from the legislature, please consider there will be concerns that will be lost in the process. With the present process there will be testimony from many more concerned parties, including those under served and disadvantaged. It will be a more open and transparent process with an opportunity for public discussion. The voters have indicated through the November 3, 2020 election that they prefer a non-partisan redistricting process. As a non-partisan Court, I hope you will respect the voters' wishes and keep politics out of your decision.

Julie Schroeder
18 Streeter Ct
Fond du lac, Wi 54935

I do not support the proposed rule change for jurisdiction on map redistricting. Changing this rule allows for increased partisan politicization. Constituents should choose their representatives, not the other way around. Changing this rule would exclude nonpartisan group input, as well as decreasing overall transparency in the redistricting process. Ten years ago, the people were left out of the process, and we have suffered immensely for it.

Julianna McGuire
19638 Cottage Inn Rd.
Belmont, WI 53510

I am opposed to the petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty ("WILL") which requests that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This proposed rule change will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Julia Cruz
694 Carriage hill dr
Watertown, Wi 53098

Don't rush the process!

Julia DePalma
217 North Hamilton St
Unit 1, Madison 53703

Dear Members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

I write to ask you to strike down the proposed Amendment to Wisconsin Statute 809.70 regarding redistricting. I believe that the redistricting process must be fair, transparent, and devoid of partisanship.

Passage of the proposed rule will reduce citizen involvement in the redistricting process, thus reducing transparency. It will also remove lower courts from the process of evaluating any challenges to new maps, and eliminate chances to develop the record, and thoroughly evaluate and make corrections.

Wisconsin deserve a transparent process that is free of partisan politics and lets citizens remain involved in their electoral process. The Supreme Court must not become a partisan tool of either party to gerrymander their way to electoral victory. It must remain a fair and impartial part of our government and this rule threatens that status.

I am a supporter of 350 Madison.

Thank you for your concern.

Julia DePalma
217 N Hamilton St
Unit 1
Madison, WI
53703

Julian Nazareth
110 N Brooks Street
Madison, WI 53715

Hello, thank you for listening to my thoughts. Several respected Supreme Court justices stated that changes to many procedures should take place either through legislation or a state constitutional amendment. Elected officials or voters should have input in deciding whether to restrict the jurisdiction for any future redistricting litigation. I hope all justices thoroughly and independently review whether the courts should decide these procedural changes, bypassing the input of elected officials or voters.

Julie Saether
605 S. Main St.
Blanchardville, WI 53516

I am writing today to say I oppose the proposed rule that would allow political parties to be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same right to other nonpartisan groups. I feel, and the majority (80%) of Wisconsin citizens feel, a fair set of rules is needed for redistricting which allows the Court to get the facts and input from anyone – not just political parties and legislated officials. The Wisconsin State Supreme Court needs to have all the facts and viewpoints to conduct a fair

and appropriate legal review. Wisconsin needs to have fair, impartial, and nonpartisan district maps that represent the people and NOT the political parties! We need transparency in the whole redistricting process because our government of the people, by the people, for the people is to represent us as citizens – NOT have political parties be able to control the district maps or the Wisconsin State Supreme Court. I strongly urge the Wisconsin State Supreme Court not to allow this proposed rule to only allow input from political parties in a dispute about new maps for redistricting. Thank you. Julie Saether

Julie Mitchell
2144 N 83rd St.
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

The proposed rule to require nearly any lawsuit about future maps to go directly to the State Supreme Court (not federal court or state trial courts) is unnecessarily rushing decisions. The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting process failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could be heard. The proposed process would not solve this, and in fact would allow the Court to sidestep consideration of any arguments by groups other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or public input.

I believe the court, and any elected official, has a duty to the people. Do not adopt this proposed rule regarding maps.

Julie Hanna
3467 S. Princeton Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53215

I strongly agree that this proposed rule will harmfully politicize the Court! I am strongly opposed to gerrymandering. And, no nonpartisan groups should be excluded from fair representation in establishing fair maps.

Julie Putney
W203S10510 North Shore Dr
Muskego, WI 53150

We need to make the state election maps fair, after years of absurd Republican gerrymandering.

Julie Hoel

30503 Opus Rd
Ontario, Wisconsin 54651

I am writing today to urge the Court to reject the petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. It concerns me that it allows political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups. This politicizes the court and does not have enough transparency for a very important matter to democracy in Wisconsin.

Ruth Kolpack
3355 Riverside Drive
Beloit, WI 53511

Justice Overcoming Borders, an affiliate of the WISDOM network

November 21, 2020

Re: Rule Petition 20-03 to amend WIS. STAT. 809.7

To Whom It May Concern,

I am concerned that the proposal by Scott Jensen and the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty for the Supreme Court to adopt a rule specific to legal challenges to redistricting will eliminate nonpartisan groups for offering input. There needs to be an inclusive legal process for obtaining necessary facts and viewpoints beyond the Supreme Court. It is not appropriate to bypass the public or the lower courts. The process for mapping districts should not be rushed. This proposed rule would politicize the Wisconsin Supreme Court. That should never happen. Our Supreme Court needs to be neutral for all political actors.

The rule should not exclude non-partisan groups such as the group I am President of, Justice Overcoming Borders {JOB}. We are non-partisan but active in speaking out for the well-being of the citizens of Wisconsin. That is why I am writing this letter. Our group should have an opportunity to speak out about redistricting since redistricting affects all citizens and should, therefore, have citizen input. Public hearings are needed and necessary. To put the task of redistricting on the Wisconsin Supreme Court is not appropriate. It sidesteps the public and puts the issue in the hands of elected officials and political parties. As such, it becomes a partisan task rather than the voice of the people.

Government is BY the people and FOR the people, therefore, redistricting should follow the U.S. Constitution and let the voices of the people be heard for the sake of all Wisconsin residents.

Sincerely,

Ruth Kolpack
President
Justice Overcoming Borders

Justin Frye
746 Martin Ave
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016

This rule will highly politicize the court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation and is not representative of what the people of WI wants. We need a fair and a transparent process of the maps made by a commission or other nonpartisan source so the people of WI gets maps that are representative of what the people wants

Vicky Rosenbaum
8449 Klevenville Riley Road
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

November 21, 220

To: Wisconsin Supreme Court

Re: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

I am writing to express extreme displeasure with the gerrymandering ability of political parties in our state. This law would ensure that parties can continue this outdated method of determining voting districts.

First, any legal challenges made would be sent straight to the Supreme Court instead of working their way through more local channels where ordinary citizens can get a clearer picture of what is being decided. Transparency is necessary, and this law would all but eliminate that insight for Wisconsin citizens.

Second, redistricting is not just for the political parties involved. This law would prevent any other interested parties from presenting any views on what is being discussed. Again, transparency is at stake as is having a voice in government that is supposed to be for the people.

Third, the rule that WILL (Wis. Institute for Law and Liberty) is proposing, would allow leeway for the Court to simply throw out and ignore the procedures and requirements of the rule itself. This is absurd. This would allow the Court to just toss everything out and do what they want. This is not government by and for the people! Any rule should be abided by, transparent and implemented in a fair manner.

This rule would likely lead to more gerrymandering in the future. We need an impartial panel setting boundaries – not the political parties – with a system such as Iowa has used successfully for years.

Thank you for listening,
Vicky Rosenbaum, a concerned Wisconsin citizen
Mt. Horeb, WI

John Rosenbaum
8449 Klevenville Riley Road
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Objection to Petition 20-03, Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70 (Redistricting Process)
Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court Judges:

This is a comment in response to Scott Jensen's petition 20-03, regarding how legislative maps will be drawn in 2021 if the legislature and governor cannot agree on new maps. I understand a hearing is set for January 14.

This proposed change would require any lawsuit about future maps to go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, bypassing lower courts. This limits the review of maps and rushes the process. It eliminates the introduction of evidence and materials that are obtained in the lower court processes (such as the number of counties that have passed resolutions and referenda, and the margin of victories for passed referenda, etc.).

This proposed rule change would exclude nonpartisan groups from the process! What an abomination!! We need more transparency in government, not less.

I understand that fifty-five counties have passed resolutions, and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair. If this rule change passes, it will further politicize the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its

credibility in the eyes of the public. We need the redistricting process to proceed as in the past, going through lower courts first if the legislature and governor cannot agree.

Kerry Rouleau
795 140th Ave
New Richmond, Wisconsin 54017

Please, we need fair maps! It is long overdue!

Jean Walker
409 Lexington Ct
Watertown, Wisconsin 53098-1134

It is way past time for the gerrymandering to end. YOU have been elected to follow the laws. It is YOUR responsibility to correct this issue.

Julie Walton
426 3 Mile Rd., #5E
Racine, WI 53402

The proposed rule limits transparency, review, and public input in several ways:

- The proposed rule does not provide adequate information to, or input from, the public. Transparency is key for public trust. Wisconsin citizens deserve to be informed of, and involved in, the redistricting process. The proposed rule would limit the flow of information, and even who could make arguments before the court.
- It short-changes the legal process. The judicial process works best when it plays out in full. Instead of letting a case work its way up from a trial court, through an appellate court and then to the WI Supreme Court, this rule would have the process start at that last step--in the WI Supreme Court. This limits review and the opportunities to develop the record and correct mistakes along the way.
- The proposed rule only considers partisan interests. While political parties would be given automatic standing to present maps before the Court, nonpartisan groups and voters impacted by the new districts may be excluded under the proposed rule.
- 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 in the process, and so thoroughly that the Court is necessarily going to decide where the district lines wind up, threatens to give the impression the Court is a political branch rather than a neutral referee.
- This process shouldn't be rushed. Previously when the Court considered special rules for redistricting litigation, it spent years engaging experts and the public to examine potential procedures.

After thorough review, the Court decided not to adopt special rules for redistricting after all. This time, instead of years of expert review, we've had only months for the Court to consider a proposed redistricting rule written by partisan insiders and taking a radically different approach than the experts recommended last time.

The proposed rule does not provide a fair set of procedures for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review. The proposed rule should not be adopted.

Jon Fiscus
1721 Geneva Club Ct
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

Please make this process open and transparent. There is not a need to rush. Please allow public testimony in a non partisan redistricting process.
Thank you.

Jackie Pauly
2913 Grandview Blvd
Madison, WI 53713

Please stop politicizing the courts and allow all groups full participation in the court process. The state should not have gerrymandered districts no matter which party is in charge. Please work to be fair.

Carol Sparre
26 Mondale Court
Madison, WI 53705

This is outrageous. No one who is elected, including the State Supreme Court, that has a vested interest in redistricting maps, should have control over the mapping. A non-partison commission selected by both parties equally should map voting districts in an equitable, non-gerrymandered process.

Tammy Bieberstein
1320 SPAIGHT ST
MADISON, WI 53703

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Kristen Voskuil
1308 Oak Street
Waterloo, WI 53594

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

RE: Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty petition

Dear Justices of the Supreme Court:

My name is Kristen Voskuil and I am writing to you to about my opposition to the rule changes proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) regarding the review of district maps.

The proposed rule change seems to severely limit those able to directly comment on the process to solely partisan interests, the parties, or to those whose positions could be made more secure if maps are drawn one way or the other, meaning the legislature, etc.

On the other hand, it rushes the process and restricts comment or input by outside experts, lower courts, and organizations that represent the public at large. However, the most crucial voice that would be shut out of the process is that of individual citizens. I wonder as I write this letter if this is the last opportunity that I will ever have to let my opinion be known on this process.

Please allow the current process to stand and do not rule on this matter.

Thank you,
Kristen Voskuil

1308 Oak Street
Waterloo, WI 53594

Katie Thomas
1344 W Packard St
Appleton, WI 54914

I oppose this change. This shortened process will allow for no fact-finding by lower courts and may exclude any input from citizens or non-profit groups. It will effectively eliminate transparency in the redistricting process.

Katherine Simdon
W6010 Melvin Rd
Monroe, WI 53566

I oppose the proposed rule change and I favor a non-partisan redistricting solution.

Joyce Knutson
24 N Prospect Ave
Madison, WI 53726

I have long appreciated the 'clean' government and nonpartisan emphasis that Wisconsin has enjoyed in the past. I am troubled by the petition presented to the WI Supreme Court by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and .

It is not in the best interests of the State of Wisconsin and its citizens to further politicize the mapping process which this rule will do.

Kristine Euclide
2910 Lakeland Ave
Madiison, WI 53704

I oppose the proposed redistricting rule change. It is not in the best interests of the State of Wisconsin and its citizens to further politicize the mapping process which this rule will do. Furthermore, the bedrock of the judicial system is built on a foundation where facts are fully developed before cases are brought to the Supreme Court. This fact development process typically allows for input and scrutiny from various sides. This proposed rule would circumvent the opportunity for full participation by all interested parties and deprive the Court of the benefits of robust fact analysis. The lack of transparency in the Court's process would also damage the reputation of the Court and further degrade the public's trust and respect for the judicial branch. I urge you to reject this proposed rule, Thank you.

Jordan Kaiser
290 2ND AVE
Amherst, WI 54406

Please please please, DO NOT adopt a rule that would fast track redistricting changes. Our governmental process need to be transparent and for the betterment of all citizens. Partisan gerrymandering needs to end! I highly support the creation of a nonpartisan entity to perform all future redistricting in the state of Wisconsin!

Eileen Kajiwara
90480 Peterson Hill Rd
Bayfield, WI 54814

I strongly urge the WI Supreme Court to reject the new rule proposed by the WI Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) regarding redistricting disputes. Under their proposed rule, non-partisan organizations & voters impacted by new district maps could be excluded from offering input. Limiting input to only that pushed by elected officials & political parties would greatly undermine democratic processes. Also, shortening the litigation process, going directly to the Supreme Court, further limits review & opportunities to gather expert input. Wisconsin needs a non-partisan procedure to prepare fair legislative & congressional district plans & maps!

Terry Kaldhusdal
144 Pine Street
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Because of gerrymandering, our leaders have chosen their constitutes, instead of the constituents choosing their leader. Only the State Supreme Court and bring justice and balance to our legislative branch. DO YOUR JOB, our democracy depends on it.

Virginia Gelineau
1111 Kern Ave.
Rice Lake, WI 54868

This guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. It requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process. Please let our Supreme Courts represent the people. Please protect our rule of and by the people. Don't steal this from the American people.

Karen Guskowski
925 E Wells St
Milwaukee, WI 53202

We want to have fair maps! In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”), filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process. This guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn’t give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court’s process. Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Karen Williams
3775 Paukotuk Lane
Oshkosh, WI 54902

As a citizen of Wisconsin, I am asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to retain the current redistricting process and reject the recently proposed rule change to bypass lower courts and escalate disputed maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Redistricting is a complex and difficult task, and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person, one vote. It should never be rushed. The proposed rule change shortens the process and will not allow for fact-finding by lower courts. Further, the change may exclude any input from citizens or non-profit groups, and it will eliminate transparency in the redistricting process during a time where maintaining trust in our basic institutions is paramount.

Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin’s 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Please retain the current redistricting process in 2021 to promote transparency and participation in our Wisconsin voting maps.

Karen Williams

KAREN DAVENPORT
23023 120TH ST
TREVIR, WI 53179

INCLUDING NON PARTISAN INPUT IS ESSENTIAL

Karen Kouba
W5768 Thistledown Drive
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

This rule is unfair to nonpartisan groups and would politicize the Court.

Karen O'Brien
831 Center St
Mineral Point, Wisconsin 53565

To the Honorable State Supreme Court Judges,

I just wanted to say that I went around my neighborhood (in Mineral Point) collecting signatures to help get a referendum put on the ballot and it passed here. I was very proud of our work to help end gerrymandering.

Now I've learned that legislators are wanting to change procedural rules that will ignore and bypass the voice of the people who want Fair Maps across Wisconsin. By ending gerrymandering, areas will get better services like health care and schools to name a few things.

With this request to change the rules it will basically gag any lawsuits and not allow them to go through the lower courts. All the evidence, maps and materials would not be seen by you. This proposed rule change is so unfair to everyone living in Wisconsin and especially to those people that need Fair Maps the most. Thank you

Karen Peck
1133 W. Lorain Street
Appleton, WI 54914

Regarding the recent petition for Wisconsin redistricting map disputes to be taken directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, bypassing the normal sequence of review through the federal courts, I strongly oppose this rule change. The redistricting process is too complex and too important to the citizens of Wisconsin to rush. The effect of this change would likely be to shortchange the fact-finding process, exclude important input of citizens and nonpartisan public interest groups, and greatly reduce judicial transparency. I believe it would cause further politicization of the State Supreme Court & harm to its reputation, and further erode the public's trust in its independence. Therefore, I ask that the Court not adopt this ill considered and harmful rule change. Thank you.

Kari Murray
8823 Jackson Park Blvd
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

The most critical element of redistricting if only political influences are being heard we will continue to have safe irregular shaped gerrymandered maps. The need for citizens and organizations with demonstrated recommendations should be as heard as the politicians who are protecting their interests.

Kari Schaefer
8324 Camelot Trace
Sturtevant, WI 53177

All Wisconsinites deserve fair maps.

Kate Kaiser
7209 N Crossway Rd
Fox Point, WI 53217

Please consider the implications of the Fair Map Law. It has tilted the activity of the legislature to the right. In fact very little was done in the last six months. It reduce transparency and allows those in office to remain in office without considering their constituents fairly.. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kate Reimann
PO Box 95
Mazomanie, WI 53560

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices,

I am writing to you today with the upmost concern for our democracy regarding the proposed rule submitted by the rightwing Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL). The voters of Wisconsin are tired of the gerrymandering that has been taking place in our state for years. My voice and that of other Wisconsinites have voted through referendum to end gerrymandering and yet it is being challenged in court. The will of the people must take precedence over the will of a rightwing group that wants to end democracy as we know it.

We are in grave danger to inching closer and closer to fascism and you must stop it. I strongly urge you to act in good faith to our democracy and vote for the will of the people. Stop the gerrymandering efforts that is constantly being promoted in this state. Please set an example for the good of our country and the voice of the citizens of Wisconsin and preserve our democracy. End gerrymandering.

Respectfully,

Kate Reimann

Kate Houston

10241 S. ORCHARD RD

Ephraim, WI 54211-0495

To Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices:

re: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

This is to express my strong opposition to the proposed rule changes for redistricting. First of all, the fact that it jumps over the lower courts — for fact-finding, to develop a record, etc — seems to be shortchanging ANY interested parties other than WILL (and the incumbent politicians who would surely benefit). This seems NOT to be in the best interests of any concerned citizens and organizations who might want to comment because we/they would be excluded from the process. To this point, I strongly disagree with WILL's desire that only political parties be heard by the Court, especially if maps are disputed (which is most likely, no matter who submits them). The redistricting proposals affect all of us, not just political parties! More input, from more affected parties, goes a long way towards restoring confidence in our government. Surely you agree that this would be a good outcome.

Secondly, there seems to be a big rush to adopt these proposed rule changes quickly, even though the 2020 Census data won't be revealed until next year. The fact that that data collection was also short-circuited by reducing the collection deadline by at least a month — during a pandemic — means that some people will be excluded, for a variety of suspect reasons. That undercount will affect how our tax dollars are distributed throughout the state, and which districts get what percentage. This affects ME! So I really care about how my district is drawn. And previous Courts, after YEARS of study, decided not to adopt special rules for redistricting. I wonder what caused this Court to change its mind?

Thirdly, the citizens of Wisconsin, regardless of their affiliation with any political party or no party, have overwhelmingly supported a nonpartisan redistricting process. We all have a right to stay engaged. Eliminating us from the process will only add to our distrust, of government AND of the Courts. We don't like it when decisions about our future take place behind closed doors and in secret.

That brings me to my last point: the fact that the proposal, after jumping over all the lower Courts, gives the WI Supreme Court the leeway to disregard the procedures and requirements that the rule itself contains. In other words, not only do we regular citizens have no role to play, no option to participate in something that affects us all, but we'd be helpless to do anything about it if you decide to ignore the rules and do whatever you (or your campaign donors) want to do. This defies the meaning of fairness!

To summarize, I OPPOSE the rule changes that WILL has proposed for the following reasons:

1. they exclude average citizens and organizations from the process that affects our future [see pg 7 of the 809.70 Rule (Original Action) supporting memo];
2. they skip the lower courts' participation, which again excludes us citizens from oversight of any legal challenges and minimizes necessary fact-finding;
3. they allow you, the State Supreme Court, to ignore ALL the rules, which is beyond inexcusable. [see 809.70 Rule (Original Action)(5)(j) in the Petition]

Please do the right thing. Do not accept the 20-03 Amendment to Wis. Stat. § 809.70 (Redistricting).

NOTE: I've just read the 10-page memo submitted with the petition (after reading the 4-pg Petition) and found it laughable for its assurances that all the Court's past criticisms have been addressed favorably — and speedily, especially by Walker's legislature. But favorable to whom, I ask? Gotta love those lawyers.

..

Sincerely,
Kate Houston
Ephraim, WI 54211

Kate Bausch
443 E Cornelia St
Darlington, WI 53530

Please do the right thing regarding the future of our legislative maps. Over 80% of Wisconsinites have voted to change these gerrymandered maps. Listen to the people!

Kate Ullman
1222 9th Ave W

Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

I oppose the proposed rule change related to redistricting for a number of reasons. Redistricting should be carried out in a transparent and non-partisan way that increases public trust in the democratic process. Wisconsin already has redistricting procedures that are partisan and provide too much power for the majority party. By adopting this rule, the Supreme Court becomes more politicized, and further diminishes the transparency of the process. Of particular concern is the way in which citizens and non-partisan groups could be shut out of the process, favoring political parties and other political entities. Fair redistricting is in the interest of all citizens and should be a non-partisan activity that attempts to fairly draw district boundaries without intentionally advantaging one party. The participation of citizens and non-partisan groups is critical for public trust in this process, which is already damaged by the overly political nature of the existing process. The courts should not intervene until there is an opportunity to work through the redistricting process using the legislative process and active citizen input.

Katelyn Hoffman
N7253 County Road J
Iola, WI 54945

Redistricting is one of the most complex and difficult tasks of government and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person / one vote. It should never be rushed. On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process.

In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed.

Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony.

Mike & Kate Eldred
20 North Limits Ave.
Bayfield, WI 54814

We strongly disagree with and oppose any action that allows the Wisconsin State Supreme Court to take jurisdiction of any future redistricting legislation. This proposed rule will harmfully politicize the court and excludes nonpartisan groups from full participation, favoring political parties in map disputes, particularly regarding gerrymandering efforts.

Katherine Griffith
955 Ransom St.

Ripon, WI 54971-1824

Honorable Members of the WI Supreme Court,

I am writing to express my concern about the possibility of the Court having jurisdiction over the redistricting process. This process deserves input from citizens and associations of all stripes, not just political parties. There are many responsible, civic-minded groups who should be able to participate in this public process, given the stakes and the fact that the political parties themselves have not historically behaved well on this issue. Redistricting deserves rules that are clear, transparent, and applied consistently. The court should avoid both the reality and the appearance of partisanship, and under the current circumstances, the court's actions would be seen as nakedly political, and favoring Republicans. This would be highly damaging to the court's standing and legitimacy. There may be a role for courts in redistricting, but The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty's petition is the wrong way for the WI Supreme Court to intervene.

Sincerely, Katherine Griffith, Ripon WI

Kathleen Gribble
318 E Mitchell Ave
Appleton, WI 54915

Unity and fairness require not politicizing the new maps and making the process very transparent.

Kathleen Gribble
318 E Mitchell Ave
Appleton, WI 54915-2122

We are Americans. We expect non-partisan and transparent sensible district maps! Republicans must show they want to restore the integrity that has been lost in the past 4 years.

THOMAS ONEIL
1430 E NORWICH ST Hanson
MILWAUKEE, WI 53207-4522

block the rule

Kathleen Wilkes
1217 Brookwood Road
Madison, WI 53711

I oppose the rule change. It is undemocratic. It excludes groups that have legitimate interests in participating. It evades scrutiny by lower courts. There are other reasons as well, but overall the only true fix for a fair and impartial redistricting is to put it in the hands of a nonpartisan citizen panel that would draw lines that make sense and neither include nor exclude voters on the basis of their perceived political affiliation, which is exactly what we have now. Wisconsin voters are NOT being served by the current system. It needs to be improved, not made worse.

Kathleen Nutter
232 High Street, Apt. A, Mineral Point
Mineral Point, WI 53565

I am pleased and uplifted that the vast majority of my fellow Wisconsinites have supported "fair maps", putting an end to gerrymandering by any party. In Iowa Co. we voted 73.8% in favor of the referendum to make re-districting fair, non-partisan, honest and transparent. It gives us hope for healing our communities, now suffering from such polarization.

I am one of many Wisconsin residents who are very deeply offended by the Petition 20-03 Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70. Any person who is honestly patriotic and strongly supportive of our democracy would be. It takes what was a great step forward, that we might regain confidence in our elections, and rips the promise of fair, transparent elections away from us again.

The process that happens in the lower courts allows more time for research, investigation and consolidation of information. Bypassing the lower courts will rush the process, making it less transparent. Why would that be desirable? Any lawsuits or concerns about proposed district maps should go through the current process, being handled in lower courts first.

My understanding is that Petition 20-03 also only allows political parties to be heard in a dispute, and doesn't allow non-partisan voices, we are forbidden in a dispute. That seems irrational if what we are trying to accomplish is a non-partisan re-districting ability. Why is my voice silenced? It appears to simply sabotage the intentions of all of us, the vast majority of Wisconsinites, who want our district maps to be non-partisan and fair.

This Wisconsin Supreme court has appeared to behave in a partisan manner, repeatedly. Why has this issue been given only 30 days for public comment? During the holidays, that will surely keep the issue hidden until it's too late for public comment. It should have at least 60-90 days for the public to learn and respond. We can not trust our courts, honestly, what have we come to? It is up to you to restore integrity to your court, and hope in the hearts of all Wisconsinites. Please reject Petition 20-03 Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70. We did not vote for it, we voted for fair maps.

Thank you, Kathleen Nutter

kathleen david
8575 W BLACKBIRD CT
FRANKLIN, wi 53132

Transparency in the redistricting is the key to public trust. The public is not receiving adequate information about the proposed rule. 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, without allowing adequate review in the lower courts first, threatens to give the impression the Court is a political branch rather than a neutral arbitrator of conflict between political actor

Kathy Lockard
535 Avon Ct.
Green Bay, WI 54302

To the Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

I urge you to oppose the petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty which calls for a rule change regarding the process that would happen if Governor Evers and the Wisconsin legislature reach a stalemate on the drawing of district maps after the 2020 Census results become available. Allowing a disputed maps case to go directly to the state Supreme Court instead of through lower level courts would shut down a transparent process by which members of the public could make their views known, and would turn over the decision process to your Supreme Court which has clearly become more politicized during the past few years.

Wisconsin voters have voiced their desire for a nonpartisan redistricting process in overwhelming numbers, by approving county-level advisory referendums in 24 counties, while 54 county boards have passed similar resolutions. Governor Evers' Peoples Maps Commission is currently taking testimony from members of the public in all eight congressional districts, and the outcome of that process will be widely publicized. The people of Wisconsin do not want to be shut out of the decision-making process by a Supreme Court decision that wouldn't allow for less rushed consideration by federal court judges who are subject to less political pressure and the resulting partisanship.

A rule change of the kind proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty has been rejected in the past by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and I urge you to reflect on the Court's wisdom in doing that, and to again reject such a rule change.

Thank you for considering my views.

Kathy Lockard

Kathleen Zuelsdorff
14795 N Riverside Road
Cable, WI 54821

I am aware of the petition by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to adopt a rule change that could disenfranchise millions of Wisconsin citizens if the Republican legislature leadership ignores the wishes of the state's constituents to adopt a non-partisan process when drawing up the next redistricting map using 2020 census data.

Instead of working in good faith to draw more balanced district maps that could be reviewed and critiqued by a broader audience, the new rule incentivizes a partisan-based redistricting process and maps that would bypass broader review by the public and non-partisan organizations whose purpose is to ensure good government for Wisconsin citizens and voters.

The new rule also denies the authority of the full Legislature and the Executive branch to openly address redistricting matters by immediately handing off this statewide matter to the WI Supreme Court without any opportunity to contest and argue the merits of improved map boundaries in view of the public and with full disclosure.

The rule would further "politicize" the Supreme Court in the eyes of the public. Much faith has already been lost in this once admired institution. In summary, there is absolutely no reason to recognize the petition of this highly political organization and adopt a rule change that would disenfranchise so many people in this state who have already had their votes rendered meaningless by the existing highly gerrymandered maps for the past 10 years.

I respectfully request that you reject the petition of the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty and enable the citizens of this great state to fully participate in arriving at Fair Maps for all.

JoAnne Katzmarek
1000 Green Ave
Stevens Point, WI 54481

I oppose the suggestion that the Wisconsin Supreme Court should claim jurisdiction on any future redistricting legislation. This action would certainly politicize our Supreme Court and undermine its integrity. It could also limit public review and comment of the proposed maps and essentially rush a democratic process that is key to our state's well-being.

Irene Schmidt
1820 E. Blue Mounds
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

I want fair and,unbiased voting districts. Gerrymandering must be ILLEGAL!

Kaycie Green
1718 Sunset Drive
La Crosse, WI 54601

Hello,

I am writing to urge you to reject Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

I value a nonpartisan, transparent redistricting process. The state Supreme Court should not claim jurisdiction on any future redistricting legislation as requested in the petition by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL). If this petition is granted, it will limit the review of fair maps, politicize the court, and exclude nonpartisan groups from participating in redistricting efforts.

Please reject this this petition. Our Supreme Court should be preserving and strengthening our democracy, not decreasing transparency and limiting public discourse.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Kaycie Green

Kay Rhode
121 N. Grove Street 1909
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

To the WI Supreme Court, I am writing to you regarding Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

This important topic requires review and proper procedures. I oppose this rule! Kay

Kay Rhode
121 N. Grove Street 1909
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

To the WI Supreme Court, I am writing to you regarding Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

This important topic requires review and proper procedures.

Katharine Cunningham
5402 Tolman Terrace
Madison, WI 53711

Nonpartisan groups, made up of the citizens to be served, should have a say in any redistricting. The court should not be a political tool and there should be transparency in what is being done to represent the people. Future redistricting laws must not limit democracy by carving out favorable and partisan voting blocks and is sure and heck should not be done behind closed doors out of public view.

Katherine Britt
3906 Berg Road
Dodgeville, WI 53533

I want independent non-partisan redistributing in my state! Please don't let any group sneakily undermine our system of checks and balances and subvert the will of the majority of citizens of Wisconsin. Thank you.

Karen Bachhuber
415 S Olde Oneida St Apt 312
Appleton, WI 54911

Transparency in the redistricting process is key to people's confidence in our election process. It is key to democracy. I oppose any proposal to prevent public interest groups and individual citizens from participating in hearings on redistricting. Now is NOT the time to ignore well established rules and processes.

Richard Nelson
3227 Tijan Lane
EAGLE RIVER, Wisconsin 54521

In my lifetime, technology has contributed to a better life for people in our state and in our country. It has also been used to subvert the intentions of the founders in ways unimaginable 240 years ago. In 2020 we have witnessed an outpouring from our citizens on their right to be heard. But our system allows elected officials to use technology to tarnish our representation. The state needs to move to a system where Wisconsinites are fairly represented, by making the redistricting non partisan. Neither party is capable of doing so, only the courts and the concept of justice therein, can do this. Please act.

Kathleen Crook
5831 Timber Ridge Trail
Fitchburg, WI 53711

We need transparency in creating fair maps for Wisconsin. The public deserves to know how these maps are developed. We also deserve non biased bipartisan maps.

Christine and Karl Stewart
N9235 County FF
Ripon, Wisconsin 54971

Letter to Supreme Court on proposed rule change for future redistricting litigation

Our names are Christine and Karl Stewart, residents of the State of Wisconsin and we are commenting on the rule change being proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) regarding legal challenges to redistricting. As citizens of Wisconsin we are opposed to this proposed rule change for a number of reasons.

*This process shouldn't be rushed.

Previously the Court spent years engaging experts and the public to examine potential procedures for redistricting review, ultimately determining there was not an adequate judicial solution in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This time, the proposed rulemaking process has spanned only a few months, with no independent review by a committee of experts. The Court has considered, and rejected, adopting a rule on this topic, and the rule proposal before the Court now offers no reason for the Court to reverse its previous conclusion.

*Adopting the 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. State Supreme Court Justices are elected and campaign for their terms, often with the financial (and other) assistance of political parties.

*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 new districts may be excluded. This is at odds with the history of challenges to districts in Wisconsin, where civic groups and individual Wisconsin citizens have been involved in litigation and asserted the rights of their members. Let's have a democratic process.

*Transparency in the redistricting process is key to public trust.

The proposed rule does not provide adequate information to, or input from, the public. The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting process failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could be heard. The process WILL has proposed would not solve this and, in fact, would allow the Court to sidestep consideration of any arguments other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or public input.

The people of Wisconsin deserve a fair and democratic process for redistricting. The proposed rule change would not be conducive to either. We respectfully request that you do not adopt this rule change. Thank you!

Respectfully,
Christine and Karl Stewart

Kary Cumming
W159N5479 Lavender Lilac Lane
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

I am concerned that the proposed takeover of redistricting maps by the Supreme Court would further politicize the court. Furthermore, there needs to be a full and fair look at the way Wisconsin creates its maps to make them accurate, reflective of the citizenry and give all a voice in government. All citizens need to be heard, not just operatives of political parties, in a transparent setting to garner a fair decision in this most important decision.

Katina Daanen
922 N. Broadway
De Pere, Wisconsin 54115

I object to changing the proposed rule that would bypass lower courts, especially a rule where only (the current two) parties are allowed to present arguments without citizen participation. It is vital that our democracy continues to embrace norms that established normal court proceedings follow.

Deborah Berg
8620 Klevenville Riley Rd
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

I am writing this to voice my opposition to the proposed rule by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty. I fear that this proposed rule could further politicize our courts. The redistricting of our state is a serious matter and should be done with open transparency. It should also be done with input from citizens across the political spectrum as well as interested groups and individuals not associated with politics.

Respectfully,
Deborah Berg

Kathleen DeBoth
324 County Rd C
Pulaski, WI 54162

We need to open our state to fair maps. We do not have a chance for all voices to be heard and represented in our state. Please let all voices be heard and represented.

Kurt Hase
703 1/2 West Street
Wausau, WI 54401

November 22, 2020

Hello Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court,

I am writing to share my concern and disapproval of a petition to place sole jurisdiction of future redistricting litigation with the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Re: Rules Petition 20-03 to amend Sec. 809,70 Stats. My understanding is that the fastest growing segment of the public's political affiliation is none of the above. Independents. People that are repelled by the never-ending partisan battles and want to see fair constructive policies and action taken to deal with our states ongoing challenges. Not having public comment and input on something as important as our redistricting congressional maps for the next 10 years is plainly undemocratic. In addition, the effort to hurry the process can often lead to a one-sided result favoring an aggressive minority, as well as poorly planned results. These tactics are often observed in countries with autocratic governments, that show little interest in public input, believing that they alone always know what is best.

Living in Marathon County in the 7th Congressional Districts we have watched over time this win at all cost philosophy grow, with the biased manipulation of our state's congressional maps. Reasonable people long for a level playing field where candidates policies and objectives win them the job. Not the politicians choosing their voters. Please do not take steps to move us in the opposite direction.

Thanking you for your time and attention,

Kurt Hase
Wausau, WI

Kathleen Dyreby
7310 Long Lake Rd
Rhineland, WI 54501

I am against the proposed rule change for redistricting as proposed by WILL. It strikes me as being unfair, not the standard I hold our Supreme Court to.
Thank you for the opportunity to express my viewpoint.

Kelly Kearns
1329 Crowley Ave.
Madison, WI 53704

Please deny the petition from the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty requesting the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation.
Such a ruling would exclude the citizens of the state and organizations concerned about gerrymandering from the redistricting process. The maps need to be drawn in a fair and apolitical way with sufficient demographic data and opportunities for public input. No political party should have authority over the process.

Emma Czarapata
3106 Larsen Rd
Madison, WI 53711

I am writing about the proposed rule which WILL is advancing would pre-rig the process for the drawing of legislative and congressional district maps. It would likely lead to another gerrymander in Wisconsin.

Challenges should work their way through the courts in a normal fashion and not skip to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This would enhance transparency and enable the citizens of Wisconsin to understand the evidence as the case winds through the courts.

Nonprofit public interest organizations and concerned citizens could be left out of the process.

The proposed rule that WILL is advancing gives the Court the leeway to disregard the procedures and requirements laid out in the rule itself.

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

It's a bad petition and not in the interest of the people of Wisconsin.

Kathleen Farnsworth
5192 Old Indian Trail
Fitchburg, WI 53711

RE: Rule Petition 20-03, legal challenges to redistricting

Please oppose this rule.

Wisconsin has a long history of open government. It has served us well and rules like this seek to not only limit open government, but also to limit citizens' opportunities to participate in due process.

I think court systems are in place to afford citizens adequate opportunities to bring forth legal challenges when they disagree with something the government undertakes. I also feel these systems allow more diverse individual/groups to raise the challenges.

There seems to me to be no clear reason for redistricting as a topic to go straight to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. After all, it is a topic which sets the stage for selection of who represents you in state legislature and federal House and Senate. If a challenge goes to the Supreme Court right away, the chance for citizens to know the challenge is occurring and why it is occurring is cut short.

I believe that broadest sector of the public should be allowed to bring a challenge on this topic and not just political parties. This is even more important in this era of sharp partisanship – political parties do not represent the broad spectrum of citizenry and they have a self-preservation characteristic which does not keep pace of the views of those the wider general public.

Kenneth Kehl
414 E Norwich Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207

I urge the rejection of the proposed rule change which would reverse a long standing democratic judicial process and procedure. Escalating the question to the State Supreme Court severely curtails

opportunities for the Wisconsin citizen participation in district determination. Shortening the discussion and decision making process denies citizens a voice. Open and transparent public participation ensures a full and complete understanding of political participation opportunities. Centering the decision making at the Supreme Court level eliminates participation.

Kelda Roys
702 SENECA PL
MADISON, WI 53711-2918

As an attorney, a former state representative, and a recently elected state senator, I'm very concerned about the petition to by Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty ("WILL") to circumvent the normal judicial process on redistricting.

Kelly Sullivan
567 Cherry Wood Drive
Oregon, WI 53575

Wisconsin citizens deserve a non-partisan redistricting process so electors can choose their representatives, not the other way. One party is getting the majority of votes, but still holds the minority of seats in the Wisconsin legislature. Having non-competitive races is not good for our democracy. It leads to legislators working only for the people who vote for them or the people who fund their campaigns instead of for all of their constituents.

Kelly Fahrenkrug
213 Riva Ridge Lane
Neenah, Wisconsin 54956

As a citizen of Wisconsin, I am asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to retain the current redistricting process and reject the recently proposed rule change to bypass lower courts and escalate disputed maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Redistricting is a complex and difficult task, and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person, one vote. It should never be rushed. The proposed rule change shortens the process and will not allow for fact-finding by lower courts. Further, the change may exclude any input from citizens or non-profit groups, and it will eliminate transparency in the redistricting process during a time where maintaining trust in our basic institutions is paramount.

Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Please retain the current redistricting process in 2021 to promote transparency and participation in our Wisconsin voting maps.

Thank you,
Kelly Fahrenkrug

Kelly Marquardt
2714 Bayshore de
La crosse, WI 54703

Stop gerrymandering equality for Wisconsin.

Kelly Lundeen
410 7th Ave
Shell Lake, WI 54871

Voting district maps drawing should not be a partisan process. As one of over 5 million citizens of Wisconsin want this to be changed. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair. Are there any public interest groups asking for this rule change? No. The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. The lower courts are the appropriate place where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps.

This rule change further politicizes the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its credibility in the eyes of the public.

This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to ensuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency.

There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being rushed and I demand a 60 day continuance.

I object to the constitutionality of the requested rule change. The petition seeks to authorize the Court to take immediate jurisdiction of the redistricting process upon the request of any party the instant the census is released and then issue an immediate stay. Taking jurisdiction at that early point is premature; there is not yet any case or controversy. The request rests solely on the speculation that, with a divided government, there "may" be a future impasse between the Legislature and Executive Branch. Having the Court take over the process at that premature point violates the state and federal constitutions because it would usurp the authority of the Legislature and Executive branch to address redistricting matters in the first instance. While the Court may eventually be the proper party to review actual disputes about redistricting, based on the actual facts then of record, it is not the constitutionally authorized body to usurp and decide redistricting matters in the first instance.

Ken Eimers
612 Margarett St
Lake Mills, WI 53551

November 16, 2020 Wisconsin Supreme Court P.O. Box 1688 Madison, WI 53701-1688 Re: WILL/Jensen rules change request Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court I am writing to express my opposition to the WILL/Jensen rules change request made recently to the Wisconsin Supreme Court regarding how redistricting litigation is handled. I am asking that the current process for redistricting litigation remain unchanged. The strengths of the current process are numerous while the suggested WILL/Jensen rule change seems to have no tangible advantages other than circumventing the existing process to support a purely political agenda. Acceptance of this rule change has several significant shortcomings that are contrary to the public interests of Wisconsin citizens. The existing redistricting litigation process allows for review by multiple Federal and State courts. Losing parties currently have an option to appeal a decision in a lower court and seek additional review. The proposed WINN/Jensen rules change bypasses these important steps, including an option for an independent review by a committee of experts of the redistricting process. The WINN/Jensen rule change is not only in conflict with public interests and transparency but is simply incomplete in comparison to the existing redistricting litigation process. Wisconsin non-partisan groups and voters who are impacted by new districts will be excluded in the proposed WINN/Jensen rule change. Historically the current process has allowed non-partisan groups to be involved in redistricting litigation, enabling them to assert the rights of their members. Wisconsin citizens have also had the option of participation in litigation under the current redistricting litigation rule. The glaring shortcomings of the proposed WINN/Jensen rule in the end will severely impact the public trust in the redistricting process. The obvious lack of transparency combined with basically no avenues of input for non-partisan groups and Wisconsin citizens leaves the entire redistricting litigation process to be determined by political parties and the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This outcome will likely make the Supreme Court appear as a partisan political entity, rather than an unbiased arbitrator of conflict between political parties. The proposed rule only represents partisan interests and ignores the rich history Wisconsin has had in ensuring our citizens are given a voice in the redistricting process. A great deal of time has been devoted to making the current redistricting litigation

process responsive to the needs of Wisconsin citizens. I am asking that the Supreme Court keep the current process unchanged. Respectfully Submitted, Ken Eimers

Kent Shifferd
N12036 Pash Dr
Trego, WI 54888-9156

I oppose the proposed rule change because it would take the Court into partisan politics where it does not belong and, especially, because it excludes non-partisan groups like the League of Women Voters out of the process.

Keridak Silk
W156N11493 Fond du Lac Ave. #4
Germantown, WI 53022

We need the district lines to be drawn in a fair manner and open to challenge by all. I am very concerned that the re-districting rule before the court will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Kerri O'Neill
1241 5th Ave
Stevens Point, WI 54481

The court needs to step in to ensure fair district maps. It is a threat to democracy to continue to allow oligarchs to rule our state by essentially purchasing lawmakers that cannot be voted out by the people. It is plain that our state is purple based on state and national elections. The state assembly clearly doesn't reflect that fact based on the continued overwhelming majority of Republicans. Even Koch expressed regret at what ALEC and his money have wrought. If the maps are not redrawn more fairly I foresee greater civil unrest and violence. "The ballot or the bullet" is a terrible phrase but I am afraid that will be the outcome if voting continues to prove useless to half the population. This is dangerous ground. We need fair maps so legislators are forced to grapple with the issues important to voters and not just carry water for the highest bidder.

Kerry Reis
1470 Lee Circle
Hudson, WI 54016

Please secure our democracy. We the people are tired of the manipulation by conservatives to draw maps favorable to them.

Kerry Duma
W350S4245 Ponderosa Ct
Dousman, WI 53118

Dear Supreme Court I would like to request that you deny Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I believe that any legal challenge to redistricting should work its way through the courts, rather than going immediately to the Supreme Court, as our legal system is set up to do. This process involves the citizens of this state, and we should have a right to be heard, not just the political parties. The court shouldn't be politicized. The rules for redistricting should be transparent and applied in a fair manner. I oppose this proposed rule and I hope you do not allow it to be used. Thank you, Kerry Duma, Dousman, Wisconsin

Jane kettler
1503 Terry Court
sheboygan, wi 53081

I am opposed to the proposed rule change. It further politicizes the court, reduces transparency, and reduces or eliminates the voice of non-partisan groups when non-partisan approach to District Maps should be the Focus.

Kevin O'Brien
2135 N 69th St
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

I am writing to request that you reject the proposed Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting submitted by the group WILL. While the US Supreme Court rulings on the issue of the drawing of maps are, I believe flawed, their intent is to allow the State processes to play out. In Wisconsin, allowing the Legislature and Governor's office to navigate and negotiate fair maps, in an open, ongoing, and balanced way is at least as close to due process as we can come - short of a better, less partisan process. Adopting this proposed rule would minimize my ability as a citizen to be informed of and have some input on the process throughout the painstaking, and crucial, process of creating fair, competitive, representative maps for the next decade.

Karlene Ferrante

1324 Portage St.
Stevens Point, WI 54481

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”), asked the Wisconsin Supreme Court to take jurisdiction over future redistricting in Wisconsin. I urge you NOT to do so. In general, it is NOT appropriate for the judicial branch to meddle in the business of the legislature, namely the process of redistricting. I believe US Justice Roberts has already stated this. Specifically, taking jurisdiction over redistricting would cut short a larger discussion.

Karen Fowdy
N4130 Statz Road
Monroe, WI 53566

Please keep in mind that a transparent process in which citizens maintain their right to examine decisions that affect their daily lives is vital to our democracy. We are already living in a state in which gerrymandering has skewed the will of the voters.

Kristine Jackson
925 W Wisconsin St
Portage, WI 53901

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation and has insufficient transparency measures .

Katharine Odell
1415 Vilas Ave.
Madison, WI 53711

Wisconsin citizens need a newly conceptualized redistricting plan, but not one blessed by single focus groups such as the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL). Wisconsin needs an independent, non-partisan redistricting process.

The rule change forwarded by WILL apparently seeks to speed the redistricting process in an atmosphere of almost secrecy. The plan would request input only from elected officials and political parties - ignoring the vast majority of citizens not in either of those groups. Nonpartisan groups in our society - such as labor unions - must be allowed to participate in the process - they must not be walled off from the redistricting process.

Please listen to Wisconsin citizens: Almost 75% of county board have WI county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 85% of Wisconsin's citizens.

By WILL's petition, the Wisconsin Supreme court would restrict itself to garnering input from a small section of citizenry - even though all Wisconsin citizens will be affected by such a Supreme Court decision.

Wisconsin needs an independent, non-partisan redistricting process, starting now.

Kay Hoff

1593 McKinney Lane (town of Lac du Flambeau)

Minocqua (mailing but residence is Lac du Flambeau), WI 54548

Honorable Supreme Court Justices:

I request that you allow the redistricting map drawing process following the census to remain transparent and open to the public with the process returning to the local wards and townships at the start. The results of that process should then be presented to elected officials who pass or reject those results.

Since the 2010 census drawing of legislative lines, Lac du Flambeau, my residence, is the only town removed from legislative district of the rest of Vilas County. As a result, my Lac du Flambeau elementary school is also no longer represented by the same legislators as the other three remaining elementary schools that feed into the Lakeland High School.

The impact is profound! When we in the town of Lac du Flambeau want a collective voice regarding state budget funding affecting the public Lakeland High School or the Nicolet Technical College, our voices are lost, diminished to a whisper! And that is because the State Representative Beth Meyers and Senator Janet Bewley are hearing from countless school district residents in NINE other full counties, I say again nine full or 100% county lines, and live nowhere near Lac du Flambeau grade school nor are familiar with it or Lakeland High School. Meanwhile all the other voices in Vilas County legislative districts are being heard by Representative Rob Swearingen and former Senator Tom Tiffany/ now newly elected Mary Falkowski who live near and are very familiar with Lakeland High School district and its feeder elementary schools.

Most important is that my school district is over 90% Native American. Do you now see why I say the voice is 'lost' or reduced to a 'whisper' amidst other the other nine non-tribal counties who have no familiarity with Lakeland or its elementary schools.

I beg you to stand for allowing open citizen participation to begin with participation at the basic town and ward level in the drawing of legislative districts so real and familiar voices can be heard. Had that happened after the 2010 census, my voice and the voices of Native American parents and students could have been heard if at the local level instead of being smothered in high price attorney offices.

Sincerely,
Kay Hoff

Kenneth Huber
2426 W. Lindenwood Avenue
Oak Creek, WI 53154

This rule change will harmfully politicize the court. Is this what our State Supreme Court wants? This rule will exclude nonpartisan groups. Does our State Supreme Court want to exclude groups? Finally, this rule has insufficient transparency. Does our State Supreme Court want a system that provides a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will insure our Court has the facts and viewpoints to conduct an appropriate and legal review?

Kathleen Hunt
2879 Lime Kiln Road
Green Bay, WI 54311

I thought the voters approved a non-partisan committee to redistrict. We don't listen to voters anymore?? I don't understand.

Kim Kunze
149025 Mockingbird Ln
Wausau, WI 54401

I oppose any changes to redistricting rules fo the state of WI.
Kim Kunze
Wausau,WI

Kim Hughes
116 South Genesee Street
Merrill, WISCONSIN 54452

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Kim Butler

1264 190th Ave
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court,

I am writing regarding Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

I do not support this petition and ask that the Court votes against it.

Voters are frustrated that Wisconsin is one of the worst gerrymandered states in the nation. Resolutions supporting fair maps have passed overwhelmingly in a large majority of WI counties, supported by members of both parties. Political parties should be removed from the redistricting process, not given more power, or exclusive power in drawing maps. Sophisticated computer modeling has enabled a level of gerrymandering beyond the imaginations of those who wrote the state constitution. Please do not involve the Court in this process, and please do not exclude other citizen groups and stakeholders from weighing in on the redistricting process. The redistricting process should be transparent, allowing for input from a variety of citizens, to give each citizen confidence that their vote matters as much as any other vote. Voters should be able to choose their elected representatives, not the other way around, and partisanship has no business in this process. Thank you.

Kim Einwalter
9328 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Sturtevant, Wisconsin 53177

Insufficient transparency. These maps need to be adjusted to allow for fairness to all residents in the state of Wisconsin. TIME FOR A CHANGE.

Kim Suhr
602 Mt Snowdon Rd
Wales, WI 53183

I am writing in opposition to a rule change that would take disputed redistricted maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This would not allow sufficient time for the public to weigh in on the issue. At a time when many people's confidence in the voting system has been shaken, rushing through the process without proper consideration makes no sense and creates the impression of partisanship in what should be completely nonpartisan and fair.

Fifty-four of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support. It only makes sense to do everything in our power to make sure our districts are drawn in a fair and transparent way. The proposed rule change would be contradictory to such transparency.

Deborah Kinder
715 Waubeek Rd. PO Box 145
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin 53965

It's very important that district maps in Wisconsin are drawn by non-partisan groups in order to make each person's vote. t as it does when we vote for President and governor. As the maps stand now, my legislators are not accountable to me; my vote is meaningless. Please affirm the validity of one person, one vote in Wisconsin.

Catherine Kitto
163 Spruce St.
Mineral Point, WI 53565

I am urging the Wisconsin Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting and the Supreme Court to support this law. Redistricting without bipartisan and citizen input will further exacerbate the unfair gerrymandering in this state. Thank you for serious consideration.

Alison Welch
18 S. Water St. W.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

I write regarding the petition by WILL to have the Court take over jurisdiction of future redistricting legislation. I cannot claim to understand the motivation behind this petition, but I do not support it. Any process which limits input from the public is not the best process. Fairness should be the goal in any redistricting plan, and in any process to review proposed plans. Fairness requires the broadest of public input, and total transparency.

Kathleen Swanson
971 Lawinger Rd
Mineral Point, Wisconsin 53565

Dear Supreme Court justices,

I object to the proposed rule change for three main reasons.

1. The people of Wisconsin have overwhelmingly supported a nonpartisan redistricting plan, with 55 county boards passing resolutions in support, and 28 counties passing referenda. I personally helped put the referendum on the ballot for Iowa County, where it gained 73.8% of the vote. Please don't disrespect the will of the people.
2. In order for citizens to trust their government, the processes that lead up to significant decisions must be transparent. If the Court were to take over the redistricting process, citizens would have no insight into the process, resulting in further distrust of the government.
3. The proposed rule change would add to the politicization of the Court. Particularly because only political parties would be ensured a seat at the table, the citizens of Wisconsin would perceive that the Court is pandering to whichever party seems more at advantage in the redrawn maps.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Swanson

Karen Reinhardt
94 Shirley Street
Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin 53538

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process. It is apparent that his rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. The citizens of Wisconsin demand a fair set of rules for everyone to play by and an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Karin Kozié
29580 County Highway C
Washburn, WI 54891

I oppose the rule change. If we don't have fair non-partisan maps, we don't have a democracy. The proposed rule change raises a number of concerns:

1. Adopting a specific rule for redistricting could politicize the Court by encouraging lawmakers to settle redistricting disputes through litigation, rather than making every effort to avoid litigation by drawing maps that are acceptable to both political parties. This is of particular concern in the State

Supreme Court where, unlike the U.S Supreme Court, Justices are elected by voters and often campaign with the support of political parties and partisan groups.

2. The proposed rule could exclude nonpartisan interests. While the rule allows the governor, legislators, and political parties to intervene in redistricting cases, nonpartisan organizations and voters impacted by the new district maps could be left out. Historically, civic groups and citizens have engaged in redistricting litigation to challenge district maps; this rule could prevent them from doing so in the future.

3. The proposed rule would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing proper evidence or input from members of the public.

Debra Klebesadel
3795 Limmex Hill Road
Avoca, WI 53506

I object to the rule proposed by WILL as it will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Kathryn Ledvina
1114 S Webster Ave.
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301

This measure is counter to the public interest. It does not provide for sufficient transparency in the process. It does not allow for all voices to be heard through nonpartisan organizations. This would unnecessarily politicize a process that should be as neutral as possible to ensure fair representation.

Kelsey Faust
536 North Cleveland Street
Poynette, Wisconsin 53955

Letter to Supreme Court on proposed rule change for future redistricting litigation

Hello, my name is Kelsey Faust, and I am writing to comment on the rule change being proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL). The rule changes are specific to how cases are heard that involve redistricting after the results of the Decennial Census. As a citizen of Wisconsin, I am strongly opposed to the proposed rule change for several reasons.

This is an important process and should not be rushed. From my understanding, the rule changes for the Supreme Court normally take years to change and enact. This rule change seems extraordinarily rushed. In the past, rule changes have involved the use of committees and the consultation with experts over long periods of time. Therefore, rushing rule changes such as these would appear to be detrimental to the court for several reasons.

First, adopting the rule risks increasing the politicization of the Court and decreasing public trust in the Court as a legitimate institution. The motivations of a firm like WILL are completely and totally partisan in nature and it only requires a smart phone and a Google search to figure that out. At a time of decreased public trust in the courts and other government institutions, it is important for the Wisconsin Supreme Court to stay above the partisan fighting to preserve public trust in the non-partisan nature of the Court itself.

Second, the proposed rule changes by WILL only considers partisan interests. Political parties serve a purpose in democracies such as our own. However, to consider them the end all be all public life and political expression of opinion speaks to the narrow and extremely partisan worldview of a firm like WILL. The proposed changes would lead to the exclusion of input from communities of interest, civic groups, as well as the general citizenry of our state. A great many Wisconsinites consider themselves independent of both political parties and therefore cannot legitimately have their perspective heard if the court only acknowledges arguments made by the political parties that these citizens specifically and willfully abstain from being a part of.

Third and finally, a transparent redistricting process is key to public trust. The proposed rule change by WILL does not provide the transparency that is required in next years redistricting process. The changes would limit public input and cut out important testimony and fact finding that is normally a part of the redistricting process when the courts are involved. Make no mistake in this, more people know now, in our state and nation, than ever before what gerrymandering is and the importance of redistricting and the importance of trying to keep the process as open and non-partisan or bipartisan as possible. The public will notice changes to the rules surrounding how redistricting cases are heard. WILL is seeking to cut out public input to serve their narrow and partisan worldview and are using the Wisconsin Supreme Court as their own personal weapon for doing so. Please do not allow a law firm with partisan interests at heart attempt to use pretty words to dress up their ugly motivations. Please do not allow them to weaponize public institutions for their gain. WILL is not elected or appointed and have no responsibility to the public trust, the State Supreme Court does, and I am begging you to fight to retain it. Therefore, I respectfully request that you do not adopt this rule change.

Respectfully,

Kelsey Faust

Ken Klubertanz
732 Struck St
Madison, WI 53711

Gerrymandering is immoral and should not be done. Why is it always Republicans who do this sort of crap?

Kristine MacCallum
1647 Woodland Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Dear Justices,

Fair Maps for Wisconsin is the only way that Wisconsin citizens can be assured that each and every one of their voices and their vote can be independently registered. The current system guarantees an unlikely fair election where districts are cut and pasted into advantageous voting blocks due to extreme gerrymandering.

Wisconsin's voting districts will only be justly mapped out when an impartial body is given the responsibility of creating fair maps.

Please vote to allow the creation of a fully non-partisan, impartial, unbiased fair maps board or committee to get Wisconsin back on track for fair legislative elections.

Thank you,

--Kristine MacCallum

Kathleen Madigan
209 S Douglas Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533

“Objection to Petition 20-03 Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70 (Redistricting Process)”

I worked hard in Iowa County, along with others, to help pass a referendum that supports a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for preparing fair maps. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 27 other counties have also passed similar referenda. By passing this proposed rule change, the will of the Wisconsin voters will be ignored and the voters will be further disenfranchised from a legislature that already ignores their will.

There is no good reason to eliminate the standard process of moving through the lower courts. This is where additional information can be provided to support the concerns about proposed maps. The only

reason to skip the lower courts is to shut out participation by the people, the counties who have voted for nonpartisan fair maps, which is the intention of those who proposed the amendment to this rule.

Moving directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court will cause further damage to the reputation and credibility of the Court in the eyes of Wisconsinites and the nation.

And what is the big rush? There should be at least 30 days for public comment on this rule? I can only think that the rush is being made so that the voice and votes by a large majority of Wisconsin voters who passed referenda and resolutions cannot be heard in the lower courts.

We need the process of moving through the lower courts in order not to disenfranchise a majority of Wisconsin voters

Patricia Matthew
348 McKenzie Ln.
Green Bay, WI 54311

I object to the proposed rule change for litigation of redistricting maps because it does not allow for citizen participation that a normal court proceeding would provide. It would harmfully politicize the court and does not provide for transparency.

Kelli Miller
9092 Westlake Dr.
Greendale, WI 53129

I oppose the petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty to amend Wisconsin Statute 809.70 (related to original actions). The 368p368r368o368c368e368s368s368 368i368t368 368p368r368o368p368o368s368e368s368 368f368o368r368 368h368a368n368d368l368i368n368g368 368l368e368g368a368l368 368c368h368a368l368l368e368n368g368e368s368 368t368o368 368C368o368n368g368r368e368s368s368i368o368n368a368l368 368a368n368d368 368s368t368a368t368e368 368l368e368g368i368s368l368a368t368i368v368e368 368m368a368p368s368 368i368s368 368n368o368t368 368t368h368o368r368o368u368g368h368,368 368f368a368i368r368,368 368o368r368 368t368r368a368n368s368p368a368r368e368n368t368.368 368 368B368y368 368b368y368p368a368s368s368i368n368g368 368l368o368w368e368r368 368c368o368u368r368t368s368 368a368n368d368 368a368l368l368o368w368i368n368g368 368t368h368e368 368s368t368a368t368e368 368S368u368p368r368e368m368e368 368C368o368u368r368t368 368t368o368 368c368l368a368i368m368 368j368u368r368i368s368d368i368c368t368i368o368n368 368o368n368 368a368n368y368 368r368e368d368i368s368t368r368i368c368t368i368n368g368

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Katharine Strelka
445 N Rosedale Dr
Brookfield, WI 53005

Unnecessarily partisan and will further divide. There is also not nearly enough transparency.

Kevin Finley
1354 Royal Troon Ct
Lake Geneva, WI 53147-4843

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency

Kathleen Propp
1936 HAZEL ST
OSHKOSH, WI 54901

This rule proposal is premature. I strongly prefer an independent commission like Iowa's to draw legislative maps. In past decades, the courts intervened only when the two political parties were unable to agree. The process in 2011 was highly politicized; at a minimum the 2021 process should allow for full participation by both political parties and non partisan groups with full transparency. It is a threat to democracy when Wisconsin's gerrymandering rating is off the charts.

Kathy Mulliner
2303 Sunrise Dr
La Crosse, WI 54601

Each vote should count, but rigging maps doesn't allow that. Use a non-partisan process to determine how to put out fair maps.

Susan Knight
1112 Timber Trail Ct., United States
Arbor Vitae, WI 54568

the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty ("WILL"), filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This rule will politicize the court and will not allow many groups to be part of the process. Finally, the rule does not allow enough transparency of the process. Please do not go along with this rule change.

Ruth Kolpack
3355 Riverside Drive
Beloit, Wisconsin 53511

Generating fair maps of districts in Wisconsin should be handled by nonpartisan groups and should not be subject to any decision by the Supreme Court. There are people who are willing to take on the task of re-drawing our district maps. Let them do the job.

Diane Koosed
1102 Stuntz Ave.
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

I am writing to speak out against the rule change proposed by Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) regarding procedures for new maps.

Wisconsin's citizens want a nonpartisan and transparent procedure for drawing maps. WILL's proposal would politicize the process and politicize the Supreme Court. Citizens and nonpartisan organizations will essentially be barred from fully participating in the process.

The lower courts would be bypassed if WILL's proposal were to go into effect. And yet it is the lower courts where important work takes place with additional information that needs to be considered.

And why are there less than 30 days for public comment on this rule change? Why is the process being rushed? As does the proposed rule itself, this timeline seems to lack due respect for voters' input.

WILL's proposed rule change is not acceptable.
Thank you for considering my input.

Nancy Korda
7412 Cedar Creek Trail
Madison, WI 53717

I wish to make three points in my comments on the proposed rule change:

1. The proposed rule change prevents individual voters and nonpartisan organizations from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.
 2. There is already evidence that many Wisconsin residents are concerned about the existing maps. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a more transparent and nonpartisan process for drawing maps. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair
 3. The proposed rule change also eliminates the work that occurs in lower courts which is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. The lower courts are the appropriate place where additional information can be provided by voices other than just political parties.
-

Kimberly Vrublely
7006 bluff Point Dr
Madison, WI 53718

I do not think that the state Supreme Court should take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process. this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Kevin Dohse
50906 Johnstown Rd
Soldiers Grove, WI 54655

The vote of the people should be the vote of the people, not some convoluted way to help one party win with less votes because of gerrymandering.

Kevin Revolinski
17 Sherman Terrace #4

MADISON, WI 53704

Stop politicizing the Court and excluding nonpartisan groups from full participation. Gerrymandering is ruining democracy. We demand transparency.

Kathleen Riley
615 Briarcliff Court
Hartland, WI 53029

The proposed rule that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation does not provide for a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Krista Loomans
106 Spruce Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565

I am against the proposed rule change that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on future redistricting litigation. This rule will politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Kristi Williams
3768 Bohnsack Lane
Cottage Grove, Wisconsin 53527

Please give Wisconsin residents fair maps this time. Use the Iowa process that takes it out of control by the political parties.

Kristi Lopez
119 5th Ave
New Glarus, WI 53574

I would like to see our districts fairly distributed by non partisan politics. We need to represent our constituents faitl

Kristin Lyerly
3500 Meadow Sound Drive
De Pere, WI 54115

I object to the proposed rule, because it does not allow for citizen participation that a normal court proceeding would provide.

Kristine Oconnor
2804 Cisserville Rd.
South Wayne, WI 53587

Regarding redistricting litigation filed by WILL: The proposed rule would reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or input from members of the public and groups that aren't political. This directly contradicts the preference of a majority of Wisconsin citizens to have a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process. Gerrymandering is just plain WRONG!!

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 85% of Wisconsin's citizens. The proposed rule change is a sneaky, subtle attempt to take citizens out of the process of creating the next decade's maps before it even gets started! This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Kristy DeBolt
512 School Street
Waupaca, Wisconsin 54981

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

There has been a lot of talk recently about the importance of free and fair elections. If, as a state and nation, we truly believe in this, Rule Petition 20-03 as proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) is impossible to support. It enables more political party gerrymandering and silences the voices of many citizens. If only redistricting challenges from political parties are heard by the Supreme Court eliminating nonpartisan voices, who will represent the interests of Independent voters like me who do not belong to either party? The people of Wisconsin in a large majority of counties, through referendums and resolutions, have expressed their opposition to gerrymandering no matter which party holds power. I believe the guarantee of free and fair elections is an ethical right as well as a legal one. In

my opinion, the proposed WILL Rule 20-03 clearly is in opposition to this important ideal. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Kathleen Manny
3822 N 12th St
Sheboygan, WI 53083

I am furious that in Wisconsin citizen's votes are essentially not counted because of Gerrymandering. And politicizing the court system is undermining our democracy. This new rule change is an example of just that...keeping people in power just because of Gerrymandering and a "packed court". We need to stop disenfranchising groups of people. All votes count. We are watching. This is a dangerous game being played. If you believe in our democracy you must stand up for fairness now.

Kathy Roby
329 New Market Ct.
Nekoosa, WI 54457

TO: The Wisconsin Supreme Court

RE: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

Gerrymandering is not, in itself, illegal or immoral. It is utilized by both parties to ensure they win again and again. Unfortunately, in Wisconsin, it has been taken to an extreme level.

The current maps do not reflect the political diversity across the state. The current maps account for the sizable difference between the two parties in electing congressional seats even in places where Republican and Democratic votes were evenly split in the 2016 presidential election. The current maps unfairly divide the districts to ensure Republican seats in Congress.

The existing maps are only to insulate the legislative majority from the will of the voters. The proposed Rule Petition 20-03 will guarantee that these voters will be excluded from the process. Voters need to be heard, not just political parties.

The process of redistricting should be fair and transparent. This rule will not allow that.

I strongly oppose this rule.

Kathy Roby
329 New Market Ct.

Nekoosa, WI 54457

Betty Krotzman
N6709 OCONNOR RD
NEW LISBON, WI 53950

Please make our electoral areas fair again. Gerrymandering doesn't allow true representation of the electors. It is time to realize we are only a great state and country by hearing all of our citizens with fair maps.

John Krotzman
N6709 OCONNOR RD
NEW LISBON, Wisconsin 53950

Allow our citizens to be represented fairly.

Brek Renzelman
8345 N. Poplar Dr.
Fox Point, Wisconsin 53217

The citizens of Wisconsin know the importance of our right to fair representation, and we will not stand for another ten years of politicized posturing in place of fair governance. The Wisconsin legislature, in its current form, has functioned as a wholesale bastardization of representation in this state, for the last ten years, and this was allowed to come about through the gerrymandering that took place in 2011. Don't think for a minute the voters have forgotten what was done ten years ago. You can do this the right way and allow our voices to be heard throughout the mapping process, or you can do it some other kind of way that just prolongs the problem. Either way, this partisan gerrymandering will end.

Elizabeth Kruck
S 5277 Mound Ridge Road
Genoa, Wisconsin 54632

Comment on Wisconsin Supreme Court Rule Petition 20-03

The proposed Rule Petition 20-03 is a political maneuver which would be a detriment to fair, transparent and democratic procedures of government. Our country was founded on the principles of a representative democracy. This democracy depends on transparency, an involved and informed

citizenry, and equal access to the powers of government and opportunities for judicial redress when necessary.

The proposed rule change does not allow for the process of lower court review, evidence collection and competing arguments that help inform citizens of all sides of an issue. The procedures of the lower courts provide necessary public information required of an informed citizenry and provides an opportunity for citizen representation.

The rule change politicizes the valued state Supreme Court and reduces the redistricting process to political battles of partisan political parties. Our state deserves better. Our constitution does not dictate a partisan procedure. We do not need a partisan activist court.

The rule change eliminates the voices represented by nonpartisan good government organizations and allows input only to partisan political parties. Drawing legislative and congressional district boundaries affects every citizen in the state. Eliminating the standing of nonpartisan organizations and individuals threatens the rights to fair representation. This rule change of procedure in judicial proceedings reduces the substantive rights of any litigant.

Thank you for your careful consideration of Rule Petition 20-03 which I urge you to reject.

Kathy Sampson
S78W20417
Muskego, WI 53150

Please do not approve a modification to state statute 809.70 regarding redistricting challenges in the courts. We live in a highly partisan country now and transparency and process are increasingly important. This issue is of particular concern and any modification would make the Supreme Court appear to be engaging in political influencing. Keep the WI Supreme Court honest and unbiased.

Kellie Sanders
N20W25021 Hughes Trail
Pewaukee, WI 53072

I encourage the WI Supreme Court to support an impartial, transparent method of drawing voting district maps. The drawing of voting maps should not be a secretive process and should provide transparency to the public to assure that the creation of voting maps are as impartial as possible. Gerrymandering is a practice that should be legislated to become illegal since it is an unethical practice whichever party is in charge of drawing the voting maps.

Thanks for considering my comments,

Kellie Sanders

Kathleen Kelley
10179 County Road O
Shullsburg, WI 53586

Please no rule that would create a fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases. The rule would undermine our system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process.

Wisconsin citizens must have a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process.

Kim Fredricks
4382 Mariah Dr S
La Crosse, WI 54601

I oppose Rule Petition 20-03. I do not believe there is sufficient transparency, the rule will politicize the Court, and it excludes non-partisan groups from full participation. The WILL petition, in Section 5(b), requires only that the political parties be heard by the Court in any dispute over the maps. It does not allow room, explicitly at least, for groups that have a longstanding interest in this issue to be heard. Redistricting is not simply a dispute between the parties. The establishment of a record at the lower court level would enhance transparency and enable the citizens of Wisconsin to grasp the evidence in the case and the competing arguments as they wend their way through the courts.

Kiley Kilkenny
426 Zida Street
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This action limits the review of maps and rushes the process. You are well aware that the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. The citizens of Wisconsin demand a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, and an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review that will NOT harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Kurt Wilkens

W872 Leslie Ln
Green Lake, Wisconsin 54941

Nov. 19 2020

Re: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

In 2010 the district maps were drawn up and passed with very little or no transparency. The results of elections since have been very strongly affected and resulted in misrepresentation. By 2018 54% of the popular vote were for Democratic candidates but representation in the state assembly was only 36%. The Republican popular vote was 46% but resulted in 64% of the State Assembly. I think the numbers speak for themselves.

The maps for the next 10 years should better reflect the will of the people and the procedures in drawing them should be visible to the citizens they will represent. I believe this is the responsibility of the State Legislature and Governor.

It looks to me like the proposed rule change would put the decision in the hands of the members of the State Supreme Court and would lack the transparency and public input these decisions merit. The Supreme Court should protect the established system and the rights of all citizens and not be infringing on the powers of the Legislature.

This looks like a power grab by a partisan Court to influence the outcome of our democratic elections for the next decade.

Kurt Wilkens
W872 Leslie Ln.
Green Lake, Wi. 54941
920 570 2181

Kathi Winker
1504 14th Ave
Monroe, WI 53566

Please listen to the majority of the population in WI and make district maps fair for voting. Using unbiased participants in developing fair voting districts is only right for our state!

Kyle Bladow
523 Chapple Ave #3
Ashland, WI 54806

Please oppose the rule change petition submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty. This proposed change would be unfair and would work against the public interest, as it would reduce transparency in redistricting and could exclude nonpartisan interests. Citizens deserve to have a say in map redistricting that would affect them. Please oppose this petition, and thank you for your service to our state and its citizens.

Louise Petering
7229 N Santa Monica Blvd
Fox Point, Wisconsin 53217

As Justices elected by the people of Wisconsin to the highest court in Wisconsin, I urge you to reject the petition requesting that the state Supreme Court assume the role of original jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. Serving as the court of original jurisdiction deprives you Justices seated on Wisconsin's Supreme Court of the discovery of lower courts and mocks the inherent value of our Wisconsin Court System with its Circuit Courts, Courts of Appeals and the highest court on which you are seated, the Supreme Court of Wisconsin.

In addition, please reject the petition since it stifles the public voice by disallowing membership groups to which they belong to be heard. Section 3 of the very first Article of our Wisconsin Constitution provides the right of "Free Speech." Eliminating the input of citizens in their right to choose their representative deprives the people of their voice..

Abridging normal court processes for the political convenience of one party over others as proposes in this petition is highly dangerous to our democracy. Absent Circuit Court and Appeals Court discovery of evidence so critical to an informed decision, this Wisconsin Supreme Court and any future Supreme Court would - without their own deep discovery - be deprived of information required for an informed, fair, and impartial decisions protective of the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin.

Silencing the people in court processes, rendering voting maps non-representative, and abridging normal court processes all strike at the heart of our democracy.

The petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation must be rejected if democracy is to prevail.

Jill LaBarbera
3321 Fairfax St
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Please allow nonpartisan groups to have a voice in the drawing of fair maps in Wisconsin. The majority of people in this state have expressed their desire to eliminate gerrymandering and take politics out of the drawing our maps.

Jill LaBarbera
3321 Fairfax St
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Allowing a partisan group to rewrite the procedures does not allow for transparency and public input. Fair maps will restore public trust in the system which currently is broken.

Shayne LaBudda
151 North Tyler Street
Lancaster, WI 53813

Opposition to Rule Petition 20-03

As a lifetime resident of Wisconsin I would like to register my opposition to Rule Petition 20-03 made by Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL). My interest is in an open, transparent process that engages all citizens in how our legislative districts are drawn. The more input, the better. WILL's petition is contrary to transparency. Do not admit this petition's influence on such a vital cornerstone of democracy.

Shayne A LaBudda

Lauren Engen
W4772 S. Pearl Lake Rd
Redgranite, Wisconsin 54970

I am writing to oppose the adoption of this rule regarding establishing new legislative maps. Redistricting is NOT about the Democratic and Republican parties; it's about the communities of the people of Wisconsin! In referenda across the state, we have expressed our desire that a non-partisan group be established to draw the new maps. WE CARE about this! To adopt a rule that precludes citizen input and participation in the process is WRONG! Please do NOT establish this proposed rule. Thank you for reading.

Timothy Lanari
118 Martin Place
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

I am writing in opposition to the proposed rule change which would take disputed redistricting maps directly to litigation in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The shortened process of by-passing our lower courts would not allow for fact finding in the disputes and would exclude substantial input from citizens and non-profit groups. It would eliminate transparency in the redistricting process. Redistricting is a complex and difficult task of government and is fundamental to one person/one vote. Adopting this rule change risks increased politicalization of the court, increased polarization of our political processes and decrease in citizen's trust. The vast majority of counties in our state have passed board resolutions and referendum in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process.

Patricia Lanari
118 Martin Place
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

I am writing in opposition to the proposed rule change which would take disputed redistricting maps directly to litigation in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The shortened process of by-passing our lower courts would not allow for fact finding in the disputes and would exclude substantial input from citizens and non-profit groups. It would eliminate transparency in the redistricting process. Redistricting is a complex and difficult task of government and is fundamental to one person/one vote. Adopting this rule change risks increased politicalization of the court, increased polarization of our political processes and decrease in citizen's trust. The vast majority of counties in our state have passed board resolutions and referendum in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process.

Lance Kammerud
20815 State Road 78
Blanchardville, WI 53516

Put an end to Republicans rigging the voting districts. Make them fair

Lance Kammerud
20815 State Road 78
Blanchardville, WI 53516

STOP REPUBLICANS GERRYMANDERING IMMEDIATELY!!! Fair maps are long overdue

Larry Sieb
N6521 Shorewood Hills Rd

Lake Mills, WI 53551

RE: Rules Petition 20-03 Relating to legal challenges to redistricting

I oppose the the Rules Petition 20-03 which requires nearly any legal action about future redistricting maps to go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court for the following three reasons.

1. The change eliminates the current due process involving other state trial courts. These courts develop a record which includes evidence and testimony from many parties. Eliminating the current process limits the review of the maps and rushes the process. The Court would not be able to take advantage of the information produced by the other trials. As a result the Court's deliberation would be limited by only the information presented by the political parties presenting the maps.
2. The current process allows for nonpartisan groups to be heard including membership groups such as unions, nonprofit public interest organizations and concerned citizens. The Rule 20-03 Petition only allows partisan interests to be heard. Establishing a record at the lower court level enhances transparency and enables Wisconsin citizens to follow the evidence and competing arguments as the case moves through the courts.
3. Allowing only partisan interests to present to the Court politicizes the process and the Court. Inserting the Court into a partisan conflict without any nonpartisan testimony being heard or evidence presented threatens the reputation and Institutional Integrity of the Court. The danger is that the court may be perceived as another political branch instead of a neutral arbitrator between political actors.

In summary, there is no reason to rush to adopt Rules Petition 20-03. Please consider the benefits of the current process and the impact of losing those benefits when making your decision.

Respectfully,
Larry Sieb
N6521 Shorewood Hills Rd
Lake Mills, WI 53551

Neil Howk
105 S 7th St
Bayfield, WI 54814-4794

I am opposed to the proposed rule to fast-track the process for handling redistricting cases. It seems to me that this proposal will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and have insufficient transparency measures.

Kathleen Larson
W3363 6th St E
NEKOOSA, WI 54457

The Supreme Court should not have jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Laura Christianson
802 Flora Lane
Madison, Wisconsin 53714

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This action limits the review of maps and rushes the process. You are well aware that the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. The citizens of Wisconsin demand a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, and an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review that will NOT harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Laura Straus
9715 North Courtland Drive
Mequon, WI 53092

I oppose this proposed rule for the simple reason that the Wisconsin Supreme Court is not a trial court. Trial courts are where the record is developed and where facts are flushed out. The WI Supreme Court is simply not the forum for development of a record on these cases.

Laura Vuchetich
7135 N Barnett Ln
Milwaukee, WI 53217

I respectfully request that the Supreme Court reject the proposed Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. If adopted, it will reduce transparency in the expected legal challenges to the 2021 redistricting process and maps. It will also reduce or completely restrict access to the courts by groups other than political entities, which would unnecessarily politicize the Supreme Court's decision-

making process vis-a-vis maps. At this time in our society where trust in our governmental institutions is at an all-time low, the Court should, if anything, be increasing transparency and access, but certainly not reducing them. Similarly, the entire redistricting process is so fraught with suspicion and rancor, the public deserves for the process to proceed with calm deliberation, allowing the various challenges to wend their way through all levels of the judiciary, openly and transparently. Finally, for its own historical legacy, the Court should desire to be seen as nonpartisan; but adopting this rule would do the opposite.

Lauren Hofland
329 SAINT CLAIR AVE
SHEBOYGAN, WI 530813560

WILL has repeatedly petitioned the State for legislation and policies that advance an agenda designed to disenfranchise voters and disempower progressive elected and appointed officials. This is no exception. Fair maps is the most important voter access issue in the State of Wisconsin. Gerrymandering has provided an unfair advantage to the Republican party, and the proposal suggested by WILL runs contrary to the important strides being undertaken by the People's Map Commission.

Lauren Thuli
4160 Rohowetz Rd.
Dodgeville, WI 53533

I firmly believe that redistricting in our state should be done in an independent and non-partisan manner (and not as advised by WILL). Iowa County, the county I live in, passed a resolution urging that redistricting be done in a fair, non-partisan way. Thank you.

Elizabeth Laux
303 S Walnut Street
Appleton, WI 54911

I realize this is after the deadline, but on the outside chance this will be seen, I'm going to write because it is still November 22, 2020. I was there in 2011 when a group of the GOP hired a consultant and locked themselves in a room to draw the redistricting lines down to the house number in favor of the the Republican, pretty much making my vote null and void where it concerns local races. The lines of districts need to be drawn fairly so every person's vote counts. It's a travesty.

LaVonne McCombie
715 Wisconsin St

Hudson, WI 54016

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices,

Our constitution does not state that drawing district voting maps should be the hands of the State Supreme Court.. It is the duty of the Legislature to draw FAIR maps. Of course, that is not what happened in Wisconsin as we now have the most gerrymandered districts in the entire nation. The citizens of Wisconsin have overwhelmingly voted to have districts drawn fairly and legally by a non-partisan commission. If Iowa can do it why can't Wisconsin? Each and every vote needs to count. We need to be able to elect our representatives instead of them electing their constituents. Please do not allow a partisan court to decide who we can vote for.

Wayde Lawler
E11472 Chadwick Hollow Road
Viola, WI 54664

Justices of the Supreme Court of WI: The petition filed on June 2, 2020 by Scott Jensen and Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) should be denied for the following reasons: 1) The proposed rule grants to political parties the right to intervene in redistricting cases, but does not grant that same right to non-partisan organizations that represent citizens. Such organizations have been a critical bulwark against discriminatory electoral maps in the past, and to exclude them from the proposed rule leaves "we the people" without access to non-partisan representation of our interests in such cases; 2) The proposed rule defines as optional its own requirements of the court in any redistricting case, leaving the transparency and accountability of the process highly vulnerable; and, 3) Unnecessarily and dangerously politicizes the court

Luke Bechen
6315 Quarry Vista Dr, Apt 115
Fitchburg, WI 53719

Litigation should go through fact finding in lower courts where public, nonprofits and others can also weigh in. By going directly to the Supreme Court, all that is waived and only political parties have opportunity to testify. The Supreme Court should NOT be changing the rules so that people and smaller organizations are being left out the debate.

Mary Boettcher
4967 COUNTY ROAD F
Black Earth, WI 53515

The rule change regarding fair map lawsuits bypassing lower courts and going directly to the WI Supreme Court should not be allowed. A large majority of WI citizens want a nonpartisan process for drawing fair voting maps and this would eliminate their voices from the process if they feel the maps were unfairly drawn. The rule change is not good government and I object.

Leigh Cagan
3850 Lady Fern Court
Verona, WI 53593

I encourage you to DENY the WILL rule petition which, if granted, will further politicize our court and make it less likely that elections will represent the will of the people.

Linda Candlin
1018 Hampshire Pl
Madison, WI 53711

This rule change would harmfully politicize the Court, exclude non partisan groups from participating and has insufficient transparent measures.

Ruth Caves
N5758 State Road 22
Wild Rose, WI 54984

November 22, 2020

N5758 State Road 22
Wild Rose, WI 54984

Dear Justices of the Wisconsin State Supreme Court,
I am writing on behalf of myself and my husband, Larry Caves, regarding Rule Petition 20-03, relating to legal challenges to redistricting. We are adamantly opposed to this idea and feel the redistricting should follow accepted legal processes. There is no reason for the rule to have been proposed other than to promote the interests of those who proposed it.

Sincerely, Ruth Caves

Lisa Conley
516 Lac La Belle Dr
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

I wholeheartedly object to the proposed petition which would short-circuit what should be a public process to establish Wisconsin voting districts. Our current map of legislative districts was done without a fair, open and bipartisan process, and the result has been a huge the level of frustration experienced by individuals, organizations, communities and alike. This is well reflected in the number of Wisconsin municipalities and counties which have passed resolutions in favor of a non-partisan, more open process in the coming year.

Please do not validate this attempt at an end run around the People's Maps commission work - a process that would inform and shine sunlight on the map creation process.

Please deny this petition and the effort to rush a process that will result in maps we all have to live with for the next 10 years. I would hate to see Wisconsin listed once again as one of the worst gerrymandered states of our great nation.

Most sincerely,
Lisa Conley

Mike Leasure
416 S Orchard St.
Madison, WI 53715

My wife and I moved our growing family to Wisconsin seeking new opportunities. We had the great blessing of being able to go anywhere in this country we wanted to and we chose Wisconsin. We have no ties here, simply a natural affinity for this wonderful place. The selling point for us was and still is the people of this state. While living in multiple other parts of the country, I've always held Wisconsin in high esteem for its government's past track record of bipartisanship and strong identity as a state.

To give you a little more background on me, I'm a family doctor - one who strives to practice medicine in a way that meets people where they are at, regardless of their age or life situation. When I look at my elected leaders, in any branch of government, I expect them to meet their constituents' needs in just the same way.

In order to do that effectively, there has to be enough time and space for the conversations needed to address our most challenging problems and questions. When I look at this proposed rule change, I see an obvious attempt to subvert a healthy, democratic dialogue. It's obvious to me, as I expect it is to you, that this is an undisguised effort to bypass the input of many to help entrench the voices of a few. Why would you rush something as consequential as drawing the legislative maps that determine how the people's votes are reflected in the make-up of our government? It's plain to see that only partisan

interest groups and self-serving politicians would advocate for and benefit from such an unscrupulous scheme.

I am not a judge by trade, but I can imagine the responsibility that comes with taking an oath as a judge is similar to mine as a physician. First and foremost, I am aware that judges are expected to be impartial in their judgments. If only individuals representing the two political parties have a seat at the table, how can judges make an informed, impartial decision on this matter? What happens to the rest of our society who doesn't clearly identify with either of the two major political parties' preferences and goals? In my estimation, a large segment of our population becomes disenchanted with the entire process and the government's credibility is further eroded. When considering issues of process in politics, inclusiveness should always be the overarching goal. Government leaders should bend over backwards to ensure that each citizen of this state feels like they have a stake in this consequential matter.

As I mentioned earlier, I'm relatively new to this state. Something that has been quite a shock to me is just how politicized the Supreme Court in Wisconsin seems to be. Of all the states I've lived in, which include conservative Texas and liberal Oregon and Washington, I have never witnessed a court that has so blatantly interfered with the other branches of government in the state. I honestly didn't know that this type of behavior was allowable in the United States. I have a background in political science and have learned about justice systems in Latin America before. The state of Wisconsin's high court reminds me of the illiberal institutions that are the norm in many countries throughout both Central and South America. That is not a compliment. The good news is that it doesn't have to be this way. The court can take a stand and assert itself as a neutral arbiter. Trust can be regained, though it will take time. Making unequivocal decisions in the interest of the people of this state will help demonstrate to individuals of all backgrounds that the WI Supreme Court is here to protect the constitutional rights of the people of this state.

For the sake of my young family, for the sake of my patients, for the sake of every citizen of this great state, please reject this blind attempt to further stymie robust political debate. The future of this state and our country depends on citizens and those in power taking a stand against blatant partisanship - we must turn the tide on authoritarian power plays before it's too late.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lena Eng
13330 Kirkwood Dr.
New Berlin, WI 53151

November 20, 2020

Wisconsin Supreme Court

P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

Re: Rule Petition 809.70 submitted by Wisconsin Law and Liberty (WILL) as it pertains to redistricting lawsuits

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

As a lifelong Republican voter, Christian, and 29-year Waukesha County resident, I am writing to provide my comments on the petition submitted by WILL to change the legal procedures related to redistricting. Even though at face value, these rule changes might benefit the party that I typically vote for, I am compelled to speak up and demand fairness in our election system, which includes lawsuits as it relates to redistricting.

Our Founding Fathers wisely designed the judiciary branch of government to be independent. It is unfortunate how the courts are perceived to become politicized in recent years. I hope that your court will prove to be impartial and independent by rejecting this rule change because it goes against the foundational principles of our Constitution:

(indent quote) "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Please seriously consider the intent/motive behind and impact of WILL's rules change request. Will it lead to better representation for "We the People"? Will it help or hinder us from forming "a more perfect Union?" Will it lead to "Justice" i.e., a just system of redistricting? My conclusion is that these proposals may unfortunately cement the politicization of redistricting. Redistricting shouldn't be - and was implicitly never designed to be - political at all. I believe that our Founding Fathers expected elected officials to act with ethical values of integrity and fairness. These rule change proposals also leave out many voices of the people who do not closely identify with a political party, as well as communities of interest who care about redistricting. These rule proposals will also lead to further contempt between the two parties, hindering cooperation and collaboration which is needed for an effective, functional government.

In Dr. Arthur Brooks' book, "Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from the Culture of Contempt," the former president of the American Enterprise Institute shares an African proverb: when the elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers. All of us are paying a heavy price right now because our party leaders cannot work well together.

Let us all strive for a more perfect union. You are in a position to help us do that. Thank you for your service and for your consideration of my comments.

Kind Regards,

Lena Eng
13330 Kirkwood Dr.
New Berlin, WI 53151

Leo Kucek
N5882 Harvey Rd
Lake Mills, WI 53551

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

RE: Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty petition

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

I am writing in response to the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) petition to revise the procedures for legal challenges to redistricting. The petition by WILL is inappropriate, and I request that the current procedures for redistricting litigation remain unchanged.

Voters should be able to choose their representatives, rather than politicians and political parties choosing their voters. Until a nonpartisan commission is established to determine these boundaries, the task will unfortunately be left to politicians in the executive and legislative branches. The judiciary is then the closest body we have to a nonpartisan arbiter of any likely disagreement.

Establishing district boundaries is inherently complex, but that requires sufficient time and perspective for experts and citizens to provide commentary on proposed changes. To conduct a comprehensive legal review of the proposed changes, the judiciary should be allowed its normal process: review challenges in the lower courts, gather evidence and information, and allow for appeals as necessary. This process provides sufficient time for a careful review of diverse perspectives to provide relevant information. The revisions proposed in the petition by WILL would deprive the Court of all relevant information, expertise, diverse perspectives, and time to provide a comprehensive review and ruling.

We rely on a nonpartisan judiciary to provide rulings that will be widely accepted across the political spectrum. The proposed rule changes by WILL are inherently partisan, and the Wisconsin Supreme Court should reject them.

Sincerely,

Leo Kucek
N5882 Harvey Rd
Lake Mills, WI 53551

Andrea Lerum
209 Reigstad Street
DeForest, WI 53532

Please stop this ridiculousness. My village of DeForest, with a population of almost 11,000 has been carved into 3 districts. It is ridiculous for a village this size to be divided like this. We've had to switch where we vote twice in the last 10 years because of this silliness. Democrats and Republicans need to stop this, work together and figure this out. Enough is enough!

Leslie Wegener
117 Spruce Place
Stoddard, Wisconsin 54658

Comment on Wisconsin Supreme Rule Petition 20-03, regarding legal challenges to redistricting in Wisconsin

I wish to register my opposition to this proposed rule, which if adopted would have a chilling effect on achieving a less partisan, more transparent redistricting process in Wisconsin.

Wis. Stat. § 751.12(1) states that rules which the supreme court promulgates to regulate pleading, practice, and procedure in judicial proceedings shall not abridge, enlarge, or modify the substantive rights of any litigant.

Rule Petition 20-03 would affect the procedural rights of every Wisconsin citizen by eliminating the lower court review and appeal process. To do so would be denying citizens both time and access to evidence relating to legal challenges, putting a stranglehold on transparency and eroding public trust.

Rule Petition 20-03 would affect the substantive rights of every Wisconsin citizen by restricting their participation in any legal challenge, as it requires only the political parties to be heard by the Court in

any dispute over voting maps and district boundaries. Revoking the standing of nonpartisan entities and individuals who do not align with any political party would effectively lock them out of the process and diminish our judiciary as a neutral branch of government.

Establishing legislative and congressional district boundaries for voting in Wisconsin elections is a process whose outcome affects every citizen in the state. Our right to witness, review and participate in redistricting efforts – and seek judicial remedy if partisan interests threaten fair representation – should not be modified or curtailed.

It is my understanding the Court has previously rejected rule petitions on this topic; I urge you to maintain your position and reject the similarly flawed Petition 20-03 as well.

11/22/20

Linda Evenson
2600 County Road JJ
Neenah, Wisconsin 54956

In 2009 the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Shirley Lewis
2582 N. Prospect Ave.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

The district maps NEED TO BE REDRAWN, so our elections are Fair & if Democrats get MORE VOTES, they should win the seat NOT Republicans, because of the way maps are Drawn.

LeAnne Fredrick
N766 ERV MARY DR
OCONOMOWOC, WI 53066

Honorable Jurists:

I implore you to not approve a modification to state statute 809.70 regarding redistricting challenges in the courts. We live in a highly partisan country now and transparency and process are increasingly

important. Any modification at this time would make the Wisconsin Supreme Court appear to be engaging in political influence. Our Wisconsin Supreme Court must be honest and unbiased in all things.

Laura Gottlieb
212 Highland Avenue
Madison, WI 53705

I write to urge WI Supreme Court justices to reject the rule proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty that would pre-rig the process for the drawing of legislative and congressional district maps and likely lead to another gerrymander in Wisconsin. By leapfrogging over trial courts and appeals courts directly to the WI Supreme Court, the legal challenges to proposed redistricting maps, as proposed by WILL, would eliminate the customary and necessary legal procedures of discovery and fact-finding, as well as testimony from many involved parties. The proposed rule also gives the Court leeway to disregard the procedures and requirements laid out in the rule itself, thus eliminating any rules and procedures at all, if such is the Court's decision. This does not seem like a sound way to render legal decisions that would set precedents for the future. Perhaps the most upsetting and undemocratic part of this proposed rule change is that it limits testimony solely to partisan political bodies. It is the people of Wisconsin who suffer most from what has been quite accurately described as its 2011 "hyper-partisan gerrymandering"—and neither they, nor those nonprofit groups or membership organizations concerned with drawing fair redistricting maps would be allowed to testify about the effects new redistricting maps would have on them. I urge you to reject this proposed rule and to abide by the rules already in place which allow legal challenges to redistricting maps to go through the customary and necessary legal channels before reaching the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Ginny and Larry White
71 Oak Creek Trail
Madison, WI 53717

We are writing in opposition to the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty's (WILL) proposed rule concerning the drawing of legislative and congressional maps. We object to it because:

1. WILL is a conservative organization asking a conservative majority of the Wisconsin Supreme Court to support this rule. Redistricting is already highly politicized and controversial. If the Supreme Court chooses to short-circuit the litigation process, it will reinforce citizens' perception that the court is biased.
2. The rule is unnecessary, as a reasonable process already exists.

3. The rule puts redistricting litigation on a fast track to the Supreme Court and precludes the orderly and thoughtful consideration of maps by lower courts.
4. The rule reduces involvement by citizens and public interest groups, i.e., “the people” part of “government of the people, by the people, and for the people”. Fair redistricting requires transparency and participation by stakeholders at all levels.
5. The rule undermines our judicial system. There is simply no justification for treating this rule differently than other litigation.

Elizabeth Falck
410 Quarry Ln
Neenah, WI 54956

Enough is enough! Wisconsinites deserve a democracy that works by creating FAIR maps. Nonpartisan organizations and the public should be able to be part of that process.

Thomas Schmidt
N5137 Butternut Ct.
Juneau, Wisconsin 53039

Please receive my opinion on Gerrymandered Districts in Wisconsin. Sen. Fitzgerald arranged the Districts to benefit Republican Politicians rather than the People. Unfair to the Voters and citizens of Wisconsin. Please change this unfair practice.

Linda Bernhardt
125 Highpoint Circle
Platteville, WI 53818

RE: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

I oppose Rule Petition 20-03. Redistricting is very important to citizens of WI, who have demonstrated by voting in Democrats at the Administrative levels. Polls show citizens of WI are opposed to gerrymandered districts and want Fair Maps drawn this time around. Do not allow the proposed rule that would interfere with drawing fair district maps.

This time, the legislature needs to be transparent and follow the law for fair maps without an end run to the courts.

Linda Budziszewski
5014 Raymond Road
Madison, WI 53711

I am writing regarding the proposed rule change before the Wisconsin Supreme Court which would require any lawsuit about future maps go directly to the Supreme Court, bypassing the lower courts. I oppose this rule change for the following reasons:

1. Why make this change? Why should a political party be able to take cases directly to the Supreme Court? The lower courts should be allowed to do their job.
2. This rule change would politicize the Supreme Court and further damage its credibility in the eyes of the public. In these divisive political times it is even more important for the Supreme Court to be perceived as non-partisan.
3. If lower courts are bypassed, citizens lose their voice. Private citizens should have standing in lawsuits that impact their lives and by bypassing the lower courts, citizens lose.

Linda Tollefsrud
2061 18th Street
Rice Lake, WI 54868

Wisconsin deserves Fair Maps. Voters should choose their representatives, not vice versa. Please do what you can to end gerrymandering (by any political party)

Linda Vivoda-Sadée
583 Wyngate Dr
River Falls, WI 54022

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process.

The proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Linda Bjella
1333 North Lake Ct.
Appleton, WI 54913

I strenuously object to this rule change. It is abundantly clear that Wisconsinites oppose gerrymandering. The grassroots opposition has been growing and intensifying since 2011. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude any public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support. Circumventing the normal federal court process for these cases risks excluding the voices of the majority of our state's citizens who oppose the current gerrymandered maps. Furthermore, adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed. Why change that position now? Redistricting is one of the most complex and difficult tasks of government and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person / one vote which is the very foundation of our democracy. This complex process should never be rushed. On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent redistricting process.

Linda Blohowiak
N1829 S Saint Augustine St
Pulaski, WI 54162

I am writing concerning Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I am not in favor of this rule. I support legislation that would create a non-partisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional district maps. I understand that Wisconsin is one of the most gerrymandered states in the country. Thank you for your time.

Linda Heintz
3606 S Pine Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53207

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a white retired professional woman who has lived in the city of Milwaukee most of my life. When I started voting in 1976, the first year I was eligible, I believed that my vote counted. I naively trusted in an equitable system, designed to give voice equally to all citizens. In the 40 plus years since then I have

continued to vote in almost every election, but my confidence in an equitable system has eroded dramatically.

That confidence is not bolstered in any way when I read reports of political parties picking and choosing border lines of districts by household, generated by computer programs designed to grossly favor their party statewide. It is not bolstered when I witness the results of that manipulation in a legislature that feels emboldened to refuse to address the impact on Wisconsin citizens during our current pandemic, because they know it won't impact their ability to get re-elected.

I understand that there is now a petition before the Supreme Court to change the rules of the redistricting process with regard to legal challenges in such a way that sidesteps trial courts. Why? To what, or more importantly, whose benefit would it be to rush the process in this way? Will this assure that all the facts that shape the challenges will have been discovered and disclosed, before legal conclusions are reviewed appropriately by the Court? Will this assure that all Wisconsinites have an equal voice in our vote when redistricting is complete?

I also understand that this new rule only gives standing to partisan input and potentially would exclude any non-partisan input. Again, why? How does that give me and my neighbors equal standing in our votes? Not everyone is a member of the Republican or of the Democratic party.

At one time the Wisconsin Supreme Court was once known as a neutral arbitrator of political disagreements. It's disturbing to me that in the last 10-15 years I've watched an erosion of that neutrality and deeply fear that this slide will only continue.

The proposed rule does not provide adequate information to, or input from, the public. The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting process failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could be heard. I see nothing in this proposal that addresses this concern, nothing that would increase my confidence in our system. In fact the opposite is true.

I urge you to only consider changes that would increase the transparency of the redistricting process. Rather than rush the process, let's do everything we can to assure that it enables fairness and gives every Wisconsin citizen's vote equal weight. I don't see how this rule change achieves those objectives. Please start restoring my confidence in our system and reject this rule change proposal.

Thank you.

Linda M Heintz

LINDA HERSCHER
2312 N COUNTY ROAD F
BIRCHWOOD, Wisconsin 54817-3088

I am opposed to the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty's petition asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to adopt a rule that would create a behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases. The rule would undermine our system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process. It would reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to avoid the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or approve maps without hearing proper evidence or input from members of the public.

Linda Reid
904 East Pearson St Unit 403
Milwaukee, WI 53202

I am very concerned about the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation, limiting the review of maps and rush the process.

The citizens of Wisconsin should have a say in redistricting, not only the politicians. In addition, we the process needs to be fully transparent.

Linda Wilkens
w872 Leslie Ln
Green Lake, WI 54941

November 19, 2020

Re: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

I strongly oppose Rule Petition 20 -03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I do not understand why the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) has the right to petition the Supreme Court to pass a rule that would be a power grab for the State Supreme Court. I also do not understand why the State Supreme Court would even listen to this petition.

It is obvious to me that WILL does not respect the way redistricting is traditionally done, wants to avoid input from nonprofit public interest groups and concerned citizens, and wants control to be in the hands of a conservative State Supreme Court. I am sure they believe the rulings of this court would favor the interests of WILL.

Is the role of the State Supreme Court now to be an arm of special interest groups? It sounds like that is what this petition means. What other special interest groups will petition the courts to rule in their favor, because they believe the courts can be swayed.

We need an independent Supreme Court in Wisconsin that all Wisconsinites can rely on to be fair and impartial.

Linda Wilkens
W872 Leslie Ln
Green Lake, WI 54941
920 570 2182

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Linda Wilkens
W872 Leslie Ln

Green Lake, WI 54941
920 570 2182

Linda Spaulding
3023 25th ST
Kenosha, WI 53144

Please draw election districts that provide equitable distribution -equitable representation in the state legislature. GET RID OF GERRYMANDERING!

Linda Birder
420 Hilltop Drive
Green Bay, WI 54301

I write to ask this court to reject the proposed rule, because it will not improve the districting process and will further undermine citizen's confidence in the system. Rushing the dispute to the Supreme Court and limiting the parties will deprive the court of the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review. Allowing the Supreme Court to ignore all procedures will make the process look very political and decrease public trust in this Court. Wisconsin citizens want the districting process to be open and transparent. This is supported by the fact that all referendums (28 counties and 19 municipalities) asking for a nonpartisan commission to create Wisconsin districts passed, a majority with over 70% of the vote. Wisconsin needs to have confidence in our systems and the best way to ensure that is for this Court to make no last-minute change to the process and simply allow the issues relating to districting to go through the normal court procedure.

Linda Kortuem
540 Maple St
Glenwood City, Wisconsin 54013

We do not feel that we have appropriate representation for our district.

Lindsay Atkinson
2418 N 70th Street
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53213

Please ensure that redistricting efforts will be inclusive, nonpartisan and transparent by listening and hearing from nonpartisan organizations, unions and membership groups. Map creation needs to be nonpartisan to ensure all voices are fairly represented and heard.

Melinda Osman
107 E. Reynolds Street, Unit 204
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

Jane

The people of Wisconsin have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. Legislators are not listening. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair.

The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. This is where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps. This rule change further politicizes the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its credibility in the eyes of the public.

This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary. Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to assuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency, There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being rushed and I demand a 60 day continuance.

Lindsey Baris
W7901 830TH AVE
RIVER FALLS, WI 54022

Please allow the process of redistricting maps to be transparent and allow civic input and nonpartisan organizations to be able to present research and information. We need fair maps for the democracy of our country.

Lisa Goglio-Zarczynski
1224 E Warnimont Ave

MILWAUKEE, WI 53207

As a League of Women Voters active member which is non partisan and long time Wi voting resident, I do not support this legislation that would politicize and disenfranchise constintuents input on mapping and fair representation for all. I do not support moving forwrd on this to exclude residents of WI from being fairly heard and represented in the courts.

Lisa Kucek
N5882 Harvey Rd
Lake Mills, WI 53551

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

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

RE: Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty petition

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

I am writing out of concern for the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) petition to change rules concerning legal challenges to redrawing district maps. I request that the current process for redistricting litigation remain unchanged.

Drawing lines is of utmost importance to democracy. The proposed changes by WILL prevent adequate time, input, and clear procedures for the legal process. Especially problematic is that the proposed changes exclude input from citizens and nonpartisan groups. The Court would not have the necessary facts and viewpoints needed to conduct an appropriate legal review. In consequence, the proposed rule changes would weaken democracy.

Maintaining nonpartisan courts is of utmost importance to the balance of power in our government. The proposed rule changes place a partisan matter clearly before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. In consequence, the proposed rule changes would lead to corruption.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kucek
N5882 Harvey Rd
Lake Mills, WI 53551

Lisette Aldrich
506 East First Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

I'm sure there is an algorithm that can carve out districts without being partisan. Our current system is not working.

Lawrence Bowden
1232 Cody Pkwy
Platteville, WI 53818

I support public input and Fair Maps.

Richard Moninski
P.O. Box 249
Mineral Point, WI 53565

The proposed rule change on redistricting from Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty would result in lessening transparency and would shut out non-political groups and the public at large from giving input as part of the process. The proposal undermines the stated preferences of a strong majority of Wisconsin citizens, who want legislative districts drawn in a less partisan manner. Please vote against WILL's petition.

Elizabeth Vitse
1677 2nd Ave
Grafton, WI 53024

We need a transparent and nonpartisan process for reviewing redistricting in Wisconsin. The proposed rule requested by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty runs counter to this need by rushing the process, limiting the review of maps, limiting the ability of nonpartisan groups to be heard by the Court, and failing to include provisions for public transparency. Additionally, it appears likely to further harmfully politicize the Court. I urge you not to adopt this rule.

Elizabeth Bothfeld
3344 Rohowetz rd

Dodgeville, WI 53533

To the honorable members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court: in objection to petition 20-03 proposed amendment to rule 809.70

The people of WI from BOTH political parties have overwhelmingly voted to support a clear, transparent and NON PARTISAN way to draw up district voting maps.

We as citizens want to be involved and there appears to be no good reason to limit public comments to less than 30 days. The process should continue to include the lower courts.

When we finally have some agreement from both Republicans and Democrats it seems particularly sinister and underhanded to make an unnecessary change.

Please continue to uphold the integrity of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. We are all counting on you.

Very sincerely

Elizabeth Bothfeld

Liza Lightfoot
22 Corry Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53704

I do not believe that the current Supreme Court of Wisconsin will make a fair judgement as it is so politicized already as demonstrated by recent judgements. Non partisan groups need to be involved in this process so that they are fairly represented. There needs to be absolute transparency for the public in these matters going forward.

Liz Lusk
452 Virginia Terrace
Madison, Wisconsin 53726

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin,
I am writing to you on behalf both of the Second Congressional District Steering Committee of the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition and of TAR, a group of approximately fifteen community members in south central Wisconsin. The Second Congressional District Steering Committee includes members from Dane, Iowa, Lafayette, Sauk, and Green Counties. Both groups have worked tirelessly on behalf of Fair Maps in Wisconsin. Both strongly oppose the proposed WILL/Jensen 20-03 rule related to legal challenges regarding redistricting.

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Lisa Lawver
2694 Walters Rd
Dodgeville, WI 53533

I object to Petition 20-03 Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70 (Redistricting Process). This process, if adopted, will reflect poorly on our High Court, allowing a process that excludes input from citizens and organizations that are non-partisan. Excluding persons or groups has the high potential of disenfranchising members of the public. Bypassing lower courts will result in less valuable input to any decision.

Linda Murphy
6099 Sycamore St.
Greendale, Wisconsin 53129

I strongly oppose - This rule should not be passed.

Kathleen Norden
923 Fillmore St
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016

55 of 72 Wisconsin counties have passed fair maps referenda. The people of Wisconsin want fair maps. Gerrymandering subverts democracy. Thank you for your consideration.

Lisa Kopesky
8262 63 Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158

Please allow maps to be fair and prevent gerrymandering

Lynn Koss
1925 Dordona D
Neenah, Wisconsin 54956

Please do not politicize the Supreme Court. Our extremely gerrymandered state needs fair and complete information to make informed decisions for the future. We do not have fair state elections right now and we need to hear from all interested parties when plotting a fairer way forward. Thank you.

Linda Van Beek
205 W. Mission Road
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301

Dear Members of Wisconsin's Supreme Court, I have over the years come to the realization that belonging to one political party is harmful to the democracy I so treasure. I have watched with much dismay our country being pulled apart by party politics. I have strong memories of the days when politicians from both parties compromised over issues for the sake of the majority of the people. Their relationships with their fellow lawmakers went beyond the work place; they broke bread together and shared family experiences. It was a healthy climate and we, the citizens were better for it. The authors of our constitution did not intend for one party to only hold power. I believe they felt healthy competition between the political parties would keep our democracy strong and vital. They were intent on preventing an autocracy; the very thing they were fighting for in a war with the king of England. Even before the Wisconsin state legislative maps were redrawn in 2011, the practice of manipulating the boundaries of the maps to retain power was common. Now, with the assistance of computers, politicians can cherry-pick their voters and draw maps that precisely determine their victory not only for one election but for all future elections. Healthy competition is eliminated. Listening to the concerns of all ones constituents is unnecessary. I have watched this process for years and I know in my heart and soul that we are destroying the very thing we hold dear, our democratic process. I beg you to see beyond the party politics and to not identify yourselves with party but with country and allow the citizens of this great state of Wisconsin to fairly have all our voices heard. We are bigger than a party, we are believers in fairness and equality and love of Democracy. Thank you for listening. Sincerely,
Linda K. Van Beek

Lisa Dugdale
2838 Dahle St. Apt A
Madison, WI 53704

We would like a fair, non-partisan map system that is fair to all political parties.

Lynn Messinger
213 S. 5th St.

Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

Wisconsin Supreme Court

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

I am not in favor of the Rule for various reasons.

- 1) Any challenge of redistricting needs to go through the court system for transparency and to allow us as citizens of WI to understand the evidence in the process.
- 2) Hearings for redistricting need to be open to concerned citizens and nonprofit public interest organizations – this is not a process just for political parties.
- 3) A rule that can be disregarded is no rule at all – rules need to be abided by, be transparent, and used in a fair way.

Lynn Messinger

Lynn Burke
7830 Copper Leaf Trl.
Madison, WI 53719

I am opposed to Rule Petition 20-03 regarding legal challenges to redistricting. I believe this would politicize the state supreme court even more than it already is. The result will be more unfair elections. The process would lack transparency.

Louise Mollinger
424 W Grand Ave, Apt 2
Port Washington, WI 53074

I am writing to oppose the rule changes proposed by WILL (Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty) that would affect the 2021 WI redistricting process. In spite of it's name, WILL has shown itself to be highly partisan in its incessant suits against Democratic Governor Evers' actions.

This proposed rule change, if adopted by the WI Supreme Court, would truly make our Supreme Court an activist court. Show the people of WI that you can see through this attempt by the lawyer friends of the current Republican majority legislature to govern through the judicial branch. The people of WI have voted for divided government. Let the people be represented. One person; One vote. Let's not rely on lawsuits to draw our election maps.

The proposed rule changes would further polarize the Supreme Court. They would exclude the voice of non-partisan groups that work to protect voter rights, like the League of Women Voters, of which I am a

member. They would further limit judicial transparency by skipping the normal sequence of judicial processes should the Governor veto the redrawn maps that are put forth by the Legislature. I support a nonpartisan process for drawing the maps. Then the Governor won't have to veto the new maps and the process won't need to go to any court. I strongly oppose this clear manipulation of the court system to favor one political party.

Lisa Moon
801 14th Ave
Monroe, WI 53566

I am writing to oppose the proposed rule change giving the WI Supreme Court jurisdiction over redistricting. The courts are supposed to be a place where political influence is set aside, the proposal takes away the process of the legal advancement of issues allowing the people and parties to weigh in. This action fast tracks redistricting actions and does so with unclear rules and procedures, this lack of transparency cuts out stake holders. It is not necessary and is harmful to fair due process. Please do the right thing and deny this proposal, keep our courts the unbiased review they should be.

Lillian Nordin
N8851 Wm. Severson Rd.
Holmen, WI 54636-9054

We need non partisan redistricting NOW. Wisconsin is one of the worst states. We need equal representation.

Robert Flanigan
Birch Avenue
Madison, WI 53711

Letter to the Supreme Court on the proposed rule change for future redistricting litigation

My name is Robert Flanigan and I am commenting on the rule change being proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) specific to legal challenges to redistricting. As a citizen of Wisconsin, I am opposed to this proposed rule change for the following reasons.

Until now, the Court has spent years engaging experts and the public in examining potential procedures for redistricting review, each time concluding that there was not an adequate judicial solution in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Why is this time different? The proposed rulemaking process, in this case, has

spanned only a few months, with no independent review by a committee of experts. It would be irresponsible to rush this process.

Next, the rule change itself inserts the Court into a partisan dispute earlier than it should. This situation, alone, threatens to politicize the court. But add to that the fact that Wisconsin Supreme Court justices are elected (rather than appointed for life, like Federal judges) and that they campaign for their terms, often with the financial and other support of political parties, then this rule change will sew the seeds of public distrust in Wisconsin's highest court, delegitimizing it as a non-partisan, neutral arbiter of disputes. This would be a dangerous precedent to set.

Another dangerous precedent associated with this proposed rule change owes to its failure to ensure that non-partisan interests are allowed participation in the process. Since when are political parties the only ones guaranteed a voice in matters that impact voting districts? In fact, Wisconsin has a long tradition of allowing civic groups and individual citizens to assert their rights and to be involved in redistricting litigation. Please don't omit these guarantees.

Finally, Wisconsin citizens deserve transparency in the redistricting process, and the proposed rule falls woefully short by not providing for adequate information to, or input from, the public. The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting process failed to include robust public hearings, where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could be heard. The process WILL have proposed will not solve this problem and, in fact, will allow the Court to sidestep consideration of any arguments other than those of elected officials and political parties. This proposed rule change would allow the court to create and bless maps without hearing evidence or allowing public input.

The people of Wisconsin deserve a fair process for redistricting. The proposed rule change would not be conducive to a fair process. I respectfully request that you do not adopt this rule change.

Robert Flanigan

Lois Gunderson
515 Riverway
Menasha, Wisconsin 54952

Please give democracy a boost by denying the proposal before you that would give the Wisconsin Supreme Court the ultimate decision-making power in deciding voting district boundaries. Although this proposal gives political parties an avenue for input, other citizen groups are not considered at all. Surely we can and should do better.

Lois Llemke

507 E. Eagle Terrace
Green Bay, WI 54313

I am asking for the Supreme Court to allow the issues related to districting go through the normal court procedure.

- A) This process should not be rushed
- B) Adopting this rule risks increasing politicization of the Court
- C). The proposed rule only considers partisan interests
- D). Transparency in the redistributing process is key to public trust

Laura Lokken
1931 5th Street South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

The proposed rule would undermine our system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or input from members of the public and groups that aren't political. This directly contradicts the preference of a majority of Wisconsin citizens to have a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 80 percent of Wisconsin's citizens. This proposed rule change is a sneaky, subtle attempt to take citizens out of the process of creating the next decade's maps before it even gets started! Wisconsin's citizens demand fair maps for a change!!

Lorelei Caylor
N4738 810th St
Ellsworth, WI 54011

Wisconsinites deserve to feel that their vote matters. Democracy is nothing if the system is cheated. Maps should not be drawn to benefit any party, they should reflect the will of the people. We need fair maps!

Lorene Vedder
515 21st St. N.
Menomonie, WI 54751

Petitioner - Lorene Vedder - testimony about original action

I am writing about the proposed rule change by WILL & Scott Jensen that requests a redistricting suit to be filed as an original action in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This has to do with the amend Statute

Section 809.70 which allows legal challenges for redistricting in Wisconsin to bypass the lower courts and go to our State Supreme Court. Allowing this action keeps the process of redistricting out of the lower courts, the trial court and the Court of Appeals, where fact finding and expert witness testimony is developed. We, as the public, need to be part of the proceedings and to hear the evidence and competing arguments put forth in the lower courts. Transparency helps us to be assured that the process is fair.

Taking the case on districting to the Supreme Court of Wisconsin does not allow us as individuals to speak to the needs of adequate representation both in our state and federally. My county, Dunn County, is gerrymandered into 4 Assembly Districts and 4 Senate Districts. Our assemblymen do not listen to our concerns in any of these 4 districts because they do not have to. They can get elected without our votes because there are not enough voters from Dunn County to make a difference in any of these 4 districts. Our representatives do not listen to us about our problems with water pollution caused by poor farming techniques that disregard the quality of our soil and that pollute our water with high nitrates. Industrial agriculture makes profits with disregard for social concerns, they do not provide a benefit to society. Runoff from CAFO's is not adequately regulated or monitored in our area. As a result, their runoff contaminates our water resources, our surface water, lakes and rivers, and our ground water.

With gerrymandering, our elected representatives carry out their personal or party agendas. In redistricting, lawmakers decide who should be the voters in their district and then use their powers in the legislature to draw their own district. The current leaders in our government, the legislature, courts and executive branch, look out for party interests. Those that are elected appear to desire power over developing state laws and control of our state resources. But our legislators are supposed to listen to us, the voters for whom they have sworn to represent, rather than to special interests and those with endowed with large financial resources. Unfortunately our representatives comply with their party bosses and funders so they can keep their jobs. Rather than do their public service and represent their constituents, we assume our supposed representatives desire for prestige, their income and benefits from the state, and what ever power is left to them to enhance their personal financial resources. Is this what we call democracy?

Another problem is our loss of local control. The Wisconsin State Legislature preempts our local control and this has been a problem within the last decade because of control of all of our branches of government by one political party. Special interests find that it is difficult to manipulate local governments with all of the people they need to influence, so why not concentrate all the decision making at the level of the state government where it take less effort to influence our laws and regulations? Local government is representation that is closest to the People. We currently have many sincere and dedicated representatives at the local level in my county.

I see that taking away the voice of individual citizens in the discovery process for redistricting which occurs in the lower courts is another way to bypass the public good for the benefit of special interests. Shouldn't the citizens of our state be able to voice their opinions and concerns about redistricting?

Allow us a voice in the lower courts. Please allow for the transparency and fairness in our system of government which is supposed to be of, for, and by the people of the State of Wisconsin and the United States of America.

Lorraine Norrgard
28505 S. Maple Hill Rd.
Washburn, WI 54891

I am against the proposed rule change giving the Supreme Court a politicized role in redistricting legislation.

Wynn Davies
2265 Mineral Point Road --- Apt B29
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

Our democracy will not survive if efforts to secure partisan advantage are seen as of greater importance than efforts to enable the will of the people to be expressed .

Margot Lottig
11083 S Ellen Smith Rd
Solon Springs, Wisconsin 54873-8300

I am writing concerning Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I oppose this rule because any challenge needs to work its way through the courts in a normal fashion. The establishment of a record at the lower court level would enhance transparency and enable the citizens of Wisconsin to grasp the evidence in the case and the competing arguments as they wend their way through the courts. It is very important to me that nonprofit public interest organizations and concerned citizens have a voice in what happens in our state. This can only happen if this rule is opposed.

Lou Anna Domann
1210 Camp st.
Platteville, WI 53818

I beg of you to help us have fair maps in Wisconsin. We need to learn to compromise.

Louisa Eastman

9707 W National Avenue Apt 10
West Allis, WI 53227

We need to keep our elections fair and non-partisan. It is important to protect the rights of the citizens of Wisconsin and not let special interests interfere with our elections. Our courts should make sure the process is fair for all that wish to be heard.

Louise Robbins
5406 Regent Street
Madison, WI 53705

American representative democracy is based on the principle of one person-one vote. Gerrymandering violates that principle by allowing our legislators to select their voters and disregard the needs of many citizens. It also reduces motivation of legislators to act on problems that affect all citizens. Gerrymandering allows legislators to ignore the toll COVID is taking or to address issues around policing which concern many greatly. While I have not suffered to the extent of hundreds of Wisconsinites, neglect of consideration of COVID contro

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LOUISE RANSOM
5346 S US HWY 45

Oshkosh, 54902 54902

I am in opposition to WILL's petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

LINDSEY BOSKO-DUNBAR
1620 WILLARD TER
DE PERE, WI 54115

I object to the proposed rule, because it does not allow for citizen participation that a normal court proceeding would provide.

Linda Donnelly
510 S Lexington St
Spring Green, WI 53588

This proposed rule change undermines our democracy.

It is contrary to our Wisconsin Constitutional designation of the Legislature's and Governor's responsibility to redistrict Congressional and Wisconsin election districts using the decennial census, BEFORE the these two branches even create maps. This Rule is clearly unconstitutional under Wisconsin's Constitution.!

It gives the Wisconsin Supreme Court legislative power that our Wisconsin Constitution does not.

It is a blatant power grab and politicization of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Among other things, it circumvents the actual democratic process of proposing, commenting, compromising that must happen, and thus hides the process and rationale for the districts, behind a small group of people--the Wisconsin Supreme Court and gives them the power to redistrict.

The is WRONG, WRONG, and just WRONG

Lynn Stroede
9321 Godlen Hue Blvd
Verona, WI 53593

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”), filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process. This guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn’t give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court’s process. Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. I am tired of the stranglehold placed on the good people of Wisconsin by the Republican party. FREE and FAIR elections are the foundation of a true democratic society.

Lawrence Tabak
7526 Whitacre Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53717

This proposal to push redistricting directly to the Wis. Supreme Court is in direct conflict with best practices for drawing these lines. Nonpartisan experts of all stripes agree that the gold standard is the sort of independent commission that has done a fine job in our neighboring Iowa. Until we see the wisdom of this approach, Wisconsin will be subject to the kind of partisanship which has tarred the reputation of the state, which in turn discourages commercial investment in our state and the retention of the best of our state's talented young people. This must not continue.

Luanne Peterson
6024 S Kirkwood Ave
Cudahy, WI 53110

This rule/law is as lopsided as can be, unfairly tilted towards the Republicans. It is time for Gerrymandered Wisconsin to be Fair Maps Wisconsin. Yes, we are watching you. And we will NOT be silent.

Shane Lucking
7 County Road W
River Falls, WI 54022

The current districting map is ridiculously looking. There is no sense of community. Legislators and constituents should have easy access to each other. The current map limits access logistically. Districts should be square or rectangular. They should follow county, township, village, town and city boundary lines as much as possible.

Lucretia Fairchild
312 N Blair St #1
Madison, WI 53703

I am writing to express strong opposition to proposed Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting, the WILL/Jensen 'rule.' 'Rule' is here in quotes because a rule that includes language that it may be disregarded could reasonably be seen as an erasure of any rule. I am writing to ask that you refuse to adopt all aspects of this non-rule, so as to maintain the current perception of the Supreme court as a nonpartisan, fair court upholding the rights of all voters.

In Wisconsin, 55 out of 72 counties have passed Fair Maps measures, and the state has yet to revise its procedures according to the overwhelming will of the voters across the state. In the November election, referenda supporting such measures were adopted by 11 county and 4 municipal referenda by margins of 57% or more. Overwhelming support for fair and nonpartisan creation of district maps is quite clear. Voters are simply demanding that they have the voice they are promised, and that no party has undue influence in any election because of the way districts are drawn. This is not, and should not be, a partisan issue as both parties in this country have historically taken advantage of drawing districts to unfairly benefit their own party. Districts were drawn in secrecy most recently, and this practice undermines public faith in their government and their ability to have a real voice. Rule 20-03 would allow this to continue, and thereby continue undermining of the democratic process in the state, and implicate the Supreme court in so doing.

Rule 20-03 limits input into contested redistricting to political parties and state entities. Participation in the democratic process, and input into important issues, should not require affiliation with any political party – even voters who do consider themselves members of a party need the opportunity to voice opinions on issues and procedures independently of that party. Membership in a party should not force members to accept and promote all areas of the party platform and all decisions made by party organizations based solely on that membership. And voters with no party affiliation should have the same rights to provide input into procedures and issues as other voters. Partisan party politics would be entrenched in the process of redistricting if this rule were adopted, to the benefit of neither party. The benefits to one party now could easily be turned against that party in the near future.

Finally, fact finding and compilation and proper documentation of relevant evidence is an important part of any litigation. This is such an elementary idea that it seems ridiculous to state. Yet if redistricting contests are directly delivered to the Supreme Court, lower courts will not be able to perform those

normal duties that allow the Supreme Court to rule with the information necessary to do its job with integrity. Either expanding the role of the Supreme Court to undertake this fact finding and documentation, or asking it to render decisions with limited information and transparency is clearly unacceptable and should not be allowed. Your ability to rule fairly would be at stake, as would the public perception of the integrity of the court.

Thank you very much for the service you provide the citizens of this state. And thank you for your consideration in this matter, I look forward to your decision and hope you will reject this non-rule.

Sincerely, Lucretia Fairchild

Beth Lueck
5225 N. Bay Ridge Ave.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217

Gerrymandering needs to stop in Wisconsin, and the state Supreme Court should NOT have jurisdiction on future redistricting legislation. The proposed rule by WILL will politicize the court further, exclude nonpartisan groups like the League of Women Voters from full participation, and limit judicial transparency.

Shannon Elliott-Chalgren
507 Brian Street, 507
Mount Horeb, WI 53572-1

Please, keep mapping fair.

Please do not allow Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty ("WILL") to change jurisdictions in a way that is unfair to WI citizens.

Luis Varela
1946 E Washington Ave, APT 404
Madison, WI 53704

Redistricting should be a non partisan issue and should be studied carefully. It should not be political. Let's follow all the process for this critical issue for our lives in Wisconsin. I do not support the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty ("WILL"), filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process.

Thank you!

Karen Luns
101 Lauryn Courtg
Mount Horeb, WI 53558

In Wisconsin 55 counties have passed resolutions supporting fair maps, and 28 counties have passed referendums which have passed by large margins.

Wisconsin law and liberty has requested a rules change which would require any lawsuit about future maps to go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, bypassing lower courts. This limits the review of maps and rushes the process by eliminating evidence obtained in the lower courts. Political parties are heard in the dispute but nonpartisan groups/voters are excluded, making the process less transparent. The important process of redrawing legislative maps in a fair manner is too important to be rushed.

Valerie Murphy
7616 Widgeon Way
Madison, WI 53717

I oppose the petition filled by the Wisconsin Institute for Law&Liberty Fair re-districting is crucial for democracy in Wisconsin. Supporting their petition will limit the review on maps and rush the process. It may limit the access of non-polical groups to express their views on fair maps. This petition impedes a fair process and should not affirmed.

Barbara Hussin
1016 E Quarles Pl
Milwaukee, WI 53217

Having been a victim of partisan redistricting here in Wisconsin for over 30 years, I am strongly opposing the petition of the Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty to enable Wisconsin Supreme Court rules for redistricting here in Wisconsin.

Redistricting in this state has been and unfortunately, continues to be a partisan issue. Voters in the state are assigned state and congressional districts based on the dominance of whichever of the two political parties are in power at the time.

Many states have removed legislative power over redistricting to a non-partisan redistricting agency. Despite overwhelming passage of county referenda and state voter support for this change, there has been no serious effort in the Wisconsin legislature to pass such a law. Voters in this state do not have citizen initiative referenda opportunities. Federal courts have been the life blood preserving honest redistricting by setting standards to relieve partisanship.

The petition by Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty further cements absolute partisan dominance by only allowing political parties a voice in the matter. In this basic, and most important democratic issue, this petition eliminates any groups of citizens – other than politicians - to have their voice heard in the redistricting process. This is so wrong – by any measure.

League of Women Voters of Door County Pat Scieszinski, Chair
1218 Texas St
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

League of Women Voters of Door County
PO Box 306
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

November 22, 2020
Regarding Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

To The Supreme Court:

The League of Women Voters of Door County expresses strong opposition to the rule change requested in Petition 20-03 and urges the Court not to adopt it.

Petition 20-03 is nothing more than an attempt at an end run by one political party around the will of citizen voters of Wisconsin. The Court is surely aware that Wisconsinites all over the state, from both major political parties have been increasingly vocal that redistricting be made a process that does not include laser-like attention (with use of sophisticated computer programs) to political party affiliation.

The People's Maps Task Force was formed to address this issue and is working to create a map that will fairly reflect the distribution of citizens of this state, leaving out partisan political consideration. It is an open, participatory process that results in fair, open elections. This is such practical, common sense that it is a wonder there is argument over it.

Rule petition 20-03 brazenly asks for the option to totally ignore all of the above and to rig the rules such that the political party in charge leaves no option for redress. It makes a mockery of the democratic process and it is wrong.

The writers of our Wisconsin Constitution knew nothing of computer logarithms, but they wrote assuming those in official office would be public servants acting in good faith for democracy and for the best interests of all the citizens of the state. Rule petition 20-03 is not in good faith; it is asking the Court to affirm an abuse of power.

Much has changed in the ten years since the last census and the secret, partisan redistricting process that followed, costing taxpayers millions of dollars as it was litigated. Citizens are now much more aware and educated about how the redistricting process worked back then, and reasonable people agree that the process has been abused by those in power. We have learned that not only do elections have consequences, but how the rules are rigged for elections has consequences, too. Rule petition 20-03 is an attempt to further rig the rules.

Reasonable people want the system to be fair and open, not secret and behind closed doors. At a time when the very bedrock of our democracy, free elections, is being brought into question, it is critical that the redistricting process be made open and fair, not allowed to be further closed. Please deny petition rule 20-03.

Carrie Diamond
PO Box 660
Stevens Point, WI 54481

November 20, 2020

Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court,

The League of Women Voters (LWV) of the Stevens Point Area and LWV of Wisconsin Rapids Area submit the following letter on behalf of our over 100 members combined in opposition to the WI Supreme Court taking any jurisdiction over future redistricting litigation.

If the proposed rule is adopted, our concern as a citizen organization is our inability to continue to have our voices heard in the redistricting process. Civic engagement is an important covenant of the democratic process and one that the LWV has sought to protect for over 100 years. The court should not take this away in this or in any future rulemaking process. Overwhelmingly, in our areas, citizens have used the processes available through resolutions and referendums, and ultimately our ballots. The proposed rule threatens to undermine these voices, representing both parties, who have expressed interest in the results of the redistricting process and to depoliticize the process. This rule change contradicts this desire that citizens have made clear through their votes, making the process even more politicized and partisan.

Redistricting is by Wisconsin constitution a legislative responsibility; however, it is recognized that there have been legislative impasses that have required court action. However, any court action should be part of the checks and balances among the three branches. In recent years, the courts have been used too often to settle issues that should be the responsibility of the legislative and executive branches. The trust in the judicial branch to be non-partisan has been severely eroded to the point where many do not

believe the court can rule fairly or even should rule in some cases that are more suited to be settled by the other branches of government. If the court should adopt the proposed rule, it will threaten the reputation of the court as a non-partisan entity.

The redistricting process is of key importance to Wisconsin citizens and must be conducted in a transparent manner with citizen input as part of the process. We need the voices of Wisconsin voters included in the processes and policies that directly impact our lives, we need assurance that our votes count, that we have all the facts in a transparent process, that our grassroots advocacy matters, and that we can impact change. The adoption of this rule takes all of that away. We request the court refuse to change the rules on how the courts should handle redistricting lawsuits.

Thank you,

Carrie Diamond, Convener, LWV-SPA, lwvspa@gmail.com
Nancy Quick, President, LWV-WRA

Lynette Miller
1808 Van Hise Ave
Madison, WI 53726

I want fair maps for voting. I ask that all affected parties be allowed the opportunity to have their say. It's time to stop gerrymandering in Wisconsin and allow representatives that are chosen by the people rather than politicians. Sincerely, Lynette Miller

Lynn Glueck
208 Grand Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

Dear Supreme Court Justices of Wisconsin,
Please make the fair and right and just decision about the issues and laws concerning drawing of legislative and congressional districts. Our democracy is at stake. We all should want a properly representative democracy, not one in which the party in power is rigging the outcomes, be it Republican, Democrat, or perhaps some other party in the future.

There are existing and proven methods for non-partisan redistricting. The state needs to enact these. For example, Iowa has a fair and functional process.

Given that we don't have such a process in place, it's even MORE important that Wisconsin CONSTITUENTS, organizing groups, parties, and lawmakers should be able comment on and challenge

redistricting efforts that they see as unfair, inaccurate, or anti-democratic. It is imperative to allow the public to be involved in these disputes and conversations. Why would we not want to have as open and democratic process as possible (within reason --of course there are always time constraints)?

Furthermore, the Wisconsin Supreme Court should do its utmost not to be or be perceived as being partisan. Accepting this proposed rule from WILL will lead to just that, especially since it gives the court the power to disregard rules and procedures! In other words, this rule will harmfully politicize OUR court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and put into place insufficient transparency measures.

Please, for the sake of our democracy and the legitimacy of our Wisconsin Supreme Court, oppose the WILL rule that is being proposed.

We can do better than this.

Sincerely,

Lynn Glueck --29 year resident of Wisconsin and public educator

Lynn Perkins
227 East Oak Street
Lake Mills, WI 53551

I have worked hard with my bi-partisan peers to put forth a non-binding referendum for our people "the voters" of Jefferson County to take back the importance of each persons vote. Our referendum passed with a majority vote. WE THE PEOPLE must select our representatives NOT the courts, political parties, or politicians. I do NOT support the proposed rule change to allow the supreme court to take jurisdiction on future redistricting litigation districts.

Lynn Carey
W148N10217 Windsong Circle E
Germantown, WI 53022

As a life long resident of Wisconsin, it is very concerning to learn of the proposed rule related to the state Supreme Court and any future redistricting litigation. This is very concerning because it is not in the public interest as many individuals and groups would not be included in the processes and procedures related to any legal review. I feel this is highly political and puts the court in a highly politicized position. I also feel that it is stopping many of us from having a say.

Lynn Montague

1038 Carriage Dr.
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

This public comment is in regards to the proposed rule that the state Supreme Court w424i424l424l424
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Mark Giese
1520 Bryn Mawr Ave
Racine, WI 53403

Concerning Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting: Please oppose this rule.
Please seek democracy. Thank you.

JANET VAN VLECK
1144 Florence Court
Madison, WI 53703

It is imporsnt to have didtricts that represent all of the state's population, not just vested interests.

MaryAnn Biederwolf
16860 Eldorado Dr.
Brookfield, WI 53005

Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”), filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation to limit the review of maps and rush the process. This guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn’t give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations (like the League of Women Voters-a nonpartisan organization).

The proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints to conduct an appropriate legal review. This provides for a lack of transparency and citizens are again left out of the picture.

For too long, our districting maps have been gerrymandered in favor of the Republican Party. The US Supreme Court had even ruled that our maps were the worst in the nation. We're overdue to have fair maps that reflect the voice of the people as expressed by their votes.

Mackena Weber
529 E Cornelia St
Darlington, WI 53530

To whom it may concern,

As a lifelong resident of Wisconsin, I believe it is past time to have a fair map drawn up, with no gerrymandering. The map should be drawn up by an independent entity, with no partisan influence.

Another possibility would be having republican, Democrat, and independent officials all present. Any way that will make this fair. Wisconsin is one of the most gerrymandered states.

Greg Hatt
750 Radiant Ct
OCONOMOWOC, WI 53066-3427

RE: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

To the respected members of our Wisconsin Supreme Court:

I oppose the rule referenced above, because it furthers the likelihood that the already highly-gerrymandered districts in Wisconsin will remain so, with little oversight or balance in district mapping slated for reassessment in 2021.

Having now been a Wisconsin resident 44 years, I've seen our state's progressive history fall out of favor with many in the electorate, especially during the last 20 years. But along with its rich progressive history, I proudly call Wisconsin home because of the sense of fairness and cooperation I've found rooted in its people. Fairness and cooperation that should be rewarded in kind from those who represent us in the Senate and Assembly of our State Legislature.

Unfortunately, when partisanship is allowed to overrule logic and common sense in the drawing of districts that represent voters like me, it is the voters who suffer the consequences. Craig Gilbert, DC-based bureau chief for the Milwaukee-Journal Sentinel, penned a terrific series of articles a few years back specifically identifying and explaining the highly partisan impact of the gerrymandered districts created by the state's GOP in 2011, following the Census.

His observations, and the compelling analytics drawn across several elections since, clearly show that Wisconsin deserves recognition as one of the 3 most blatantly gerrymandered states in the U.S. Something for which we should be ashamed and which the Wisconsin Legislature, supported by our State Supreme Court, should proactively seek to correct in 2021.

Our most recent state elections again demonstrated the innate bias toward the Republican party inherent in the 2011 districting maps. "This year's voting breakdown wasn't as stark as in 2018, when Democrats swept all statewide elections and Democratic Assembly candidates secured about 53% of total votes cast, but they only ended up with 36% of the chamber's seats. In 2016, Republicans garnered 52% of votes cast, yet won 65% of the Assembly seats." [Mitchell Schmidt | Wisconsin State Journal Nov 12, 2020].

District maps should always be drawn to optimally reflect the character of Wisconsin's voting electorate as a whole. The only way to do that is through a non-partisan process of map-drawing that doesn't intentionally skew districts in favor of any political party. We have powerful technological and analytic tools available to address that requirement. Any action or proposed rule, such as rule petition 20-03, likely to undermine or circumvent a firm commitment to fair mapping for our state districts isn't worthy of your consideration.

Thanks for doing all you can to assure the mapping process in the coming year is fair and equitable for all the citizens of Wisconsin.

Respectfully,

Greg Hatt
750 Radiant Ct
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Madeleine Lee
922 9th Ave W
Ashland, WI 54806

Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Charles Piper
307 E. Main st.
Montfort, WI 53569

Do not undermine the democratic process and prevent fair elections by the use of maps. Where is your understanding of what democracy means?

Mary Hillstrom
N9530 Argue Rd
New Glarus, WI 53574

A democracy needs fair, nonpartisan maps for redistricting with all groups included. Please act accordingly.

Kriss Marion

1784 County Rd H
Blanchardville, WI, Lafayette 53516

I feel so strongly about the opportunity for us to have non-partisan maps drawn in 2021 that I ran for office this year. The Republican leadership in the Legislature is trying to circumvent the wishes of the vast majority of state's voters who have expressed their desire that Wisconsin's state and federal legislative district maps be drawn in a fair way by a non-partisan commission. To date, 55 Counties, containing over 85% of the state's population, have passed referenda and Board resolutions stating that our district maps should be drawn by a non-partisan body rather than either political party. The Marquette Law School polling reflects that over 70% of our state's voters--on a bi-partisan basis-- want the election district lines to be drawn by a non-partisan body, not by whichever political party happens to be in control at the time. That is exactly why the non-partisan People's Maps Commission was organized early this year by a bi-partisan group of retired appellate judges to draw the maps. Robin Vos and Scott Jenson fear the fairness of the People's Maps Commission so they are now asking our state Supreme Court to enact a procedural rule to prevent that non-partisan effort and keep the map-making process in their political party's control. But we know that citizens want this to be a non-partisan process. From my experience talking to voters during my campaign this year, I know that many people, of all political perspectives, believe that our government doesn't represent them anymore. This sneaky attempt to make the voting maps even more political just supports that harmful, undemocratic narrative. We need fairly drawn legislative voting maps prepared by the non-partisan People's Maps Commission to restore Wisconsin's faith in their representatives.

Marcia Jablonski
222 South St
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Your Honors,

These last two presidential elections have proven that the electorate needs to believe and trust in the election process.

We have developed into us vs. them society. With all the misinformation that is being spread about voter fraud, we should start at the beginning to bring back trust. Let's start with how voting maps are created.

In Wisconsin, the people have voted. Nearly 75% want fair maps, nonpartisan support.

Please vote to reject the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, a petition that would limit the review of maps and rush the process.

Thank you,

Marcia Jablonski
Mineral Point, WI

Christine Maloney
970 Brave Drive
Somerset, WI 54025

Please do not allow this change which will obviously reduce the ability of ordinary citizens to be heard in these disputes. Non-political-party coalitions are an important way for individual citizens to join together to be able to speak as loudly as do heavily0-funded political parties. Making this change will be a step to reducing the rights of individuals to be heard in Wisconsin.

John Bates
4245N Hwy. 47
Mercer, WI 54547

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 85% of Wisconsin's citizens. Please ensure the law is followed to require independent nonpartisan redistricting.

Pamela Kjono
9200 Mulholland Dr.
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Courts have ideological leanings and would therefore reflect such in decisions. We have seen this on numerous occasions in the past. One only needs to read the paper.

Tom Cogger
28745 S. Maple Hill Rd.
Washburn, Wisconsin 54891

The proposed change for adopting a specific rule for redistricting could politicize the Court by encouraging lawmakers to settle redistricting disputes through litigation, rather than making every effort to avoid litigation by drawing maps that are acceptable to both political parties. This is of

particular concern in the State Supreme Court where, unlike the U.S Supreme Court, Justices are elected by voters and often campaign with the support of political parties and partisan groups.

The proposed rule could exclude nonpartisan interests. While the rule allows the governor, legislators, and political parties to intervene in redistricting cases, nonpartisan organizations and voters impacted by the new district maps could be left out. Historically, civic groups and citizens have engaged in redistricting litigation to challenge district maps; this rule could prevent them from doing so in the future.

The proposed rule would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing proper evidence or input from members of the public.

Judith Peinado
N6969 DeLoris Lane #18
Lake Mills, wi 53551

The people of Wisconsin deserve a fair process for redistricting. The proposed rule change would not be conducive to a fair process. I respectfully request that you do not adopt this rule change.

Marcy Cox
2164 COUNTY ROAD T
SUN PRAIRIE, WI - Wisconsin 535909507

To whom this may concern I am opposed to this rule because it will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. Please let us get back to letting everyone have a voice in our elections.

Marcy

Marcy Bosworth
513 E Elm St.
River Falls, WI 54022

We must not politicize the courts. And all votes must count. The maps should not be drawn nonpartisan.

Marcy Huffaker
E12919 Levee Rd.

Baraboo, WI 53913-3308

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 85% of Wisconsin's citizens.

The proposed rule, by WILL will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

This proposed rule, does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Thank you for your consideration to keep our district maps drawn fairly and in a non-partisan manner.

Marcy Huffaker

Jude Dereszynski

625 N. Segoe Rd Unit 607

Madison, WI 53705

The Gerrymandering must end, the will of the people of Wisconsin is not being heard. UnAmerican.

Margaret Canary

1800 N Prospect Ave 14-b

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Although the Wisconsin Supreme Court is weighted heavily with Conservative Judges, one would hope that it will be seen that a Democratic society will be best served by districts which are not gerrymandered and carved out in such a way as to distort districts so has to lead to districts being formed to make one part or another have disproportionate numbers.

Margaret Arney

1447 Saint Charles Street

Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Hello, I am a life-long Wisconsin resident. I urge the WI Supreme court to allow non-partisan groups inform the districting process and to reduce partisan gerrymandering. We need to work together for fairness.

Marjorie Sprecher

5184 Reynolds Avenue
Waunakee, WI 53597

WILL. This petition limits fair, inclusive review and would be harmful to the public interest. It would be unjust to exclude some groups, such as unions representing citizens, from participating in the court process in addressing the gerrymandering issue. There are rules in place and rules are not optional. The courts need facts and viewpoints in order to legally review and make decisions.

Maria Tully
626 E State Street Apt 1008
Milwaukee, WI 53202

I strongly disagree with the Supreme Court limiting the ability of nonpartisan groups from full participation in determining any future redistricting. The Court should be judicial and not political.

Marie Hoven
1721 Mountain Ave.
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

I want fair map in our state. The people of Wisconsin deserve to select their representatives, not the other way around. If fair maps are not allowed this will politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and limit judicial transparency.

Marie Loeffler
728 Delafield Street
Waukesha, WI 53188

Please do not approve a modification to state statute 809.70 regarding redistricting challenges in the courts. We live in a highly partisan country now and transparency and process are increasingly important. This issue is of particular concern and any modification would make the Supreme Court appear to be engaging in political influencing. Keep the WI Supreme Court honest and unbiased.

Marilyn Murphy
1225 Jefferson Ave
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

I want fair maps

Msrilyn Hill
258 Ravine Street
Darlington, Wis 53530

Please rule for non partisan redistricting in Wisconsin.

Marilynne Baer Hahn
5403 W. Galena St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208

I am opposed to the rule change regarding the upcoming post-census redistricting of voting maps in Wisconsin. At this point in time when citizen voters are feeling so disenfranchised and divisiveness has torn our country apart, every effort to heal is needed and should be promoted by all invested parties. Wisconsin demographics have been changing and fair maps, with input from all stakeholders will encourage a true sense of Democracy in our state. Maps should not be decided by courts - especially courts that are not balanced and have not proven to be equally representative of all stakeholders.

Maria Peinado
104 S. Ludington St. #1
Columbus, WI 53925

Adopting the 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. State Supreme Court Justices are elected and campaign for their terms, often with the financial (and other) assistance of political parties.

Marite Hagman
11449 N Casey Road
Edgerton, WI 53534

At this critical juncture in our nation's democratic history, I ask that the court NOT advance the WI Institute for Law and Liberty's petition regarding redistricting litigation. Fair voting requires upmost input and review of gerrymandering and redistricting. Anything that limits input and review contributes to the erosion of that which is foundational to the well-being of our democracy. The proposed rule

limits both input and review by potentially excluding certain groups and reducing transparency. The proposed rule would add further insult to our fragile democratic processes. Please DO NOT advance!

Mary Kleefisch Klasen
4510 West Red Tamarack Court
Appleton, WI 54913

Adopting this rule is unfair. It risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referenda in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support. It is time to stand strong and work for fair maps!!!!

Mark Fuller
320 E Holmes St
JANESVILLE, WI 53545-4115

Re: Rule Petition 20-03 to amend WIS. STAT. §809.70 We are volunteers with Fair Maps Wisconsin 1st CD who have been working on obtaining a nonpartisan process for the redistricting of maps in Wisconsin. We oppose the proposed amending of WIS. STAT. §809.70 [Rule Petition 20-03] for the following 4 reasons. 1. The consideration for this proposed rule to amend WIS. STAT. §809.70 should not be rushed. Previously the Court spent several years engaging experts and the public to examine potential procedures for redistricting review, ultimately determining there was not an adequate judicial solution in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This time, the proposed rulemaking process has spanned only a few months, with no independent review by a committee of experts. The Court has already considered, and rejected, adopting a rule on this topic, and the rule proposal before the Court now offers no reason for the Court to reverse its previous conclusion. 2. Adopting this proposed rule would risk 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. State Supreme Court Justices are elected and campaign for their terms, often with the financial (and other) assistance of political parties. 3. The proposed rule only considers partisan interests [see Subsection 5(b)]. 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. This is at odds with the history of challenges to districts in Wisconsin, where civic groups and individual Wisconsin citizens have been involved in litigation and asserted the rights of their members. Sometimes the only way we can know whether communities of interest are unintentionally negatively affected by the drawing of new district boundaries is from the members of these very communities. We have heard of instances where

the traditions in different municipal governments are at odds and require extra work at both ends to facilitate cooperation. 4. Transparency is key to the public's trust that the redistricting process is fair. The proposed rule does not provide adequate information to, or input from, the public. The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting process failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could be heard. The proposed rule would not solve this, and in fact would allow the Court to sidestep consideration of any arguments by groups other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or public input. Respectfully submitted, Mark Fuller, Colleen Robson, John Scott Fair Maps Wisconsin 1st CD Leadership Team

Mark Martello
N10994 Spring Creek Drive
Tomahawk, Wisconsin 54487

The WISCONSIN CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE IV. LEGISLATIVE states in Section 3 and Section 4 that: At its first session after each enumeration made by the authority of the United States, the legislature shall apportion and district anew the members of the senate and assembly, according to the number of inhabitants (Section 3) and ... such districts to be bounded by county, precinct, town or ward lines, to consist of contiguous territory and be in as compact form as practicable (Section 4).

Mark Bruhy
W62N822 Arbor Drive
Cedarburg, WI 53012-1368

Clerk of the Supreme Court
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701

Madam or Sir,

I have become aware that in June, the Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty (WILL) asked the WI State Supreme Court to adopt a rule specific to legal challenges to redistricting, and the Supreme Court has agreed to move forward and consider the request and is seeking public comments.

This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review. Specifically,

- This process shouldn't be rushed. Previously the Court spent years engaging experts and the public to examine potential procedures for redistricting review, ultimately determining there was not an adequate judicial solution in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This time, the proposed rulemaking process has spanned only a few months, with no independent review by a committee of experts. In fact, the

Court has considered, and rejected, adopting a rule on this topic, and the rule proposal before the Court now offers no reason for the Court to reverse its previous conclusion.

- 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. State Supreme Court Justices are elected and campaign for their terms, often with the financial (and other) assistance of political parties.
- 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. This is at odds with the history challenges to districts in WI, where civic groups and individual Wisconsin citizens have been involved in litigation and asserted the rights of their members. Transparency in the redistricting process is key to public trust. The proposed rule does not provide adequate information to, or input from, the public. The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting process failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could be heard. The process WILL has proposed would not solve this, and in fact would allow the Court to sidestep consideration of any arguments by groups other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or public input.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Mark Hermanson
3113 Clarence Ct.
Green Bay, WI 54313

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 80 percent of Wisconsin's citizens. The proposed rule change is a sneaky, subtle attempt to take citizens out of the process of creating fair maps for future elections.

Please honor the will of the vast majority of Wisconsinites and OPPOSE the petition by Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty.

Mark Kolan
4302 Rolla Lane
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

I'm writing regarding The Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I believe it is critical to have fair and transparent procedures the public deserves. With that, any challenges to district map changes must go through the regular court channels and NOT have a first recourse considered by the State Supreme Court. Should that be allowed, the public and concerned citizen groups would be unable to be heard on this critical issue. It would be patently unfair to have ONLY political parties heard on this vital concern to all citizens. The procedures and requirements laid out in the rule must be followed and the petition brought forward by WILL must not be allowed.

Marla Stephens
5134 N Elkhart Avenue
Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin 53217

“Although most never will be involved in a judicial proceeding as a party, all are affected in some respect by decisions of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Those decisions are grounded in the Court's commitment to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin.”
Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack

Rule Petition 20-03, requesting that the Wisconsin Supreme Court adopt a rule setting forth the procedures for original actions challenging redistricting, is harmful to the public interest.

Specifically, proposed sec. 809.70 (5)(b), requires that the Governor, the Assembly, the Senate and the political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups that have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process.

Most importantly, it does not require that the voters be heard. The people of this state have a greater stake in redistricting than any elected official or any political party. And the people of this state have overwhelmingly voiced their dissatisfaction with partisan redistricting. The partisan interveners included in the proposed rule cannot and do not speak for the people.

Any redistricting procedure adopted by the court must permit The People's Map Commission to intervene as a matter of right. Under Executive Order #66, the Commission is charged with creating non-partisan redistricting maps for the Legislature to consider that, to the extent possible:

1. are free from partisan bias and partisan advantage;
2. avoid diluting or diminishing minority votes;
3. are compact and contiguous;
4. avoid splitting wards and municipalities;
5. retain the core population in each district;
6. maintain traditional communities of interest; and
7. prevent voter disenfranchisement.

Marolyn Bahr
233 Dunning St.
Madison, Wisconsin 53704

I am concerned about the implications of the petition filed by Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty. It is important that the court be fair & impartial by including nonpartisan participation in the redistricting process.

Marsha Janota
5307 Winnequah Road
Monona, WI 53716

Rule Petition 20-03. Any redistributing challenge should go through the lower court process in order for the challenge to be transparent to Wisconsin citizens. Citizens need to be given the chance to make themselves heard about any redistricting issues.

Martin Kehrein
5022 Camilla Road
Madison, WI 53716

I oppose the undemocratic changes being proposed to the redistricting rules. Please reject those changes and allow a more fair and democratic process in deciding district boundaries. Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Vitrano
2362 South 58th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53219

Please work towards providing WI with fair maps. By sending ruling to the Supreme Court with harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from participation and has insufficient transparency measures. WI residents have the right to pick their representatives fairly to keep them honest.

Mary Murphy
817 Vista Ridge Dr
Mount Horeb, Wisconsin 53572

Our current district maps, which were drawn in secrecy, were rated as a 3 out of 100 by Harvard's Electoral Integrity Project. Democracy doesn't function when representatives are not accountable to their constituents- assembly members in heavily-packed districts leaning one way or the other are safe no matter what they do. Simultaneously, a party which has gerrymandered the maps so they can hold power with a minority of the vote also lack accountability; they never have to worry about passing broadly acceptable policies because a failure to do so won't cost the party its majority status. The "full-time" state legislature's refusal to pass any legislation since April is proof that the system is not working for any of Wisconsin's citizens.

Maps need to be fair and need to be created in a non-partisan transparent process, and should be subject to public review. Rushed secrecy is an open invitation to corruption. It seeds distrust in the democratic process. Gerrymandering causes voters of both parties to become discouraged and to fail to participate because they see that their votes have been precision-placed into districts where their input cannot matter.

The non-partisan redistricting efforts should NOT be optional, they should not be circumvented by the courts, and they should allow ALL of Wisconsin's citizens the opportunity to see and understand how boundaries are drawn, so that we can all have faith that the system is being designed to work for everyone.

Mary Brod
3326 Valley Creek Circle
Middleton, WI 53562

To the WI Supreme Court: My concern is the corruptness of gerrymandering. The Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty has filed a petition requesting that you take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps, and it has other elements that ignore the voice of the public. If political parties should be heard by the Court in the process of making new maps, then nonpartisan organizations that have previously challenged gerrymandering should have the same privilege. WILL's petition excludes them. By nature parties have a vested interest in favoring their own party on new maps, resulting in elections that don't reflect the will of the voters.

It should not matter where a Wisconsin resident lives as to whether his or her vote counts. Isn't more than two centuries of gerrymandering in the U.S. enough? Both parties do it, to the detriment of democracy. Wisconsin can be a model for good government by getting rid of the ability to do it. About 75% of us want partisanship taken out of the new maps drawing process.

Mary Brod

Mary Dahm
5761 Honeysuckle Court
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

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

RE: Petition for Proposed Rule to Amend Wis. Stat. 809.70

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

I am a citizen of Wood County Wisconsin. In 2013 the Wood County Board of Supervisors were the first in the State of Wisconsin to pass an advisory resolution which called for a non-partisan procedure for the drawing of district lines. In 2019 the County Board approved an advisory referendum to appear on the April 2020 ballot. Citizens of this county could weigh in on the issue even if it was not binding. Wood County voters approved the referendum by 71%. Obviously that included both Republican and Democratic voters.

Redistricting should not be a partisan issue. It becomes so when citizens impacted by those lines as well as citizen groups are left out of the decision. The petition, if approved, leaves out the voice of the voter and puts it in the hands of political parties. As a poll worker voters are still confused by the results of the last redistricting plan. It didn't make sense to many of them that this area got moved out of the 7th Congressional District and into the 3rd. That decision was obviously a political one.

The last time new maps were drawn it was done behind closed doors. Public trust requires transparency. Consideration needs to be given to the people impacted by the district lines being drawn. The proposed rule change would allow the court to make decisions without public input.

We are already polarized to the point of inertia. People do not feel government represents their interests. The Supreme Court as a non-partisan body will appear to be partisan if allowed to make decisions on voting districts favoring one side or another. The public trust in government would be further eroded by this rule change.

I respectfully urge the Supreme Court to deny the petition.

Sincerely,
Mary Dahm

Mary Wichita
52380 Beaver Tail Rd
Mason, WI 54856

Dear members of the Wisconsin State Supreme Court:

I am writing to urge you to support a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps in the State of Wisconsin and to oppose the pending rule change.

As you are well aware, fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties, including my own Bayfield County with 77% of the vote, have passed referenda that support a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. A bipartisan public has spoken to the need for fair, nonpartisan voting maps and a transparent process for drawing them.

The pending rule change to bypass lower court hearings and allow only political parties to be heard in a dispute undermines this desire for transparency and fairness. The review of maps would be limited and the process rushed, and nonpartisan voices would be sidelined.. That is not suppose to be the way our judicial system works!

I am also dismayed that you are restricting the comment period to 30 days and I question the constitutionality of the rule change. From what I understand, the petition seeks to authorize the Court to take immediate jurisdiction of the redistricting very early in the process. This ability usurps the authority of the Legislature and the Executive branch to address redistricting matters and eliminates Wisconsin voters from the process of litigating maps that are unfair..

I urge you to do the right thing and reject this rule change.

Thank you,

Mary Wichita
52380 Beaver Tail Rd
Mason, WI. 54856
715-765-4132

Mary Mercier
765 Westbrook Drive
Plain, Wisconsin 53577

I am writing to register my objection to Petition 20-03, the Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70 regarding the redistricting process. Wisconsin is in dire need of redistricting, but this proposed rule change would make the redistricting process less transparent, less accessible to the people affected by the restricting decisions, and possibly much less objective in its conclusions.

Redistricting is directly related to how democratic a system of government is or will become. And therefore it should include the voters in the process. Already we are seeing the executive branch of our

federal government taking extreme steps to diminish our right to vote and the results of our vote. We cannot let this great State of Wisconsin lean in a similar direction.

As someone born in Wisconsin, I grew up with great pride in this state. It used to be a progressive, democratic, and community-oriented state. As I approach the age of 70, I mourn how much this has changed. But we may yet find our way back to a way of life and government that puts the care of its people and its community above the goals of power and money. The redistricting efforts of next year will be key in restoring a democratic perspective to our state.

Already a majority of the people of Wisconsin have made it clear that they want a nonpartisan process put into place for drawing up the new voting district maps. However, the people's votes and voices have failed to garner much action from those whom the people have elected. Already 55 Wisconsin counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda, all in support of requiring a nonpartisan and a transparent process in redistricting.

Please recognize the importance of this and do not allow this rule to be amended as Petition 20-03 has suggested.

Yes of course the redistricting process will be contentious. But that is not a valid reason, as the petitioner has argued, to streamline the process in a way that would diminish the participation of voters or their input if litigation were to occur. More participation, not less, should be encouraged. A democracy does not close doors, it opens them. Wisconsin—my home, my state—must not forget this.

Mary Bartkowiak
16940 Burleigh Pl.
Brookfield, WI 53005

Transparency and thoughtful review of new map development is essential. This rule change would hamper that due diligence. I urge you to make no change in these important rules which allow input beyond partisan interest.

Mary Simpson
N5754 Pleasant Ridge Lane
Durand, WI 54736

I am writing concerning Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I oppose this rule as it will harmfully politicize the Court. This rule would lead to more gerrymandering in WI and lacks proper transparency measures. I also oppose it because it excludes nonpartisan groups from full participation.

MaryBeth Aldrich
1009 Virginia St.
Racine, WI 53405

I grow increasingly concerned about the ability of our courts to be non-biased arbiters of disputes in our state and our country. I urge you to all our existing system to work as it was intended and prevent the politicalization of our court system. A state and country further divided serves none of us well.

Mary Fenske
16995 Pioneer Road
Cable, WI 54821

It is important that fair and transparent processes are followed in our state. Wisconsin has a long history of fairness,

let's not sully that reputation with this proposed rule change. Transparency in the development voting district maps is critical to ensuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency. In Bayfield County as in other counties, we passed a referendum asking a nonpartisan commission to redraw voting districts.

There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. As a Wisconsin resident that advocates for fair and transparent processes, I respectfully request a 60 day continuance of the public comment process and that it not be rushed.

Mary Jo Stoelb
814 Indian Mound Road
Sheboygan, WI 53081

I am against proposed rule that the Supreme Court of Wisconsin take jurisdiction on any further redistricting legislation. I believe that this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. We must take measure to make sure that the people's votes are counted in a fair and measured way.

Mary Korkor
w314n7022 State Rd 83
Hartland, WI 53029

Please do not approve a modification to state statute 809.70 regarding redistricting challenges in the courts. We live in a highly partisan country now and transparency and process are increasingly important. This issue is of particular concern and any modification would make the Supreme Court appear to be engaging in political influencing. Keep the WI Supreme Court honest and unbiased.

Mary Saunders
310 Himo Street
Woodville, Wisconsin 54028

Most of us believe voters should choose their representatives—not the other way around. Unfortunately, that’s not the case in Wisconsin today. We are the most gerrymandered state in the country—and our representatives are free from Election Day accountability. The proposed rule gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process.

Mary Smith
1127 Willow Green Circle
Eau Claire, WI 54701

I am AGAINST the proposed rule that would reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. This directly contradicts the preference of a majority of Wisconsin citizens to have a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process. 54 of Wisconsin’s 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 85% of Wisconsin’s citizens. The proposed rule change is a sneaky, subtle attempt to take citizens out of the process of creating the next decade's maps before it even gets started!

Mary Weber
4305 Cannonball Trl
Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533

The majority of the people of Wisconsin voters have demanded maps be drawn by non-partisan members to prevent gerrymandering. It is absolutely necessary that all votes count in a fair election. Democracy hangs in the balance. Wisconsin has the worst record for gerrymandering in the US.

Wisconsin citizens are demanding the courts to make a change for more transparency not less. Do your job!!

Mary Zimmerman
301 Springs Drive
Spring Green, WI 53588

In Wisconsin "51 counties have passed county board resolutions urging the Legislature to ban gerrymandering. There aren't 51 blue counties in Wisconsin. Hell , there aren't 21 blue counties in Wisconsin.

This is not a partisan issue. People across the board are sick and tired of elected officials manipulating the system to keep themselves in power. The Marquette Law School poll that was referenced in the video showed that 72 percent of Wisconsinites want to ban gerrymandering. And here's an amazing piece to that poll: That includes 63 percent of Republicans and 76 percent of Independents."

Maureen Ash
N7659 950th Street
River Falls, WI 54022

22 November 2020

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices,

I'm 63 years old and remember watching Walter Cronkite, the black-and-white footage of people marching for the right to vote, and how my parents reacted. They were members of the Greatest Generation. My dad was in the South Seas in the Navy in WWII, and my mother was a nurse for returned POWs.

They understood that they had fought and worked for a country in which everyone got a fair shake, and part of that was through having the right to cast a vote. I don't think they ever thought that a vote would come to mean nothing, as it has in some districts in Wisconsin.

My representative in the Assembly is so safe in his seat that he doesn't even hide the fact that he lives out of the district. He does not respond to letters or emails. I have written to ask him why he votes as he does on various issues and there is never a response.

He's a Republican, but I could be making the same complaint of a Democrat if I lived in a district similarly gerrymandered to favor Democrats.

I wrote a short ditty this summer: When maps

Are fair
Our reps
Will care.

If we are to have a fighting chance at addressing gerrymandering in our state, we must have a deliberate and transparent process of bringing the issue before the public. We must NOT undertake a rules change as proposed by Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty that would eliminate the opportunity for fact finding and evidence gathering that the current rules allow.

Why are we rushing to change the rules? Why change the process at all? Why allow only political parties to participate, and not membership organizations such as Farmers Union and Farm Bureau? Transparency in the process is how we will move toward less polarization in our state. You can be part of this by denying the proposed rules change.

Thank you,

Maureen Ash
N7659 950th ST
River Falls, WI 54022

MaryAnn Shultz
1290 Union St
Platteville, WI 53818

I'm opposed to the rule change! Don't exclude groups and TRANSPARENCY IS NEEDED!

Mary Spaay
9227 County Road S
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

I am writing concerning Rule petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I oppose this rule because it has insufficient transparency measures and will harmfully politicize the court.

James Matson
1022 Vilas Ave.
Madison, WI 53715

I am a lifelong Wisconsin resident. Prior to retirement, I was a practicing attorney for 36 years. It has come to my attention that the Wisconsin Supreme Court is considering a possible rule change, which would require any future lawsuit related to election maps to go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, bypassing lower courts. I am writing to express my concern about such a rule change.

Fair election maps are the cornerstone of our democracy. Any Supreme Court consideration of election maps should be based on a complete factual record. The process should be deliberate and transparent,

and should avoid any appearance of undue haste or political bias. Participation should not be arbitrarily limited to political parties.

The people of Wisconsin have consistently expressed overwhelming support for a fair, objective, and transparent map drawing process. The Court should not make any rule change that might impair, or appear to impair, such a process.

Maureen Ash
N7659 950th St
River Falls, WI 54022

November 17, 2020

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices:

We represent a broad swath of the northwest region of Wisconsin, where dozens of nonpartisan citizen activists are seeking fair, honest elections. Our members reside from the St Croix River east to Eau Claire. Our activists coalesced around the goal of seeking nonpartisan voting districts for a state that has a long history of progressive political representation. Today we are outraged. The proposed rules change regarding challenges to redistricting in our state would stifle our participation in these decisions that will determine who will represent us in our State Senate and Assembly, as well as the US House of Representatives.

Sadly, Wisconsin has become a poster child for gerrymandering. Our state, once known for its clean, transparent government, is now cited as among the worst, if not THE worst, examples of gerrymandered voting districts in the United States.

Over and over the citizens of Wisconsin have demonstrated that they prefer to have a nonpartisan process for creating voting districts. Eleven counties voted in this past election to pass referenda stating that they want the legislature to use nonpartisan criteria in drawing voting districts after the 2020 census. These counties joined 17 other counties that had already passed similar referenda. A Marquette University poll shows that 72% of Wisconsin residents would prefer a nonpartisan process for creating voting districts. Every time they have been given the opportunity, the majority of voters always support creating fair districts.

The United States Supreme Court ruled that our residents must rectify the problem without Federal guidelines. Now even the few tools we have to do that are threatened. Without them, we will see even more radical turns toward restricting voter access in a variety of ways.

This proposed rules change would require discussion and adjudication on lawsuits pertaining to changes in legislative maps to go straight to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This change would throw a dark shroud over what should be clear, open citizen involvement from the widest possible variety of interest groups. This change would give political parties standing to testify, yet stifles other entities' voting rights, such as unions and membership organizations.

This proposed rule absurdly gives the Court the option to disregard the procedures and rules set in the rule itself that had been agreed to in past cycles of redistricting. This convoluted concept is difficult to explain or understand. It has no place in a modern, transparent democratic process. After six years of hearings from 2012-2019, our Supreme Court made a clear decision that this type of restriction would not be appropriate.

The current rules change process is being rushed. A decision that will so radically affect and go against the stated (through voting on referenda) desires of two-thirds to three-quarters of our state's citizens should be undertaken with deliberation and considerable citizen discussion and testimony.

Considering the overwhelming majority of Wisconsin citizens who support a nonpartisan process for creating maps and have expressed a desire to be involved in the process, this proposed rules change absolutely undermines confidence in our Wisconsin Supreme Court as a nonpartisan, legitimate arbiter of judicial questions and concerns. If the Court concurs with changing the rule, and thus limiting citizen participation in the process of creating and commenting on voting-district maps, how can our residents have faith that the Court has their best interests, and not the moneyed interests who hide behind this rules change, at heart? This undermining of the judiciary is a frightening step.

The very basic tenets of democracy are at stake here in our beautiful state. Transparency, openness, fairness, citizen participation, respect for process—all these ingredients are removed from our country's recipe for greatness. Their replacements, which are essentially the opposite, impart bitterness, rancor, and a twisted sense of what government should be. We present this testimony in the spirit of those sacred, long-held, traditional values because we will never give up the fight for them. We dare hope you are also willing to uphold these traditions of openness and inclusion of the public. Restricting this process to a select few is what our founding fathers fought a revolution to escape. Our Wisconsin motto is "Forward." This rule change is an abrupt surrender to control by those who seek to dominate the majority and would be a giant leap backward.

Sincerely,

Western Wisconsin for Nonpartisan Voting Districts

Maureen Freedland
2641 Schubert Place
La Crosse, WI 54601

Dear Esteemed Members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

I am a local elected Supervisor on the nonpartisan La Crosse County Board of Supervisors.

The La Crosse County Board was among the first to unanimously pass a resolution in 2017 against partisan redistricting. It was our hope then, and the message that I bring to you now, to vote to join with voices in Wisconsin to make it clear that democracy requires that the procedure for establishing voting

maps be open and very citizen inclusive. The County Board deeply cares because of the many outcomes and policies affecting the County's residents, services and environment. The party in control formally sets the agenda but it is far better when both parties but also citizens and nonpartisan groups have input into it. When the agenda is narrow, multiple bills can be fast tracked with the barest of public input allowed from the minority party, and cooperative law making suffers.

There is no need to rush the process of redistricting. Once upon a time not so long ago, even though the last census in 2010 seems like a long time ago in terms of political history, the local building blocks that we knew were the wards in the towns or cities, and also the county. The locals knew how to group people – whether cutting a ward in half by a major avenue would create havoc, or whether certain neighborhoods should be blocked together to increase their voting power. Common or community interests matter.

Local representative groups and community groups deserve the opportunity for input – input must come in beyond political party speak. How else do we end this almost political arms race that more and more divides and fractures our state; we must get back to hearing directly from people. The result otherwise overly partisan and complicated boundary lines that are not in the spirit of democracy. People in local and state races even question if their vote means anything.

10 years in real time is huge. So many issues are decided in that space of time that affect current and future generations: funding for public and parochial schools, land use regulations, the privatizing of natural resources and more. Please honor Wisconsin traditions of civic discussion so that the best maps may perk up, and be discussed and debated. There is no need to rush redistricting to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Allow the voices of the people to be heard and the process to unwind on its own.

Respectfully,

Maureen Freedland
La Crosse County Board

Ronald Roup
166 Burgundy Court
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54302

Allowing partisan districting has disenfranchised a majority of this state's voters. Changing this rule would ensure any future non-partisan plan would not be subjected to an implicit bias by any court.

Maureen Skroski
2710 S Hubbard Dr

Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701

I was at a loss as to how my voice would change the partisan nature of our current situation. The lines drawn for districts appear so contrived and ridiculous. I felt a bit hopeless, until I watched the ballad counting in Wisconsin and the Nation. Side by side Republican and Democrat counters worker together with a sense of duty for fairness. That can happen with a fair balanced committee to redraw the lines.

Beth ENGLISH
4033 N Trailway Ln
Appleton, WISCONSIN 54913-9682

I take exception to the petition filed by WILL that limits public hearings on redistricting. By requesting the state Supreme Court to claim jurisdiction on future redistricting legislation, groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the court's process. In the best possible public interest all necessary facts and viewpoints are needed to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Marie Baker
5318 Weaver Rd.
Dodgeville, WI 53533

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Mary Belvoir
3838 N Oakland Ave #266
Shorewood, WI 53211

It is wrong to propose that the Wisconsin Supreme Court be charged with determining the district maps in Wisconsin. All non-partisan parties need to be heard. What has happened in Wisconsin in the past several years is wrong and had unfairly favored the Republican Party. The current results of this gerrymandering work against democracy in Wisconsin.

Marjorie Bierbrauer
160 Preston Dr.
Platteville, Wisconsin 53818

This rule will harmfully Politicize the court, exclude nonpartisan groups from fully participation, and has insufficient transparency means.

Mary Bissing-Olson
33 Ramlen Ct
Appleton, WI 54915

Because redistricting is a complex process and essential to the one person/one vote principle, it should never be rushed. Public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process. Public testimony is needed and should be encouraged. Adopting this rule risks politicization of the court. Wisconsinites are in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. This has been shown by the outcomes of Board resolutions in 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties and referendums in 28 counties. These referendums have passed 100% of the time, most with more than 70% support.

Mary Beth Mikrut
5633 Island View Court
Waterford, Wisconsin 53185

We need to stop playing games with the congressional borders. They should be drawn to reflect the real make-up of the community. Thank you.

MaryBeth Petesch
736 Evans St
Oshkosh, WI 54901

At a time when public confidence in our voting process continues to spiral downwards, we as a state need to critically examine how Wisconsin will manage and review our process of creating voting districts. All democratic processes depend on collective participation and transparency. Wisconsin Supreme Court has already had the redistricting issue on its agenda years back and, at that time, decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed. Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. As you are aware, 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. As you also hopefully aware, referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support. It seems the people have spoken on this issue. Please heed our voices!

Martha Casey
5310 Lighthouse Bay Drive
Madison, WI 53704

I oppose a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. It requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process.

It is so important in Wisconsin to establish a fair, non-partisan way of assigning districts. This action would be counter to that goal.

Marilyn Catlin
10 Creek Water Court
Appleton, WI 54914

The drawing of fair election maps is fundamental for ensuring one person/one vote equality. The process should be done with due diligence and the proposed rule change withdrawing federal court from the process interferes unfairly. Do not impose this rule change and inject partisanship where it doesn't belong. The citizens of Wisconsin have voiced their desire for the maps to be done by the nonpartisan commission.

Marie Barwick
5004 Tomahawk Trl
Madison, WI 53705

This is unfair & I am tired of unfair elections. We need to have a truly non-partisan committee

Cheryl McCutcheon
3430 Shady Lane
Suamico, WI 54313

Please do what is right for We the People! Keep politics out of this process! I believe this rule will politicize the Court and exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation. Please restore my confidence that our courts are apolitical!

Charles McGee

1425 Hazelcrest Drive
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016

I do not want the Wisconsin state Supreme Court to have jurisdiction on redistricting litigation. Keep politics out of the Court!

Julia McGivern
1635 Norman Way
Madison, WI 53705

To: Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice and Justices Date: November 16, 2020 RE: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting As a long-time citizen of Wisconsin, I am outraged at the introduction of Rule Petition 20-03, which would make unacceptable changes in how redistricting cases progress through the legal system in our state. This rule would potentially eliminate the opportunity for concerned citizens and groups other than political parties to comment on cases related to redistricting. And the elimination of lower court hearings regarding these cases further limits the public's access to timely information about cases brought before the court. Finally, the rule allows the Supreme Court of Wisconsin to disregard any aspect of the rule at will! We are a divided state and a divided nation. Rules such as the proposed one are an assault on our democracy from a clearly politically partisan group. You have been elected to protect democracy in our state, and I can only trust in your wisdom and impartiality in rejecting this rule. Thank you. Julia Ellen McGivern, PhD Julia McGivern Distinguished Clinical Professor Emerita University of Wisconsin - Madison

Brian McKeon
N1671 County Highway K
Monroe, Wisconsin 53566

I want fair redistricting maps to be drawn by non political constituents of Wisconsin allowing input from the general public.

Maura McNamee
17232 OAKES RD
BOSCOBEL, WI 53805

STOP BEHIND THE SCENES REDISTRICTING!

In June, the uber-conservative Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty filed a petition asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to adopt a rule that would create a fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process

for handling redistricting cases. The rule would undermine our system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process.

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 85% of Wisconsin's citizens. The proposed rule change is a sneaky, subtle attempt to take citizens out of the process of creating the next decade's maps before it even gets started!

PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS RULE ADOPTION

Maribeth Waller
12601 Fallon Road
Boulder Junction, WI 54545

Gerrymandered voting districts have created politicians that only have to appeal to far right or far left constituents. It is a large part of the reason that we have lost compromise in our governments. Gerrymandering should be eliminated. And certainly NOT made easier to flourish.

Dorothy Juengst
846 Cornelius Drive
Green Bay, WI 54311

In election after election, voters, regardless of political affiliation, have overwhelmingly supported referendums requesting that our district maps be created by a nonpartisan commission. 28 county and 19 municipalities have passed referendums, the majority having won with more than 70% of the vote. No referendum has been defeated. 54 county boards, out of 72 counties, representing 75% of Wisconsin citizens, have endorsed nonpartisan commissions.

Clearly, Wisconsin voters want a districting system that is open, transparent and allows for citizen participation in the process. The proposed new rule would result in the opposite.

I ask the Supreme Court to reject this proposed rule, because it does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

MICHAEL DRESEN
63540 Trout Lake Rd.
Iron River, WI 54847-5005

November 22, 2020

The Wisconsin Supreme Court

Comments on a proposed rule change to restrict judicial review of voting district maps

This proposal and the limited time period provided for public review and comment are undemocratic and infuriating.

Providing less than 30 days for public review of a matter as consequential as judicial review of election maps is unconscionable and certainly reflects badly on the transparency and nonpartisan impartiality intended by this court.

The whole thrust of this proposal is to fast track and obscure judicial review of redistricting and to limit participation in the process.

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Margaret Pokorny
N8614 Hay Hollow Rd
Blanchardville, WI 53516

The rule proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty must be denied. It would bring politics into the court and keep citizens other than political parties from being heard.

Megan Grinde
1741 Bainbridge St
La Crosse, WI 54603

For the sake of keeping the WI Supreme Court's hands clean and free from the appearance of partisanship - please reject the petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. We need this process to be nonpartisan, transparent, and as open to all members of the public as possible. There is already a feeling that our courts have become too partisan and it hurts public trust in our justice system. Please do your part to maintain the integrity of the court on which you serve and allow the redistricting process to be governed elsewhere. Thank you for your service on the court.

Meghan Mackey
1551 Parmenter Street
Middleton, WI 53562

Please do not enact this rule change.

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and limit judicial transparency.

Melissa Gower
5347 Garden View Ct.
Madison, WI 53713

Dear State Supreme Court Justices,

The state of Wisconsin and her residents deserve as fair a process as possible for the representation of them as it regards electing their government representatives. Please support putting in place a system for drawing maps for Wisconsin that requires a non-partisan board of review that should include non-governmental voices. (Or an equally partisan board of review.) Gerrymandering has a long legacy in Wisconsin on both political parties' sides. End their partisan control over the voices of our citizens. Make sure that being temporarily in power doesn't silence citizens of Wisconsin for decades at a time. Please! We need a system that prevents either party from silencing the voices of Wisconsin's residents.

Melissa Erin Gower
History Teacher
Madison, WI

Melissa Ratcliff
242 Forreston Drive
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

Mainly, the process of redistricting should not be rushed. Adopting this rule increases the politicization of the Court and the process as the proposed rule by WILL only considers partisan interests. Transparency in the redistricting process is key to public trust and this rule does not allow for public input - the people who will lose out if districts are not independently drawn. The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting process failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could be heard. This time, we want fair, independent maps.

Marcia Engen
4734 N STARGAZE DRIVE
APPLETON, WI 54913

My confidence in the Wisconsin state government is based on elected officials being open and transparent. That is particularly important to me when it comes to redistricting which is a difficult task.

Over ten years ago, and after much study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change similar to the one being proposed now.

Polarization has increased in Wisconsin in the previous decade, and adopting this proposed rule will make it worse. In fact, if passed, there will be increased distrust in state government.

Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin, and public testimony should not be excluded when 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process

This is not a time to exclude public testimony.

Meredith Stevens
822 Pine Ridge Terrace
River Falls, WI 54022

Please end gerrymandering in this state. We should all have fair and equal representation. Please do the right thing.

Meredith Kervin Blankenheim
447 Windsor Forest Drive
Altoona, WI 54720

Fair voter maps are a cornerstone of democracy, and should be treated as such. Please take the time to gather information and comments from those all around the state before making a decision.

Merle Sternberg
5010 Milward Drive
Madison, WI 53711

To: Your honors on the WI State Supreme Court,

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”), filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process.

This guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn’t give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court’s process.

Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

For these reasons, I implore you to not accept this rule change. This is a legislative process and should stay this way. In my opinion, it is not the job of the Supreme Court to make decisions on these issues.

Thank you,
Merle Sternberg

Christine Morrissey
1102 N Union St.
Appleton, WI 54911

I oppose the proposed rule change requested by Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty. It seems that WILL does not have the best interests of Wisconsin citizens at heart. In June 2020 Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation limiting the review of maps, rushing the process.

The guidance is minimal and harmful to the public interest, requiring that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute over district maps, but does not grant the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. Groups, who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members, would be excluded from the Court’s process.

Said proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This provides neither a fair set of rules, nor an inclusive legal process that ensures the Court has all necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Further politicization of the State Supreme Court is not in anyone's interest. Excluding nonpartisan groups from full participation in the process of reviewing district maps lacks fairness and transparency in the process of determining our representation, and does not hold true to the precepts of representative democracy.

Mary Preston
W7906 High Ridge Rd.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This action limits the review of maps and rushes the process. You are well aware that the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. The citizens of Wisconsin demand a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, and an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review that will NOT harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency.

Marlene Sund
644 Teena St
Sparta, WI 54656

I do not support the WILL petition requesting The State Supreme Court have jurisdiction over future redistricting legislation. We need non partisan groups to be part of the process. We need to have this important issue be dealt with in a non political fashion. Our vote is the bedrock of our democracy and fairness is the protection for our democracy. Pretending that Wisconsin is not gerrymandered is ridiculous and we need openness and fairness from our courts and legislative bodies to correct this unfair policy. Reject this petition.

Marilyn Feil
3634 Alpine Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53704

It would be wrong of you to take jurisdiction of the redistricting issue before the process has even started. By doing this you would be subverting the process to serve the aims of the Legislature. The Supreme Court is not supposed to be the servant of the Legislature. The process should be allowed to progress in the way it has for many years. There is precedent from 1980, 1990 and 2000 that needs to be respected. Legal precedent. The Supreme Court needs to respect legal precedent and not be a tool of the Legislature.

Mary Hahn
154 Fayette St. #2
Phillips, WI 54555

I am opposed to the rule change proposed by Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL). As I understand it, this is calling for all future litigation regarding issues of redistricting be heard by the State Supreme Court. This will limit the review of maps and rush the process. This rule change will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation and has insufficient transparency measures. It is harmful to the public interest. Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Marc F Hansen MD
mfhansen3@gmail.com
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

I understand that the Wisconsin Supreme Court has been petitioned to the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. I believe that this

Marc F Hansen MD
3270 Sky High Road
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

I understand that the WI Supreme Court has been petition to take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. It is certainly true that redistricting should be done in a fair way that would avoid further politicization of the process. The Supreme Court should fairly represent the best interest of all WI residents, and not the interests of the two major political parties. Moreover, from an independent citizen point of view, the Supreme Court is already far too divided by political pressure and belief. The redistricting should be performed by an independent commission representing citizens and not party

interests. It would be far better if the Supreme Court represented the public interest in the same manner. Please do not further politicize your crucial responsibilities and decisions

Michael O'Brien
2975 west Princeton Ave
EauClaire, WI 55703

Voting is the bedrock of our democratic republic. The proposal by WILL is he at another move to take power away from the people. The proposal lacks transparency and although the gerrymandering in Wisconsin has been horrendous a non-partisan redistricting board is the answer, not direct action to the Supreme Court.

Michael Freeborn
1271 Waterview Way
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

Redistricting is one of the most complex and difficult tasks of government and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person/one vote. It should never be rushed. On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process.

In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed.

Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony, when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Marilyn Stephen
533 W Main St Apt 102
Madison, WI 53703

This proposed rule change is about politics, not about fairness to the citizens of Wisconsin. Please reject this request to send a strong message to those who seek to abridge our rights.

Molly Gannon

165 FOX FIRE DR
OSHKOSH, Wisconsin 54904

November 22, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of Wisconsin, I am submitting this letter in opposition of the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty's petition to have the Wisconsin Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any further redistricting legislation. I feel it is imperative to remove any opportunity or appearance of politicizing the redistricting/map drawing. This process impacts the ability of nonpartisan groups to fully participate in the process.

According to The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign as of September 4, 2020 55 counties in Wisconsin support fair maps. In drawing up new maps there should be a non-partisan method to ensure that each person's vote matters and to prohibit use of political and voting data in the process.

Robert Haidera
1523 Butler dr.
Waukesha, WI 53186

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, without allowing adequate review in the lower courts first, threatens to give the impression the Court is a political branch rather than a neutral arbitrator of conflict between political actors.

Robert Haidera
1523 Butler dr.
Waukesha, WI 53186

Adopting this rule gives the impression the court is a political branch rather than a neutral tool of the people.

Robert Haidera
1523 Butler dr.
Waukesha, WI 53186

This rule would remove input by individuals and therefore I am not in favor of it.

Melissa Baumann
5218 Fairway Dr.
Madison, WI 53711

I am writing to oppose the proposed rule that would require the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. Redistricting is an important part of the democratic process to ensure that citizens have the opportunity to have their voices heard, and elect representatives in proportion to the number of people who vote for the candidates.

The proposed rule would limit the review of maps and rush the process. It will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

There is no reason that redistricting should be short-cuttred, thus removing the voices of many Wisconsinites who care about fair and open democracy. Democracy does not thrive in the dark, so this proposed rule should not be passed.

Michael Iltis
2784 Marshall Parkway
Madison, WI 53713

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Gary McCrea
92 West Main, P.O. Box 305
Benton, WI 53803

It is my opinion that Gerrymandering is strictly political and should be barred from the legislature doing it and should be controlled by the voiting public. I can remember a situation in the Beloit area where they changed the boundaries to get one of their people elected to the State legislature. It should be up to the voters of Wisconsin to decide.

Grace Sherer
1714 N Prospect Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53202

I oppose Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. I urge the Court to reject this proposed rule change petition.

Marci Hess
20002 County Rd N
BLANCHARDVILLE, Wisconsin 53516

Wisconsinites deserve fair maps because we deserve to have our voices heard and our votes count. We need elected officials who represent the citizens and their desires. This is the essence of a representative democracy. Government must work for the people and fair maps is a huge step to bring that return this basic principle to our state.

Mary Hughes-Greer
1211 EMERSON ST
BELOIT, WI 53511-5531

Wisconsin voters have worked diligently to get their legislature to heed the call for a nonpartisan redistricting process. Over 2/3 of the state's counties have passed resolutions--and over 1/3 its counties referenda—toward that end. Yet, although the state's voters clearly want an open, nonpartisan redistricting process, the legislature has turned a deaf ear to its constituents.

Instead, in June of this year, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (representing Scott Jensen, a former Republican state representative) submitted a request to the state's Supreme Court for rule changes that would greatly affect the redistricting process. Recently (November 4, 2020) the court agreed to consider the case, and that hearing is scheduled for January 14, 2021. The court has only allowed for open comments on the pending case through November 30, 2020—an unusually brief comment period. It gives the appearance of a case that is being fast-tracked in order to ensure the proposed ruled changes could be in place before the next redistricting process begins. And that turns out to be of particular importance right now.

As they are every ten years, new voting district maps are to be drawn up in 2021! And these are maps that will affect Wisconsin elections for the next decade. Any changes that might result from the upcoming hearing would impact that upcoming redistricting process. Under the proposed changes, any challenge to the process would have to bypass the lower state courts and be taken directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Such a change would deprive the high court of evidence/information previously gathered during lower court processes. But the proposed rule changes would also prevent input from Wisconsin citizens and nonpartisan groups/organization, replacing broad citizen input with that of only the political parties. That hardly seems the path toward a fairer, more open redistricting process.

Instead, the proposed rule changes would further hinder Wisconsin voters from participating in the process—another thinly veiled form of voter suppression. And, at the same time, by making the state’s Supreme Court the sole and final arbiter of the redistricting process, the proposed rule changes could further politicize the Court, weakening its credibility.

Given the impact of the proposed rule changes would have on both the voters of Wisconsin and on the redistricting process itself, the current comment period seems woefully brief. I therefore request a sixty-day continuance in this matter. There is no need for a rush to judgment in this case, and the citizens of the state should have every opportunity to comment on the proposed changes.

Sincerely,
Mary Hughes-Greer
Beloit, WI 53511

Michael Seidman
2412 E Stratford Ct
Shorewood, WI 53211

Wisconsin Fair Maps are required for Democracy to take place

Michael Kuba
1618 Cedar St
Oshkosh, WI 54901

I think it is best to hear as many voices as possible and consider the interests of everyone.

Michael Ott
96 Tribute Avenue
Hudson, WI 54016

The vitriol and propaganda spewing from our political parties and their agents is literally and figuratively killing our country.

In my mind, a huge contributor to the partisan theater can be found in gerrymandering of districts. Gerrymandering effectively supports and encourages partisan and even extremist views.

There should be rules around district borders that require simple geometry and like numbers of constituents in each district.

I beg you, and all citizens, to takes steps to walk us back from the verbal civil war we've immersed ourselves in...and mitigating gerrymandering will be some great steps in that direction.

This country and this experiment we call democracy are special.

We have inherited great freedom. It is up to us to keep it.

Susan Michaud
10610 Fesenfeld Rd
Black Earth, WI 53515

Gerrymandering (regardless of the party) is a big problem in the State of Wisconsin. 55 counties have passed resolutions supporting fair maps and 28 counties have passed referendums. A request for a rule change has been submitted to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The lower courts are the right place where additional information can be provided This change would require any lawsuit about future maps to go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court bypassing lower courts. This rule change, would among other things, require that political parties be heard in a dispute but nonpartisan groups and voters are excluded. This rule change would disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps. It appears that this process is being rushed and I have grave concerns about the constitutionality of the requested rule change. While the Court may eventually be the right party to review actual disputes about redistricting it is not the constitutionally authorized body to usurp and decide redistricting matters in the first instance.

Michele Hoffman
2512 N 97th street
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

This ruling will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

It's time to save Democracy and the will of the Wisconsin citizens!

Michelle Marking Disch
9810 Hill Creek Drive
Verona, WI 53593

I strongly believe citizens should have input in the districting maps in Wisconsin. This proposed rule change circumvents lower court input as well.

Mary Graziano
N22297 Oak Ridge Dr
Galesville, Wi 54630

I am opposed to this proposed rule submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL). I object to this rule as it cuts out the lower courts in dealing with redistricting challenges. Also it cuts public interest organizations and citizens from hearings on the matter. In short, it politicizes the court, denies input from non-partisan public groups and it lacks transparency.

Mike Eldred
20 North Limits. Ave.
Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814

I strongly disagree with and oppose any action that allows the Wisconsin State Supreme Court to take jurisdiction of any future redistricting legislation. This proposed rule will harmfully politicize the court and excludes nonpartisan groups from full participation, favoring political parties in map disputes, particularly regarding gerrymandering efforts.

Michael von Schneidemesser
3555 Tally Ho Lane
Madison, WI 53705

I prefer political district maps to be drawn just like it is done in Iowa. The current process in Wisconsin will always be a political football. And I do not want a sitting Wisconsin Supreme Court to have a say in this, since the Court itself is highly politicized.

Michael Goodnight
1406 Fieldstone Court
Neenah, WI 54956

The people of Wisconsin deserve a fair, non-partisan court.

Mike Brodd
2182 Seaquist Rd
Sister Bay, WI 54234

Door County Fair Maps Task Force
2182 Seaquist Road
Sister Bay, WI 54234

November 20, 2020

Wisconsin Supreme Court
Regarding Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

To Whom it may concern:

My name is Michael Brodd, I reside at 2182 Seaquist Road Sister Bay, Wisconsin. I writing to you in my capacity as the Chairperson of the Door County Fair Maps Task Force, a nonpartisan citizen group which, recently was instrumental in getting a nonpartisan redistricting referendum on the November 2020 ballot in Door County. The referendum passed with 73.6% nonpartisan citizen support. I am writing on behalf of the Task Force members listed at the bottom of this letter. We have met, discussed, and agreed upon the contents of this document. It represents the point of view of the full Door County Fair Maps Task Force.

We wish to express the following concerns and to urge the Court to not adopt this rule change.

1. The exclusion of lower courts from this process reduces transparency thereby reducing public awareness of our government's actions. Lower courts exist for a reason. They should not be arbitrarily disabused of their involvement in such a critical decision. Lower courts provide a valuable
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Marshia Crowley
10188 High Fishtrap Lake Rd.
Boulder Junction, Vilas 54512

Please deny the petition from Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty which has insufficient transparency measures, will harmfully politicize the Court, and excludes nonpartisan groups from full participation. There needs to be more oversight for gerrymandering, not less accountability.

Mary Kay Baum
201 Dougherty Court
Ridgeway WI 53582

Joint Public Comment on Voting Rights

To Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices
Regarding Petition 20-03

We, the undersigned, are committed to civil rights and social justice. It is those values that bring us to strongly oppose adoption of the Rule Petition amending WI Stats 809.70 as to the Redistricting process, submitted by Scott Jensen and Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL).

The intent of the petition is clearly stated by WILL in its Memorandum of Support. It cites “procedural efficiency” as its purpose. However, the efficiency proposed does not make the exercise of voting rights any easier or more efficient. In fact this petition, if enacted, would reduce the rights of voters and defeat some of the purpose of redistricting.

The every ten year redistricting is essential to the principle of one person / one vote in which each person’s vote has, as nearly as practicable, equivalent weight in determining the outcome of our elections. This efficiency proposed here is destructive in several ways.

- 1) It would limit voter access to redress to one court: the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This court would be naming itself as the sole and final arbiter of all disputes from the moment the census results are supposed to arrive.
- 2) This narrowed path means that voters cannot use Federal Claims which have long served and continue to serve a critical role in protecting voter rights, minority voter rights and “one person, one vote” principle. Circumventing conventional processes of both lower State courts and Federal courts will also prevent traditional sources of fact finding investigation, transparency, citizen engagement, and of protection of the “one person, one vote” principle.
- 3) The petition reads that the Governor, either or both branches of the Legislature and political parties shall be granted intervention as of right in any case brought regarding redistricting. However, there is no mention of guaranteeing similar rights to impacted citizens, non-partisan local elected officials and communities in decisions that will impact them profoundly for decades.

Why would a Court choose these means of supposed efficiency when they risk losing the core of what democracy stands for in its redistricting. Yes, democracy and redistricting has sometimes been slow and messy. But better we use today’s improved ways of computerization, communication and citizen involvement than to strike down redress options and the rights of citizens.

This rule, if enacted, will reinforce the growing view that partisan politics, judicial campaign donations, weak ethics rules and ideology reign mighty in our WI Supreme Court. We ask that you show this is not true and reject this petition that unfairly reduces court access, transparency and voter rights.

Rev. Mary Kay Baum, retired pastor and Village of Ridgeway Trustee
201 Dougherty Court, Ridgeway, WI 53582 marykbaum@gmail.com 608-935-5834

Ben Wilson, 116 S Rock Ave apt 1206. Viroqua, WI 54665. Ben.Wilson@citizenactionwi.org

A. Steven Porter, JD., 1302 Painted Post Dr., Madison, WI 53716 asp5949@gmail.com

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Jan Ketelle, 5444 Sunny Ridge Rd., Mineral Point, WI 53565 jlk_moon@hotmail.com

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Linda Ketcham, JustDane, 2115 S. Park St., Madison, WI 53713 linda@justdane.org

Vicki Berenson, 145 Jackson St., Madison, WI 53704 vactive@outlook.com

Lynn Farrow
3535 Mountain Dr.
Brookfield, Wisconsin 53045

the law should not be passed. Do not limit democracy.

Mike Mcgibbon
8675 rolling hills
Custer, WI 54423

Draw fair and neutral re-districting maps stop your damn gerrymandering and turning our progressive (Wisconsin idea) forward thinking state into a shithole state.

Michael Sudalnik
7810 E Lamont Rd
ARGYLE, WI 53504-9526

The blatant packing of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin with political flunkies of the Big Money Donors of the Republican Party is not only a travesty to the IDEA OF Justice but an open door to corruption and stacking of decisions in favor of that party's policies. The Cort needs to keep it's slimy hands off this and get back to REAL JUSTICE, not some puppetry for Big Money!

James Roraff
500 Wisconsin St.
Wonewoc, WI 53968

I write in opposition to the proposal to have redistricting lawsuits go directly to the Supreme Court. There is value and historical precedent for challenges to begin at lower court levels. The value to this process is that many issues are addressed, raised and potentially clarified on the way up the judicial

process. It also potentially denies the opportunity for local issues and concerns to be raised, thus depriving these people of a voice in the process.

Mimi Wuest
E5468 Herritz Rd
Reedsburg, WI 53959

Please end gerrymandering in Wisconsin and move us to a system of fair map making by impartial jurists.

Martha Burgess
4585W McDermott Road
Park Falls, Wisconsin 54552

The gerrymandering must stop - we need fair elections and a commonsense map that supports the actual views of the WI people

Michael Brandt
7565 Mellum Road
Arena, WI 53503

The Court's mandate to uphold the constitutional rights of Wisconsin citizens requires that you reject any rule changes which minimize public input regarding the redistricting process. Specifically, you must dismiss the current petition seeking immediate jurisdiction by the Supreme Court for any legal challenges related to redistricting. The petition is a glaringly brazen attempt to invest exclusive power in a small, partisan subcommittee relative to decisions which will affect all Wisconsin voters for 10 years. Denial of input from the Executive and full Legislature would be tantamount to denial of all citizen's right to exert influence upon the definition of the most important element of a constitutional democracy – the vote. To remain a vital instrument in Wisconsin's historically representative system of government, our Supreme Court must not become more politicized in the eyes of the electorate than it is today. The reasons for rejection of this petition are clear.

Marcia Elsner
W2305 County Rd FF
Brodhead, Wisconsin 53520

I think citizens of Wisconsin be allowed to be involved in making fair election districts.

Thank you,
Marcia Elsner

Martha Kaempfe
E 5340 Jones Road
Spring Green, Wisconsin 53588

I support fair maps and fair districting.

Marilyn Johnson
4565 Stonewood dr
Middleton, WI 53562

Please make a change from this political gerrymandered districts. It is so unfair.

Mary Stippich
W316 N7429 Nelson Drive, Hartland Wisconsin 53029
Hartland, WI, WI 53029

WI Supreme Court: Please do not allow any modification that redistricting issues would go to the WI Supreme Court first before FED and State courts can examine.

Margaret Vergeront
2109 Madison Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

Rule Petition 20-03 Relating to Legal Challenges to Redistricting

I am opposed to the proposed rule on legal challenges to the 2021 Redistricting maps for Congress and the Legislature for these reasons.

First, under the proposed rule the challenges would go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, bypassing the trial court and the Court of Appeals. This diminishes the opportunity for citizens to inform themselves of the evidence and arguments and makes the process less transparent.

Second, the proposed rule requires that various political parties be heard by the Supreme Court in any disputes over the maps, but makes no such explicit requirement for nonprofit public interest organizations that have an interest in the issues.

Margaret Vergeront

Katie Hanley
537 N 67th St
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. I am against it.

Beth Eisendrath
11325 W. Daphne St.
Milwaukee, WI 53224

I oppose the rule change proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty for the following reasons:

- 1.) Redistricting is among the most complicated and challenging duties of government and it is basic to the principle of one person, one vote. It should under no circumstances be rushed. Far from it, public trust in government relies on an open and clear process to remain alive and true to our democratic principles.
 - 2.) In 2009, after several years of comprehensive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one being presently proposed.
 3. Adopting this rule brings a liability of increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at a historic apex in Wisconsin. Therefore, this is no time to bar public testimony, when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums that are in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting procedure. In point of fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsin's citizens were given the opportunity to vote on the issue, most with over 70% support.
-

Mary Flanagan
510 Chestnut St.
Neenah, WI 54956

As a citizen of Wisconsin, I am asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to retain the current redistricting process and reject the recently proposed rule change to bypass lower courts and escalate disputed maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Redistricting is a complex and difficult task, and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person, one vote. It should never be rushed. The proposed rule change shortens the process and will not allow for fact-finding by lower courts. Further, the change may exclude any input from citizens or non-profit groups, and it will eliminate transparency in the redistricting process during a time where maintaining trust in our basic institutions is paramount.

Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Please retain the current redistricting process in 2021 to promote transparency and participation in our Wisconsin voting maps.

Thank you,
Mary Flanagan

Margaret Krings
340 Graass St.
Green Bay, WI 54301

I vehemently oppose this rule change because the decision that impact redistricting should allow ALL citizens to register their input in reference to this. This change would extremely limit the ability of the citizens to give voice to their opinions regarding redistricting.

Margaret Krome
2524 Chamberlain Ave
Madison, WI 53705

America's, and Wisconsin's democracy has been made distressingly fragile by growing and extreme partisanship in recent years. Wisconsin's very partisan redistricting conducted ten years ago has resulted in undemocratic outcomes election after election. It's time to institute a fair and transparent

redistricting process. Please do not support the rule change that would exclude legitimate players from being able to engage in the redistricting process.

Mary Spike
5113 Tuggle Lane
Waunakee, WI 53597

I remember learning about Gerrymandering in civics class, probably 50 years ago, and feeling: That isn't right! And I still feel that way. We need fair, nonpartisan boundaries, and need to involve the public in this process. Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Kuhnen
35926 Ravinia Dr.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Supreme Court Justices:

The rules for the redistricting maps should NOT be changed. People have presented many good arguments against any rule change, and that I agree with their assessments.

1. Transparency in the redistricting process is key to public trust. The proposed rule does not provide adequate information to, or input from, the public. The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting process failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could be heard. The process W.I.L.L. has proposed would not solve this, and in fact would allow the Court to sidestep consideration of any arguments by groups other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or public input.
2. Previously the Court spent years engaging experts and the public to examine potential procedures for redistricting review, ultimately determining there was not an adequate judicial solution in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This time, the proposed rule making process has spanned only a few months, with no independent review by a committee of experts. The Court has considered, and rejected, adopting a rule on this topic, and the rule proposal before the Court now offers no reason for the Court to reverse its previous conclusion.
3. Eliminating the review by multiple courts limits the review of maps and rushes the process, which would normally involve development of a record, including evidence and testimony. Racial gerrymandering violates the Voting Rights Act which is a federal act. Without a complete trial process, the most marginalized could be hurt.

4. 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, without allowing adequate review in the lower courts first, threatens to give the impression the Court is a political branch rather than a neutral arbitrator of conflict between political actors.

5. 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. This is at odds with the history challenges to districts in WI, where civic groups and individual Wisconsin citizens have been involved in litigation and asserted the rights of their members.

Please consider all of these items and decide not to change the redistricting rules.

Yours in justice for all,

Michael Kuhnen

Mary Lynn Hall
220 Schober St.
Green Bay, WI 54302

The gerrymandering that has been taking place all over, but especially in WI, is unfair to the state's citizens. I feel strongly that having the court take over the jurisdiction would be harmful to the public in general and I strongly urge you to allow the citizens and non-partisan groups to retain their rights. I have lived in this state for 61 years and I am sorry to see the manner in which it is now being governed.

Mary Beihoff
450 Togstad Glenn
Madison, WI 53711-1416

Wisconsin has the dubious distinction of being the most gerrymandered of all states. Because of this, the present in power political party during this Covid crisis has decided it's in the best interest of the state electorate to not speak to the present governor since May. So here we are dying, nutrition challenged with homeless numbers going up. If this cavalier arrogance is the product of gerrymandering, if no politician can be held accountable for their action because they are in a "safe" district and we the constituents essentially have no say in their "job performance" it's high time for the putting in place of fair maps....now!!!!!!

Michael Clark
500 N Washington St
Watertown, WI 53098

Please disregard the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”), petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. Do not limit the review of maps and rush the process.

This proposed rule would harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. Allow federal courts to get involved. Do not allow this unfair rule to happen.

Stop gerrymandering that favors one party over the other. Make all districts equal to what ever major partys.

Force the redrawing of all voter districts to be equal representation to whatever major partys.

Equal representation when voting is what our constitutions established. Follow that.

Adopt the Iowa plan for redoing gerrymandering in Wisconsin.

Leslie DeMuth
N816 County Road G
Lake Mills, WI 53551

November 15, 2020 Wisconsin Supreme Court P.O. Box 1688 Madison, WI 53701-1688 Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court: I am writing to object to the rule change proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty that would send any and all legal challenges to the 2021 electoral maps directly to the State Supreme Court, bypassing federal or state trial courts. The proposed rule change would allow the State Supreme Court to approve voting districts without any public input or expert advice. This disenfranchises citizens, who should be allowed to present legitimate concerns. Political parties and partisan organizations should not have greater rights and access than communities, individuals, and nonpartisan citizen groups. This consequential rule change has been rushed, with no independent review by experts. The Court has previously considered and rejected adoption of such a rule, and there is no valid reason for the Court to reverse its previous conclusion at this time. Furthermore, since the Justices are elected by the public and often undertake election campaigns with the assistance of political parties, their ruling may rightly be seen as politically motivated. For these reasons, the State Supreme Court should not be the first body to rule.

Jefferson Fair Maps Coalition (Leslie) DeMuth
N8016 County Road G
Lake Mills, WI 53551

November 17, 2020 Wisconsin Supreme Court P.O. Box 1688 Madison, WI 53701-1688 Re: WILL/Jensen rules change request Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court: We are writing to express our opposition to the WILL/Jensen rules change request made recently to the Wisconsin Supreme Court regarding how redistricting litigation is to be handled and to request that the current process for redistricting litigation remain unchanged. The strengths of the current process are numerous, while the WILL/Jensen change seems to have no tangible advantage other than circumventing the process for a purely political agenda. It is in direct conflict with public interests and transparency. The existing process allows for review by multiple Federal and State courts, giving losing parties an option to appeal in a lower court and seek additional review by redistricting experts. The proposed change bypasses these important steps. The proposed change is also incomplete in comparison to the existing redistricting litigation process because the voice of impacted voters will be excluded. Non-partisan groups need to be involved in redistricting litigation, asserting the rights of their members. The glaring shortcomings of the proposed WILL/Jensen rule will severely impact public trust in the redistricting process. Lack of transparency combined with basically no avenues of input for non-partisan groups and Wisconsin citizens leaves the entire redistricting litigation process to be determined by political parties and the state Supreme Court, likely making the Court appear to be a partisan political entity rather than an unbiased arbitrator of conflict. We implore you to respect Wisconsin's rich history of ensuring that citizens are given a voice in redistricting and to keep the current process unchanged. Respectfully Submitted, Jefferson (County) Fair Maps Coalition

Michael Leannah
522 Grant Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081

This rule should not be passed. It stinks to high heaven. The gerrymandering in Wisconsin is especially awful. It has crippled our ability to have fair elections that truly allow for good representation of the people.

Lori Miller
W9245 Big Coulee Rd
Arkansaw, WI 54721

I am asking the Court to deny Petition 20-03 Amendment to Wis. Stat. § 809.70 regarding redistricting.

Extreme gerrymandering exists in Wisconsin, due to the current voting district boundaries drawn in 2011 using partisan voting data. Extreme gerrymandering diminishes the power of a single citizen's vote, a hallmark of democracy, since it gives unfair advantage to one party over the other. When one party can win seats but lose the popular vote, citizens' voices are not heard, and our representatives have safe seats.

Drawing voting district maps should be a nonpartisan process, favoring no party over another.

Petition 20-03 would further entrench gerrymandering in Wisconsin, because it would continue to restrict the redistricting process, specifically regarding lawsuits. If adopted, this rule would limit which court may hear redistricting challenges, how much judicial review maps are subject to, what evidence (if any) can be presented, and who gets to participate in any court hearings.

For example, the proposed rule would limit the public's and nonpartisan groups' abilities to participate in judicial review of redistricting, fast-track judicial review to the WI Supreme Court, draw the legal branch into a politicized legislative role, and shorten the time frame for the Court to consider redistricting lawsuits (months instead of years.)

As of today, 55 Wisconsin counties have passed resolutions or referendums endorsing "fair maps" drawn by a nonpartisan commission – in the November 3 general election 11 counties and four municipalities passed such referendums. People want their votes to count and their elected officials to listen. Petition 20-03 flies in the face of this public need. Please deny this petition.

Matthew Logick
902 Howard Street
River Falls, WI 54022

Gerrymandering corrupts the political process and unfortunately, the political maps in Wisconsin are so gerrymandered that they no longer reflect the political make up of the state. By design this is meant to subvert or disenfranchise large numbers of Wisconsin citizens. This proposed rule does nothing but attempt to enable gerrymandering and the continued disenfranchisement of Wisconsin Citizens. We need to put a stop to the corruption of the electoral system to ensure the political system reflects the will of all Wisconsin citizens and not a corrupt, but empowered few.

Luci Ramthun
313 W. Merrimac St.
Dodgeville, WI 53533

With SO MANY (80% of Wisconsin's citizens) voting, via county referenda, to support fair voting maps, the four voters in my household are strongly opposed to the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty's petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process. The proposed rule change is a sneaky, subtle attempt to take citizens out of the process of creating the next decade's maps before it even gets started! This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation,

and has insufficient transparency measures. We are tired of being "represented" by politicians who get to pick their own voters and openly ignore any public comment from the ones they don't get donations from. How about you think about how history will treat this decision (not kindly) and do the right thing???

Marlin Tanck
10020 Windpoint Lane
Oostburg, WI 53070

New maps for Wisconsin districts could be approved by a nonpartisan citizens group, not by a highly partisan s

Marlin Tanck
10020 Windpoint Ln
Oostburg, WI 53070

WI

Margot Brand
471 Captains Court
Winneconne, WI 54986

Will the Wisconsin Supreme Court continue to be a JUST body of our government?

marilyn kinsman-kharbush
E1424 Boot Jack Rd
Wonewoc, WI 53968

Our state is gerrymandered to death. Out in the rural parts of the state here, we have no chance of electing a Democratic candidate. The current elected officials don't attend debates, and don't even bother to hold 'listening sessions' anymore because they don't have to. They aren't accountable to their constituents. The gerrymandering is so severe that one district goes from Lime Ridge in Sauk County all the way to the Illinois border. This is ridiculous.

Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. We are looking forward to a fair and thoughtful redrawing with the current census. The Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70 (Redistricting Process) will rob us of even that. We need time to build a nonpartisan committee to study redistricting

and we need plenty of public input. Why the need to rush (30 days!)? Sending this to the state Supreme Court while bypassing an important citizen process is not called for. Legislative and executive branches need to consider map alternatives and this should wend its way through the committees and the normal legal process, not skip to the Supreme Court which we know is heavily Republican influenced.

Please do not allow this all important process to be changed. We need good fair maps drawn by nonpartisan committees.

Thank you for your consideration

Marilyn Kinsman-Kharbush, E1424 Boot Jack Rd, Wonewoc, WI 53968
1-608-985-8307

Mark Modory
5238-38th Avenue
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53144

We the the people want fairly drawn district maps. The court should ensure the process was fair and does not get jammed up in the court system.

MaryEllen Parker
209 S Water St
Albany, Wisconsin 53502

Shameful chapter in American history! Stop gerrymandering ☐☐☐

Peggy Rosin
1515 Vilas Ave
Madison, WI 53711

To: Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice and Justices
Date: November 17, 2020
RE: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

I am a life-long Wisconsinite who cherishes our state and our democracy. I am opposed to the introduction of Rule Petition 20-03. Wisconsin has been called out nationally for its egregious gerrymandering of the state. This proposed rule makes unacceptable changes in how redistricting cases progress through the legal system. This rule would eliminate the voices of concerned citizens, allowing only political parties to comment on cases related to redistricting. And the elimination of lower court hearings regarding these cases further limits the public's access to timely information about cases

brought before the court. Finally, this rule gives power to the Supreme Court of Wisconsin to disregard any aspect of the rule.

Our recent election shows Wisconsin as a divided state. This rule is put forth by a clearly politically partisan group to circumvent the will of all the people. Please reject this rule and protect our democracy.

Sincerely,

Peggy Rosin
1515 Vilas Avenue
Madison, WI. 53711

Megan Voss
4968 N Berkeley Blvd
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

I urge you to reject the petition from Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. The people of Wisconsin deserve fair, independent and transparent districting.

Thank you.

John Montgomery
6 Highgate Circle
Madison, WI 53717

Rule Petition 20-03 Relating to Legal Challenges to Redistricting (No to Rule Petition 20-03, Yes to Nonpartisan Redistricting) I'm concerned the Wisconsin Supreme Court may take up the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty's proposal for the Court to automatically hear any legal challenge to the 2021 redistricting process, hence short-circuiting lower courts. Why should WILL have a disproportionate influence in this matter and call the shots when they're simply a highly partisan think tank? And why should this very contentious process not allow all legal avenues to run their course before the process is ultimately resolved? Redistricting is too important to curtail legal challenges by vesting decision-making with the Supreme Court now for a quick legal resolution, while attempting to minimize scrutiny of the process. Of course, the process typically followed in Wisconsin, as in most states, is the party in power in the legislature draws district lines to create a further advantage in winning future elections. The exception to this highly partisan process is states that have a nonpartisan body which cannot take into account any political factors like using past partisan vote totals in various districts in drawing the maps. The best example is Iowa, which has had a longstanding, outstanding

process of nonpartisan redistricting the past 40 years, that is supported by both parties and has had few detractors or legal challenges. And the Iowa method does require the legislature to adopt the maps, but they are drawn by a nonpartisan body. That's instructive because I repeatedly hear Wisconsin Republican legislators say they want to keep the current process because it's the job of the legislature to draw the maps and vote on them. The reality however, was that in 2011, even the Republicans didn't draw the maps. Rather, a high-powered out-of-state law firm was paid millions to actually draw the lines and do the job the legislature is supposedly charged with doing. And Republican legislators weren't privy to most of what happened behind the law firm's closed doors, and were sworn to secrecy once they were given tidbits about the new districts. Meanwhile, under those 2011 maps which were so favorable to Republicans, Democrats, who typically since then won a majority of statewide votes cast in subsequent legislative elections, but only won a minority of districts and are thus relegated to 2nd class status. This is unfair, wrong, and not good for citizen engagement or for our democracy. To wit, a 2019 Marquette University poll found 72% of all respondents favor a nonpartisan redistricting process for Wisconsin, a result affirmed by more than a dozen referenda passed at the local level in the November 2020 elections, all of which favored nonpartisan redistricting over the current partisan process. Wisconsin citizens view the current process as rigged and detrimental to fair representation, for what's fair or good about it? If this process repeats itself in 2021, the Supreme Court needs to consider the very anti-democratic results partisan mapping achieves, which undercuts basic democracy. When combined with so many other highly partisan results that gerrymandering enabled (lame duck laws taking power away from an incoming governor, the inability for a governor to protect citizens during a pandemic, making voting more difficult, etc., etc.,) the court has to see WILL's proposal for what it really is: Another concerted, blatant attempt to ignore a majority of Wisconsin voters. Thank you. John Montgomery 6 Highgate Circle Madison, WI 53717

Mary Nugent
W7747 Van Dunk Place
Holmen, Wisconsin 54636

Hello,

I value a nonpartisan, transparent redistricting process. The state Supreme Court should not claim jurisdiction on any future redistricting legislation as requested in the petition by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL). If this petition is granted, it will limit the review of fair maps, will politicize the court, and will exclude nonpartisan groups from participating in redistricting efforts.

Please reject this petition in order to provide fairness and inclusivity. "

Thank you for your consideration,

Mary Nugent

Maureen May-Grimm
240 South Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565

I am so disappointed to learn that the legislature is trying to silence my vote (and the major of voters) for Fair Maps in Wisconsin.

I hope the court will allow us to believe our voice and elections matter.

Brenda Utzerath
N7428 Hillendale Pkwy
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

Please! This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Molly Noyola
3729 S Austin St
Milwaukee, WI 53207

This should not pass. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Jennifer Harris
5059 n hwy H
Ridgeway, WI 53582

To: Wisconsin State Supreme Court

Re: Proposed rule change petition
filed in June by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty ("WILL"), requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation.

Please strike down this proposal as it would give a political partisan election advantage to one party, harmfully politicize the court and go against the express wishes of the citizens of the state of Wisconsin to have district maps that are fair.

This rule change would limit the review of maps and rush the redistricting process.

The guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means nonpartisan groups, who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members, could be excluded from the full participation in the process.

This proposed rule also gives the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a transparent process nor a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

The court has an obligation to the people of the state of Wisconsin to assure that their constitutional rights to a fair and free election are not manipulated by an unfair, non-transparent process that favors one political party. Please reject this political play to manipulate fair elections in Wisconsin.

patrick mommaerts
4975 cty road F
black earth, wi 53515

every effort must be made to allow the full citizenry to voice their concerns on how maps are drawn to allow full and fair representation. End Gerrymandering now!!

Mona Johnson
15 Paget Road
Madison, WI 53704

Hello, this proposed rule change should be modified to make sure the opinions of all interested parties, especially non-partisan organizations, can be fully heard. The rule should also lay out the process for redistricting proposals and challenges to work their way through the court system, make adherence to the process mandatory, and require full transparency for proposals, filings, and decisions.

Richard Maxwell

4918 Thorson Rd
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Have you guys ever heard of FAIR PLAY or is that a foreign (aka Russian, Arabic, etc.) phrase. If you want to control the country and this state why don't you just say so instead of pulling these shenanigans. You make me ashamed.

Monty Clark
1 River Place Dr., #403
La Crosse, WI 54601

Related to state legislative districts, and the redistricting process: Please don't create a rule that will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and limit judicial transparency.

Article IV of the Wisconsin Constitution says that the state legislature shall create assembly and senate districts: To be bounded by county, precinct, town or ward lines, to consist of contiguous territory and be in as compact form as practicable.

Compact as practicable means districts will be box shaped, much like counties. They will respect municipal borders.

Elizabeth Montavon
1655 Highland Dr
Elm Grove, Wisconsin 53122

Please do NOT adopt a REDISTRICTING rule that would create a fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases. This would undermine our system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process. We need a fair, transparent, non-partisan process for determining district maps.

Monica O'Brien
5110 Holiday Dr.
Madison, WI 53711

We need nonpartisan redistricting. Thank you.

Sara Muender
13385 Cranberry Blvd

Manitowish Waters, WI 54545-6243

In June, the uber-conservative Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty filed a petition asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to adopt a rule that would create a fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases. The rule would undermine our system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process.

The proposed rule would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or input from members of the public and groups that aren't political. This directly contradicts the preference of a majority of Wisconsin citizens to have a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process.

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 85% of Wisconsin's citizens. The proposed rule change is a sneaky, subtle attempt to take citizens out of the process of creating the next decade's maps before it even gets started!

I am very much OPPOSED to this rule change. We need to stop gerrymandering NOW!!!!

Maureen Purcell
1711 Jefferson
Madison, WI 53711

Changing the redistricting process will further politicize the decisions of the WI Supreme Court. Shifting control over the redistricting process from the legislature and governor to SCOWIS is not a step towards transparency.

Joy Morgen
1901 Dondee Road
Madison, WI 53716

The people of Wisconsin have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. They are not listening. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair. Are there any public interest groups asking for this rule change? NO, there are not!

The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. The lower courts are the appropriate place where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps.

This rule change further politicizes the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its credibility in the eyes of the public. The court should be seen as neutral.

This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to ensuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency.

There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being rushed and I demand a 60 day continuance. Again, this is a measure that thwarts public trust.

I object to the constitutionality of the requested rule change. The petition seeks to authorize the Court to take immediate jurisdiction of the redistricting process upon the request of any party the instant the census is released and then issue an immediate stay. Taking jurisdiction at that early point is premature; there is not yet any case or controversy. The request rests solely on the speculation that, with a divided government, there "may" be a future impasse between the Legislature and Executive Branch. Having the Court take over the process at that premature point violates the state and federal constitutions because it would usurp the authority of the Legislature and Executive branch to address redistricting matters in the first instance. While the Court may eventually be the proper agency to review actual disputes about redistricting, based on the actual facts then of record, it is not the constitutionally authorized body to usurp and decide redistricting matters in the first instance.

Mark Smith
8265 Schroeder Rd
Oconto Falls, WI 54154

No more stolen votes. We need Iowa model.

Mark Smith
8265 Schroeder Rd
Oconto Falls, WI 54154

I am tired of my vote stolen by crack and pack schemes. How has this been allowed to fester FOR SO LONG??

Mark Smith
8265 Schroeder Rd
Oconto Falls, WI 54154

Please make my vote equal to everyone else's.

Robert Kellner
N54 W33369 Terrace Dr.
Nashotah, WI 53058

I am opposed to this rule on several fronts, but disallowing involvement of non-political parties that have a valid interest in redistricting (namely the citizens themselves and organizations representing citizens), is horribly inappropriate. Redistricting affects all citizens in a state, and yet huge portions of Wisconsinites would not have any party representing them if only the Democratic and Republican Parties (and other small parties we laugh about, of course) can bring a case.

Frankly, neither party should be involved in determining the process. It should be non partisan. I know it won't be non-partisan, but don't make the redistricting process EXCLUSIVELY partisan. Don't make it worse.

Margie Ferstl
E4818 Rolling Ridge Rd
Spring Green, 61 53588

I am writing to object to Petition 20-03 Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70, regarding the redistricting process. The redistricting process needs to be a transparent process and a nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. Fifty-five Wisconsin counties have already passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure. Good government is by, for, and of the people who can provide needed input for facts regarding redistricting. Thank you.

Tom Pedretti
110 Longview
mt Horeb, Wisconsin 53572

The WILL rule is a ploy by a corrupt organization known as the Republican Party to rig the process for drawing fair legislative maps in Wisconsin. It should not be allowed to avoid legal challenge by going directly to the Supreme Court. Thank you

Damian Barta
442 N Wood St
Spring Green, WI 53588

I strongly feel that current gerrymandering in Wisconsin harms our democratic process in the state. We need to remove districting decisions as far as possible from partisan political politics. It can be done as seen in Iowa in 1980, when a non-partisan agency was created to set up districts without using any data related to citizens' political party affiliation.

A majority of counties in Wisconsin have voted for referendums supporting non-partisan districting. A majority of county boards have passed resolutions in support of independent, non-partisan districting. The Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (W.I.L.L.) proposed rule for the Supreme Court runs counter to the will of the majority of Wisconsinites. It excludes non-partisan bodies from contributing in a public, transparent process towards the establishment of fair and non-partisan districts.

This matter is urgent as 2021 is the year for new re-districting.

Please decline to support the W.I.L.L. proposal, and allow a fair process for redistricting to be established.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Damian Barta
442 N Wood St.
Spring Green, WI 53588

Joseph Paull
4040 Twin Court
Ridgeway, Wisconsin 53582

Please start listening to the people. We want fair maps and legislators who represent us. We need to bring unity, not division. This presidential election is an embarrassment, STOP THE DIVIDE, please.

Thank you,
Joseph Bruce Paull

Dianne Brakarsh
2230 Hollister Avenue
Madison, WI 53726

The people of Wisconsin have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. They are not listening. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair. Are there any public interest groups asking for this rule change? NO!

The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. The lower courts are the appropriate place where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps.

This rule change further politicizes the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its credibility in the eyes of the public.

This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to ensuring good government.

This procedural change diminishes transparency.

There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being rushed and I demand a 60 day continuance.

I object to the constitutionality of the requested rule change. The petition seeks to authorize the Court to take immediate jurisdiction of the redistricting process upon the request of any party the instant the census is released and then issue an immediate stay. Taking jurisdiction at that early point is premature; there is not yet any case or controversy. The request rests solely on the speculation that, with a divided government, there "may" be a future impasse between the Legislature and Executive Branch. Having the Court take over the process at that premature point violates the state and federal constitutions because it would usurp the authority of the Legislature and Executive branch to address redistricting matters in the first instance. While the Court may eventually be the proper party to review actual disputes about redistricting, based on the actual facts then of record, it is not the constitutionally authorized body to usurp and decide redistricting matters in the first instance.

Mairead Ahmad
912 Riverside Dr.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

To Whom it May Concern,

To better serve the people in Wisconsin our voting maps should not be partisan. Having fair maps that favor neither political party means that tax payers money is not being spent defending partisan maps, and that legislators have to actually work for their constituents in order to get elected, instead of knowing it's a given because they have no viable competition. To get the best representatives we need

non-partisan maps. To give legislators a reason to work together, we need non-partisan maps. To get the best people to work in the government we need non-partisan maps.

Sincerely,
Mairead Ahmad

Michele Patin
2819 N Frederick Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53211

The majority of Wisconsin county boards have passed resolutions in favor of a law to require independent, nonpartisan redistricting maps for the state. And citizens in 55 counties have either passed a referendum or a resolution to do this. The people of Wisconsin want FAIR maps! The proposed rule change is against the will of the people — and would remove any chance for citizens to have input or for the court gather data fairly and collect representative viewpoints. This rule change would be bad for the future of Wisconsin!

Mary Pat Siewert
1500 Longwood Ave
Elm Grove, WI 53122

The process for establishing the maps in WI MUST include no partisan parties with a vested interest in the process - unions, etc. Having the courts take it over will result in politicizing the WI Supreme Court. That would be horrible!!

Marilyn Van Lannen
1114 Wirtz Ave.
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54304

The process of determining future district maps should be done by an open review. A nonpartisan, independent group needs to decide the maps, and all possible maps should be reviewed. This cannot be rushed and the public must be aware of this and any ongoing process.

Nonpartisan groups must be allowed to participate in future redistricting, not the Wisconsin Supreme Court as proposed by WILL.

Michael Olson

E4403 Mehner Ln
Viroqua, WI 54665

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. We need the voters to select their representatives not the representatives selecting their voters.

marion ruelle
4131 15th Place South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Legislation that will hamstring the Supreme Court is abhorrent and we should never allow politicians to alter a good process. there are too many restrictions being broached today. Now is the time to be just and right!

I urge you to retain the hearings!

Michael Salkowski
P. O. Box 183
Germantown, WI 53022

I would like the Court to take into consideration the issues of fariness and transperancy when it decides the case involving redistricting.

MARSHA SEHLER
1027 E Ogden Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Don't politicize the courts.

Karla Manternach
330 MONROE ST
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538-1749

Please ensure that nonpartisan groups like unions and membership organizations have the right and ability to present any concerns about gerrymandering on behalf of their members before the Court. Please also mandate that the Court observe the processes and requirements set forth in the rule in

order to ensure that it has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Mary Steckart
502 N. front Street # 1
De Pere, WI 54115

The proposed rule change will harmfully politicize the Court, will harmfully politicize the court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Mia Kodzik
N77W22300 Wooded Hills Dr.
Lisbon, WI 53089

We need fair Elections!! Changes must be made!!

Michael Switzenbaum
4907 N Idlewild Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

I am writing to you in regard to the petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty regarding future redistricting litigation. Please allow me to share my thoughts with you.

It is my understanding that redistricting is no simple process. It is complex and difficult, but it is fundamental to the principle of one person / one vote. It should never be rushed. On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process.

In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty.

Adopting the rule proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. At this time it seems that public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referenda in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referenda have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Thanks you for your consideration.

Michael Switzenbaum
Whitefish Bay, WI

Betsy D'Angelo
5106 County Road Z
Spring Green, WI 53588

I respectfully request that you do NOT adopt the proposed rule change that would send potential redistricting lawsuits directly to the Supreme Court, bypassing the lower courts. The majority of Wisconsin citizens want fair maps that are non-partisan. Our democracy will function better once we are rid of gerrymandering. Determination of the new maps should not be limited to the political parties. We the PEOPLE should be given information and allowed to participate in the process. Please protect the people's right to have a voice in the redistricting process!

Mary Fendt
173 21st Street Apt 2E
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935

Perhaps you are aware that we have just managed to get through an election that had record numbers of voters from both parties. We are paying attention. We are voting. It is your responsibility to ensure that redistricting is aligned to the principle of one person one vote. The process must be open and transparent. It must instill public confidence in government. Seek the wisdom of the 2009 Wisconsin Supreme Court who decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed. Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Michael Greif
2031 Brookview Ct
Neenah, WI 54956

As a citizen of Wisconsin, I am asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to retain the current redistricting process and reject the recently proposed rule change to bypass lower courts and escalate disputed maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Redistricting is a complex and difficult task, an501d501 501o501n501e501 501t501h501a501t501
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Joseph Myren
1341 s Bighorn Drive
Arkdale, Wi 54613

We the people!! Not packs or parties. Political groups.
Just a nonpartisan committee. I think my 7 year old grandson understands this concept.

Francine Gies
609 W Main St
Watertown, Wi 53094

I abstained from participating in the US Census this year for political reasons as the information has been used to gerrymander the heck out of this state. We need a non-partisan commission to stop disenfranchising WI voters. No justice, no head count.

Mary Filion-Zuelsdorf
N4048 Amity Rd
Brandon, WI 53919

N4048 Amity Rd
Brandon, WI 53919
November 16, 2020

I am writing to you regarding Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I strongly oppose this rule. I believe the maps in Wisconsin are currently gerrymandered and as a result politicians do not have to listen to their constituents. I know this first hand since I live in a gerrymandered assembly district in which there is a lack of community continuity. When the maps are redrawn in 2021, Wisconsin will have an opportunity to redraw the maps in a fair and transparent manner.

Rule petition 20-03 would allow political parties to be heard by the court but not necessarily other groups or citizens. However redistricting effects my family and all citizens, not just political parties. In fact redistricting should be non-partisan. Non-partisan groups and voters should be informed and have a right to be heard. Rather than doing this, rule Petition 20-03 will greatly limit transparency and make it more difficult for the public to give input or be informed. In addition, this rule would bypass lower courts reducing time and opportunities for review. The redrawing of the maps is too important to our democracy to be rushed and should be subject to thoughtful consideration and review.

At this time our state and country are divided, and many people are losing trust in our government. I have not given up hope and believe we need to strength our democracy. The adoption of this rule could give the impression that the court is a political branch thus reducing trust and diminishing the court's ability to function as a neutral branch of government. I urge you not to adopt this rule.

Mary Filion-Zuelsdorf
Mzuelsdorf@gmail.com

Nan Hallock
819 Shorewood Boulevard
Manitowoc, WI 54220

Please reflect the democratic values of WI and vote against the petition filed by Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) requesting that the state Supreme Court claim jurisdiction on any future redistricting legislation, effectively limiting the review of fair maps and rushing the process altogether.

Nancy Murphy
917 Sally's Alley North
Hudson, WI 54016

Yes, WE the People, want Fair maps. Please take that into consideration.

Nancy Hill
425 19th St S
La Crosse, WI 54601

"Greetings:

I value a nonpartisan, transparent redistricting process. The state Supreme Court should not claim jurisdiction on any future redistricting legislation as requested in the petition by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL). If this petition is granted, it will limit the review of fair maps, will politicize the court, and will exclude nonpartisan groups from participating in redistricting efforts.

Please reject this petition in order to provide fairness and inclusivity. "

Thank you for your consideration,

We need a democracy that works.

Nancy F. Hill

Nancy Long
809 Sunset Drive
Lodi, WI 53555

My name is Nancy Long, and I am writing to comment on the rule change being proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) specific to legal challenges to redistricting. As a citizen of Wisconsin, I am opposed to this proposed rule change. Fundamentally, it is an assault on democracy as it limits citizen participation and harms the integrity of government.

I am opposed to the rule for the following reasons:

First, the process shouldn't be rushed. Previously, the Court has taken time to hear witnesses and gather testimony. Basically, taking time to hear from experts and the public on the potential procedures for the redistricting review. This time, the proposed rulemaking process has spanned only a few months, with no independent review by a committee of experts. The rule proposal before the Court now offers no reason for the Court to reverse its previous conclusion. More importantly, it limits public participation in the process.

Secondly, should the rule be adopted, it would lead to the increased 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. State Supreme Court Justices who are elected and campaign for their terms, often with the financial (and other) assistance of political parties open themselves to legitimate criticism of party loyalty rather than neutral defenders of the law.

Third, the proposed rule gives exclusive participation rights to two political parties and leaves ordinary citizens out of the process. While political parties are given standing to present maps before the Court, non-partisan groups and voters impacted by new districts may be excluded. This is at odds with the history of challenges to districts in Wisconsin, where civic groups and individual Wisconsin citizens have been involved in litigation and asserted the rights of their members.

Wisconsin citizens deserve a process that is open and transparent. The proposed rule does not provide adequate information to, or input from, the public which only serves to further diminish the public's view of accountability in government and the integrity of public officials. Ultimately, the lack of transparency harms public trust in the redistricting process. The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting process failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could be heard. The process WILL has proposed would not solve this and, in fact, would allow the Court to sidestep consideration of any arguments other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or public input.

Finally, the people of Wisconsin deserve a fair process for redistricting. They have expressed their desire to participate in the process by the passage of numerous referenda. All recent polls strongly show Wisconsin citizens want an open and nonpartisan approach to redistricting. The proposed rule change would not be conducive to a fair process. I respectfully request that you do NOT adopt this rule change.

Respectfully,
Nancy Long

Nancy Rost
25 Sherman Terrace, Unit 5
Madison, WI 53704

The majority of Wisconsin citizens want a fair, thorough, non-partisan redistricting process. The drawing of maps should not be limited or rushed. The Wisconsin Supreme Court should not adopt rules that take citizen input out of the redistricting process.

Nancy Kosseff
2306 Eton Ridge
Madison, WI 53726

Please do not adopt the rule change requested in the petition filed by the Institute for Law and Liberty. This rule would undermine our system of checks and balances, and shut the general public out of the process.

Nancy Napoletan
1244 E Lake Rd
Mineral Point, WI 53565

As a Wisconsin-licensed attorney, I urge you to accept public comment on any redistricting rule that may come before the Court. The Court is becoming too politicized, and therefore less relevant. It's time to start thinking about the wellbeing of Wisconsin citizens--all citizens, not just those registered as Republicans.

Diane Geisel
W6660 Hanson Rd
Onalaska, WI 54650

I am opposed to Rule Petition 20-03 regarding legal challenges to redistricting. It is concerning that rightwing groups are trying to influence the drawing of district maps ...again...which would likely lead to another gerrymander. WI citizens and organizations should have their voices heard..especially since current elected officials are not working 'well' together & important business is being ignored. ie

effective battling of pandemic for instance. It's past time to 'play nicely with each other & stop the partisan politics".

Nathan Flesness
246 Cove Lane
Hudson, wi 54016

Please do NOT agree to this rule change. It would politicize the court, reduce critical transparency, and make the image of government look more closed, supporting even more conspiracy theories. There are no upsides to it.

Thank you

Neil Bartlett
103 Hilltop Drive
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

Seems like this rule will (further) politicize the Court. Is that wise? The transparency measures seem lacking. I am opposed to adopting this rule. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nancy Buhr
N7163 Riverwoods Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53083

This rule should not be passed. We need to end gerrymandering in WI.

Nicholas Lane
1012 Millies Way
Waunakee, WI 53597

Gerrymandering is a disgrace and an affront to democracy that threatens to nullify the will of the people and nowhere has this been more egregious than Wisconsin. This is evidenced by the fact that in 2018 democrats gained the majority of the votes for the assembly but the republicans still maintained a majority of 63/99 seats. Voters should be able select their representatives not the other way around, and as it now stands the republican majority does not have to worry about being accountable to the people as their majority is secured by these unfairly drawn lines. It is hard to think of an example of a more partisan and unfair process. As such I would strongly recommend that the Supreme Court reject

the proposed rule change which would insert it squarely in the middle of such a partisan process. This change would harm the court by further politicizing it and would deprive non partisan groups the chance to participate in this vital process. The rule would also not provide adequate transparency which would run the risk of furthering mistrust of government/politics and thereby deepen the divides among us.

Mary Schmidt
2410 Bittersweet Ave
Green Bay, WI 54301

I write to ask this Court to reject the proposed rule, because it will not improve the districting process and will further undermine citizens' confidence in the system. Rushing the dispute to the Supreme Court and limiting the parties will deprive the court of the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Nicholas M. De Leo
7911 Hillcrest Dr
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

11/22/20, 8:15A ... To: Wisconsin State Supreme Court. Please support efforts to redress the partisan attack on balanced, fair legislative districting in the State of Wisconsin, initiated in 2010 by previous state administration. Current districting does not represent the will of the people of this state but, rather, blatantly and unfairly reinforces the interests of the current party in power in our legislature. The correction of this inequity cannot start with the State Supreme Court where partisan opinion is the rule not the exception. Fair rebalancing cannot be realized if the question begins and ends in the hands of Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Angela Schneider
W162N10516 Auburn Lane
Germantown, WI 53022

It is disheartening that I even have to request that gerrymandering be stopped. Anyone with half a brain understands this is another form of cheating. Even more obvious is the fact the majority isn't represented by just looking at the percentages. We now have more GOP leaders while the popular vote is Dems. But you and I know what's going on. We teach our children not to cheat, but our leaders play a game with our votes by choosing their voters versus the other way around. This is totally shameful.

Stop Gerrymandering. Need INDEPENDENT fair maps drawn (keep it out of the political hands). No more cheating. Do the honest, forthright, fair thing for all citizens. The goal is to let us citizens choose our leaders and the percentage should be same as the representation.

Ellen and Todd Needham
1940 Palisades Dr
Appleton, WI 54915-1023

We request that redistricting cases continue to be heard in the ascending federal court system. This process avoids the highly politicized Wisconsin legislature and court system. It is imperative that citizens maintain their trust and confidence in any redistricting decisions and that the redistricting process is transparent. There is overwhelming support in Wisconsin counties for a fair and non-partisan redistricting process.

mick mlinar
10358 E Porcupine Lk. Rd
Tipler, WI 54542

Wisconsin needs to return to a fair and just system of elected officials. Predetermined results by gerrymandering is in no ones interest, Democratic or Republican.

Susan Nelson
N2668 Cadiz Springs Rd.
Monroe, WI 53566

The Wisconsin Supreme Court is not a political branch and should not be put in the position to have a rule in place that makes their decisions politicized. In the interest of the citizens of Wisconsin and right vs. wrong, do not adopt the rule being put forth that intends to have nearly any lawsuit about future redistricting go straight to the Supreme Court. This is wrong!

Glenn Reynolds
1261 County Road U
Verona, WI 53593

I Strongly object to this proposed rule change. Our democracy is now showing severe fissures and cracks. Partisan attacks on our institutions and now our election process have reached fever pitch.

Our judicial system has been yanked into the fray. It is therefore vital that this rule be rejected for the sake of fairness, transparency and to protect the public's faith in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Without facts developed in a trial court, the careful consideration of the legal issues by a trial judge and written findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Supreme Court will be required to shoot from the hip in making decisions that will effect the nature of our state government for a decade.

Whether a case is won or lost in the Supreme Court, it is crucial that the public accept and respect the decision as fair and just. Adoption of this rule would cause the Wisconsin Supreme to lose credibility and widespread public doubt -on one side or the other- about the integrity of its future rulings in this highly contentious subject. It should therefore be rejected.

Glenn Reynolds

Debora Wearne-Neurohr
311 E. Rio St.
Rio, WI 53960

I don't believe the Supreme Court is the best entity to take jurisdiction in matters regarding any future redistributing. I believe it's best handled by a non-partisan committee taking balance, fairness and logical geographic connections in mind.

Nancy Graham
26 South Meadows Dr
Appleton, WI 54915

Wisconsin needs FAIR maps drawn. Maps that are true to geographical areas, and drawn up without knowledge of voters tendency to vote for certain parties. Make the development of maps FAIR.

Abigail Wright
1220 E Locust Street, Unit 310
Milwaukee, WI 53212

This rule will politicize the court and prevent the public and nonpartisan organizations from making their voices heard on redistricting matters. It is antidemocratic and must not be adopted.

Nicole Dobesh
3098 summer place

Green Bay, Wisconsin 54313

this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. Please do not allow this to happen I beg you.

Janice Nitz
2424 E Webster PL #305
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

Dear Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court,

I am writing as a private citizen to voice my strong opposition to Petition 20-03, submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL), regarding the process by which legal challenges to legislative redistricting will be heard. I urge you to reject this petition in its entirety. Indeed, doin510g510 510s510o510 510i510s510 510t510h510e510 510o510n510i510y510 510c510o510u510r510s510e510 510o510f510 510a510c510t510i510o510n510 510c510o510n510s510i510s510t510e510n510t510 510w510i510t510h510 510t510h510e510 510i510d510e510a510 510o510f510 510g510o510v510e510r510n510m510e510n510t510 510b510y510,510 510f510o510r510,510 510a510n510d510 510o510f510 510t510h510e510 510p510e510o510p510i510e510.510 510L510e510g510i510s510i510a510t510i510v510e510 510r510e510d510i510s510t510r510i510c510t510i510n510g510 510i510s510 510t510h510e510 510v510e510r510y510 510f510o510u510n510d510a510t510i510o510n510 510o510f510 510d510e510m510o510c510r510a510c510y510i510e510g510i510s510i510a510t510i510v510e510 510r510e510p510r510e510s510e510n510t510a510t510i510o510n510 510i510s510 510t510h510e510 510v510e510h510i510c510i510e510 510b510y510 510w510h510i510c510h510 510v510o510t510e510r510s510 510p510a510r510t510i510c510i510p510a510t510e510 510i510n510 510t510h510e510i510r510 510o510w510n510 510g510o510v510e510r510n510m510e510n510t510y510e510t510 510W510i510L510L510 510i510s510 510a510s510k510i510n510g510 510y510o510u510,510 510a510s510 510m510e510m510b510e510r510s510 510o510f510 510t510h510e510 510s510t510a510t510e510s510 510h510i510g510h510e510s510t510 510c510o510u510r510t510,510 510t510o510 510r510e510s510t510r510i510c510t510 510p510r510i510v510a510t510e510 510c510i510t510i510z510e510n510s510 510a510n510d510 510p510r510i510v510a510t510e510 510g510r510o510u510p510s510 510f510r510o510m510 510h510a510v510i510n510g510 510a510 510v510o510i510c510e510 510i510n510 510t510h510e510 510r510e510d510i510s510t510r510i510c510t510i510n510g510 510p510r510o510c510e510s510s510.510 510T510h510e510 510r510u510i510e510s510 510p510r510o510p510o510s510e510d510 510i510n510 510P510e510t510i510t510i510o510n510 51025100510-51005103510 510r510e510q510u510i510r510e510 510t510h510a510t510 510p510o510i510t510i510c510a510i510 510p510a510r510t510i510e510s510

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1714 81st Street
Kenosha, WI 53143

This rule is not what the people voted for in November. We voted for transparency. We voted for fair redistricting. We voted for a voice. This rule removes all of these objectives. You are playing with fire. The people of Wisconsin are waking up to the deceit and self serving going on in the state government and court. You have a final chance to do the right, fair thing as decided by the people. The people will not be fooled anymore. We are sick and tired of this legislature and court subverting our will for your personal and political gain. Do not proceed with this rule.

Nancy Maxwell
6645 High Point Rd
Arena, WI 53503

Comments regarding fair maps:

- The people of WI have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. They are not listening. On the ballot at the November 3rd election where I voted in the Town of Arena was a resolution supporting fair maps. Here in Iowa County the referendum passed with 73.8% supporting a nonpartisan, transparent process for drawing voting district maps.
- Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to ensuring good government.
- There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless unfortunately if it is to deter public comment.
- I object to the constitutionality of the requested rule change. The petition seeks to authorize the Court to take immediate jurisdiction of the redistricting process upon the request of any party the instant the census is realized and then issue an immediate stay. While the Court may eventually be the proper party to review actual disputes about redistricting, based on the actual facts then of record, it is not the constitutionally authorized body to usurp and decide redistricting matters in the first instance. Thank you for allowing me to include my comments.

Nancy Maxwell

Nancy Fisker
8987 Riverside Rd
Darlington, WI 53530

I oppose WILL's petition to the Supreme Court and support all efforts to persuade the court not to approve the petition and try to claim original jurisdiction over any legal dispute over the 2021 redistricting. WILL is court shopping in hopes of short-circuiting the upcoming legislative redistricting process and rigging it in their favor to increase the likelihood of another Republican gerrymander. WILL's petition does that by limiting any judicial review of redistricting in our state to the Wisconsin Supreme Court with its conservative majority. It's an effort to prevent lower state courts from having any say or giving citizens the opportunity to weigh in.

Nancy Nix
303 Sumner Court
Chetek, WI 54728

These Republican lawmakers are not doing their jobs and need to be voted out. Wisconsin citizens demand fair mapping in order to prohibit gerrymandering and NOT politicize the Supreme Court. The "Will" should not be allowed.

Noah McVay
1322 Alton Street, Apt 309
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55116

Honorable Justices
Supreme Court of Wisconsin
16 East State Capitol
PO Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

Sirs and Mesdames,

I write to the Supreme Court in opposition to a proposed rule submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL). Regardless of the argument between big or small government, we Wisconsinites can all agree that we must have good government. Contrary to that principle espoused by America's founders, the grotesque gerrymander is a clear, textbook example of bad government. The next Legislature should seriously consider nonpartisan redistricting reform on the basis of the Iowa model. In the meantime, the Supreme Court has a duty, in fealty to the public interest, to transparently abide by and fairly apply standards that guarantee due process and equal protection under the laws as redistricting plays out. The proposed rule being advanced by WILL does none of these things. In fact, the proposed rule would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the usual process – one that makes its way through the inferior courts - of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would also allow the Court to create or bless

maps without hearing evidence or input from members of the public and groups that are otherwise apolitical. This directly contradicts the preference of a majority of Wisconsin citizens to have a nonpartisan redistricting process. As nonpartisan magistrates sitting on Wisconsin's highest court of record, you each have an opportunity to remain above the fray of hyperpartisan politics and act as good-faith stewards of our system of constitutional government. As a Wisconsin voter, I humbly ask that the Court refuse WILL's request.

Sincerely,
Noah McVay

Nicholas Offerman
1938 Fairhaven Dr
Cedarburg, WI 53012

I am writing to discourage our Wisconsin State Supreme Court from bypassing the normal procedure of review for our state's redistricting.

This process is important to our democracy, and it should not be rushed. The Supreme Court be involved in the process of finding fact, only in reviewing the legal conclusions of lower courts. Further, non-partisan groups and Wisconsin voters stand to be excluded from the process. It is their right to be heard.

Please follow the standard rule of law in your review of this very important issue.

Danae Steele
428 9th St.
Neenah, WI 54956

Wisconsinites have spoken clearly at the ballot box: we want nonpartisan maps. We want to be able to choose our legislators, and not have legislators be able to choose their voters. The rule change would also severely limit public into this process. Please do not allow this rule change.

Mariette Nowak
N9053 Swift Lake Drive
East Troy, WI 53120

I strongly oppose this proposed rule by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. This rule excludes non-partisan groups to which I belong, as well as unions from full participation, as well as excluding

citizens like myself who currently live in gerrymandered districts. There should be public hearings for all citizens and groups affected by redistricting. The proposed rule does not offer the full transparency that Wisconsin citizens deserve.

There should be a full review of any redistricting proposal by multiple courts as well as by a panel of experts, with time for evidence and testimony, not a rush job.

I also am concerned that the State Supreme Court will be viewed as a partisan political entity if this rule goes into effect, which will increase the lack of respect for the court's decisions.

For all the above reasons, I emphasize my strong opposition to the proposed rule.

Nancy Florsheim
832 E. Birch Ave.
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

I oppose the rule change that would take jurisdiction of redistricting maps directly the Wisconsin Supreme Court. That would eliminate the fact finding that takes place in federal courts and politicize any decision. Redistricting is a complex and important task and should go through the normal process.

Nancy Prussing
909 County Road W
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Please accept my public comment with regard to the issue of fair maps for the State of Wisconsin.

We the people of Wisconsin have brought it to the attention of our legislators that a large majority of people want a nonpartisan process for drawing district voting maps, but legislators are not listening. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. Transparency in the development of voting district maps is critical to assuring good government.

I do not understand why you allow less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment and unfairly steer the outcome. This act of rushing this process is unfounded and does not reflect a fair and equitable system. I for one, do not accept less than a 60-day continuance. .

Nancy Fossum

1352 Mansfield Street
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729

I oppose the State Supreme Court taking jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would unfairly politicize the process and could limit the groups heard in opposition to gerrymandering. This change appears to be political and harms faith in government as being fair and should be done by a nonpartisan redistricting commission with review by state and federal courts. It is shameful the degree to which Wisconsin was gerrymandered after the 2010 census. Please support representative democracy.

Nancy Schanke
N1409 County Road W
Fremont, WI 54940

To the Wisconsin Supreme Court regarding Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

I understand that the Court will be addressing this rule petition regarding redistricting in the near future. I am very much opposed to this for several reasons, top being that it eliminates the opportunity for regular citizens, such as myself, to be aware of and participate as we should, in something that is so important as representation. This rule fast tracks all those opportunities. It was rejected once and should be again.

We live in very politically partisan times and this certainly and this rule has been shown not to be the will of the people. That has been expressed with resounding agreement by Wisconsin citizens of all political vents. Adopting this rule will only increase the politicization of the Court and our trust in you. As I'm sure you are aware a large majority of counties in Wisconsin have passed board resolutions as well of many referendums, all of which passed with more than 70% support of fair maps.

This rule would do the opposite. What would be the rush to go to the Supreme Court, bypassing lower courts? There is no reason, if you are a regular Wisconsinite without a political agenda. People just want fair maps! The ironic thing is that fair maps profit everyone, not just the party who happens to be in control at the time of redistricting. Fair maps allow both parties to give many more candidates a chance of winning a primary, which is not the case now. Wisconsinites want to be able to chose between candidates who answer to them and not their party.

It's really quite simple, one person, one vote. This proposed rule change would do the opposite.

Nicole DeGuire

6054 N. Kent Avenue
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

As an informed and engaged citizen, there are a few key constitutional principles that I believe need to be upheld:

- *Equal protection under the law
- *One person, one vote
- *A nonpartisan judiciary that balances and protects the needs of all citizens

Redistricting is a primary example of the importance of all of these principles and it should never be rushed. Public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process, and requires that we allow full participation of citizens, whether that be through the legislature or a nonpartisan organization.

In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed.

Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony, when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

In my voting districts (State Assembly 23rd and State Senate District 8), district lines were a significant issue when it came to the election. They are currently very precise, demonstrating that the process was managed to limit the input of certain groups in order to support one party's goal. I am requesting that we respect the principles outlined by our Constitution to allow for equal opportunity for input on the redistricting process.

Nancy Stencil
223281 Azalea Road
Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

Lines should be drawn with input from the people. Limiting this to political leaders will only further polarize this state. What is being proposed is fraudulent activity! The voice of ALL people must be heard.

Nancy Stencil
223281 Azalea Road

Wausau, Wi 54401

The will of the people shall be the law of the land. How dare you silence my voice.

Nancy Tawney
2973 S. Delaware Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53207

I urge the Wisconsin Supreme Court to support an impartial, transparent method of drawing voting district maps.

Thank you.

Ann Aler
1506 Emerald Drive
Erin, WI 53027

As a citizen, a geographer, a voter and a patriot who believes in the power of democracy, I support an open and fair process to determine our State's Congressional Districts. The proposal by WILL is in direct opposition to the creation of free and fair maps. Gerrymandering is an abuse of power and as a GIS professional, I understand how the demographics are used to manipulate our districts. The WILL petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation would limit the review of maps and rush the process. I am 100% opposed to this and 100% support an unbiased, scientific map creation system. Thank you.

Kathy Sullivan
7478 Old Sauk Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53717

it is time to have the map redrawn by non-partisan body. Currently the way the map is drawn disenfranchises many voters and makes it impossible to have a fair election.

Mitchell Nussbaum
1615 Madison St
Madison, WI 53711-2121

I wish to express my opposition to the procedure for handling redistricting-related litigation, as proposed in Rule Petition 20-03, for the following reasons.

1. The rule would allow the Court to assume original jurisdiction in any challenge to the new legislative maps, short-circuiting the normal process for resolving these issues, and reducing the public's opportunity to follow the process and understand what is happening. The maps drawn in 2021 will have a profound effect on state politics for the next ten years, and the public deserves to be assured that the redistricting process is as fair and appropriate as possible.

There is no reason to rush the process or treat it as an emergency. We know right know that redistricting is going to happen, and we know its general timeframe, there should be ample time to allow the dispute to take its normal route through the courts.

2. Section 5(b) or the rule proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty allows the Court to limit participation in the dispute to political parties. But redistricting affects all citizens of Wisconsin, including people who are not members of established political parties. Any rule for handling redistricting disputes should allow individuals, nonprofits and other interested groups to participate in the process.

3. The rule, as proposed by WILL allows the Court to override its own rule and do whatever it chooses to resolve challenges to proposed districts. If the Court takes this route in handling such an important and contentious issue, it will undermine its own legitimacy as the upholder of the rule of law in Wisconsin. If this happens, it might have tragic consequences, giving the already polarized and divisive condition of politics in Wisconsin.

Stanley King
284 State Road 65
River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

I oppose the petition from the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on future redistricting litigation. This guidance is harmful to the public interest by excluding nonpartisan and other groups in helping to guide the redistricting process.

michael thompson
357 Henry St
Burlington, WI 53105

Re: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. Your Honors, Please reject this petition Our existing maps have been recognized by the US Supreme Court as not representative of the voters of Wisconsin. To allow a group with a demonstrated objective of voter disenfranchisement to write the rules will enable even further inequity. This is a highly partisan effort to insure a highly partisan outcome by restricting and short-circuiting existing legal processes. Michael Thompson Burlington WI 11/16/2020

Patricia Olsen

215673 Scout rd
Mosinee, Wi 54455

I strongly feel that new maps being drawn every 10 years should be free of politics . The group trying to change the procedures involved in setting new maps should not be allowed to politicize it, nor to politicize the Wisconsin Supreme Court by insisting on it

Katie Olson
1720 W Reeve St
Appleton, WI 54914

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Lisa Korth
220 North Shore Dr
Belleville, WI 53508

How dare you try to take away those rights to those that challenge you when it truly is our right. Stop trying to make the laws for your favor and do what's right. Shame on you!

Bridget Richlen
936 E. Land Place
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202

I'm writing today to oppose the petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process.

Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Emily Stone
22760 Garmisch Road
Cable, Wisconsin 54821

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court should claim jurisdiction on any future redistricting legislation, effectively limiting the review of fair maps and rushing the process altogether. This guidance is undermines judicial process and is harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations such as the League of Women Voters. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process. Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Jeanne Otteson
251 KNOWLTON ST.
Waterloo, Wisconsin 53594

I am writing concerning Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I OPPOSE this rule. If you're going to have a rule, it should be abided by, and it should be transparent, and it should be applied in a fair manner. The citizens of Wisconsin want FAIR MAPS. We deserve to choose our elected representatives. The representatives are currently picking their voters via gerrymandering. If the Wisconsin Supreme Court claims jurisdiction on future redistricting legislation, this will limit the review of fair maps by nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations that represent the PEOPLE ... the voters. I want legal challenges to work their way through the courts in a normal fashion with the establishment of a record at the lower court level to enhance transparency and enable the citizens of Wisconsin to grasp the evidence in the case and the competing arguments as they wind their way through the courts. Again, I oppose Rule Petition 20-03.

Patricia Kinney
3900 N Estabrook Pkwy.
Shorewood, WI 53211

We don't need nor want politics in our courts.

Paula Pelchat

4522 Vilas Road
Madison, WI 53718

current maps are drawn to favor one political party & are too gerrymandered. I want my vote to count in my voting district & not be discounted by a map's boundaries or limit or strangle the next incoming administration no matter what party they are. Also, such matters should work they way thru the lower courts BEFORE reaching our Supreme Court.

Florence Parfitt
705 Eau Claire Pl
DePere, WI 54115

Democracy demands my voice should be heard. Gerrymandering us designed to take my voice away. Gerrymander it ng needs to stop

Pat Schock
Pat Schock, 1865 Westline Rd., Green Bay WI 54313-7671
Green Bay, WI 54313

I do not think the question of districts should go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. There should be adequate time in advance to hear the facts as viewed by citizens and nonprofits.

Pat Hammarback
W8170 830th Avenue
River Falls, WI 54022

Dear Justices, we in WI have been denied democracy ever since our voting districts were gerrymandered after the last census.

Perhaps you don't care about fair maps. Perhaps you might even snicker a bit about my plea. A desire for power often speaks stronger than a desire for justice. I sincerely hope you are not one that feeds on power, but instead thirsts for justice.

Each of you has done great things, worthy things, you are capable of so much, perhaps so much more than even you know to provide a path to keep our country a true democratic republic.

Each of you are well schooled in our system of laws, checks and balances. These are intended to compensate for the actions of those of us who work against others to their detriment. Democracy demands we are all allowed a valid say in the direction our country is headed. Gerrymandering is electioneering fraud. Allowing it to continue, allowing it to benefit and make one vote more powerful than many others, is clearing the path to authoritarianism, where democracy fails.

In my assembly district, we are represented by a man who pretends to live within our district, yet actually lives with his wife and family outside the district. Our district is badly gerrymandered. Any protest we make is laughed at by those already in power.

Please do the right thing. We used to be such a productive forward thinking positive state. Now we are reduced to infighting and watching people sicken and die of Covid, polluted water, farm programs engineered to put family farms in bankruptcy and out of business. We even fight about the value of Broad band in rural areas and masking in public areas. This can't continue.

Thanks for your ear.

Patrick Andraska
N7901 770th St
Colfax, Wi 54730

Please vote for fair maps in Wisconsin. Gerrymandering is poisoning our government in Wisconsin. It is not fair and is undemocratic. Let a non partisan body decide where the lines are drawn for future congressional and senatorial districts in Wisconsin. Respectfully submitted,
Patrick B Andraska

patricia goeden
N18W6871 Partridge Ct
Cedarburg, WI 53012

I am writing in opposition to the petition the WI Institute for Law and Liberty filed asking the WI Supreme Court to adopt a new rule affecting future lawsuits regarding redistricting. This purposed rule will limit transparency- the flow of info and even who makes arguments before the court. It changes the legal process of allowing a case to proceed from a trial court to the appellate court to the supreme court- thereby limiting opportunities to develop the record, correct mistakes, and limiting review. Only partisan interests have standing to present maps?? I am a member of the League of Women Voters- a non-partisan group-I feel very strongly that my non-partisan opinion is perhaps even more valid than the political parties opinions. The Supreme Court in a democracy should be neutral- not political. This petition adoption feels very political to me. And why is this being rushed? Months- instead of years -as in the past when redistricting legislation was considered. Again, I am opposed to the adoption of this proposal.

Patricia Nash
331 Badger Dr.
Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913

Partisan gerrymandering is undemocratic and wrong, no matter which party does it. I urge you to support a non-partisan method to redraw district maps, much like the one used in Iowa. This is crucial to guarantee fair representation in our legislature and in Congress. Thank you.

Patricia Geenen
3900 N. Estabrook Pkway Apt. 449
Shorewood, WI 53211

I am deeply opposed to the petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation to limit the review of maps and rush the process. I think this Proposed rule would further politicize the court, is insufficiently transparent, and would and exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation in the process of drawing district maps.

Patricia Sias
1967 Belle Mapps Ct.
Green Lake, WI 54941

As a member of the League of Women voter's I want to promote political responsibility. Having studied the gerrymandering that has occurred in Wisconsin, I am in support of the state's fair maps efforts. I am concerned about the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty petition. I view this effort as interfering with citizens' groups efforts to challenge the gerrymandering that has occurred here.

Patricia Patterson
1911 Kendall Ave
Madison, WI 53726

I have learned a lot in the last two weeks about gerrymandering. I am a League of Women Voters member, a white, middle class, college educated woman living in Dane County. I am a Democrat living in the gerrymandered district of Dane County.

An article in the Wisconsin State Journal (https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/govt-and-politics/gov-tony-evers-unveils-covid-19-package-speaker-robin-vos-says-no-drafted-proposals-at/article_88416fd6-d073-5917-ae34-b4c59a904770.html) reported Assembly Speaker, Robin Vos, didn't think the Legislature needed to meet because they were waiting to sit down to talk with Governor Evers even though Evers' invitation to meet from last Spring is still open. The article quotes incoming Senate President, Chris Kapenga, R-Delafield, saying he did not think there was anything to talk about.

I started to think about the role gerrymandering plays in Wisconsin politics. Wisconsin's Republican legislators refuse to meet, because "there is nothing to talk about", meant my voice is not being heard. Thousands of Wisconsinites are not being heard.

I think public health, keeping citizens of Wisconsin healthy, helping people and businesses to cope with impacts of the coronavirus is worth talking about.

Making sure there are enough contract tracers, protecting employment, unemployment insurance benefits, evictions, schooling are issues in which the Legislature has a vital role is worth talking about.

Patricia Shifferd
N12036 Pash Drive
Trego, Wisconsin 54888

I believe that the upcoming redistricting here in Wisconsin needs to be as non-partisan and transparent as possible. The petition before the court to restrict input to political parties is exactly opposite of what is needed. There are many stakeholders who deserve to have their views formally accepted as part of this essential process. The proposed rule change will leave the court justifiably open to charges of bias. Please make the process open by continuing to allow civic and non-profit organizations input.

Patrick Klass
W3155 Kortney Lane
Seymour, Wisconsin 54165

Gerrymandering should NOT be allowed in any way shape or form!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Matt Peter
11 N 17th Dr
Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235

Please preserve democracy by ensuring that voters are represented fairly. Democracy is not a game with wins and loses.

Patricia Bradley
W1110 Concord Center Drive
Sullivan, Wisconsin 53178

This rule excludes nonpartisan groups from participation, and not enough transparency, it will also politicize the court.

Patricia Zody
709 Harrison Ave
Beloit, WI 53511

I am writing to ask strongly that the Wisconsin Supreme Court allow the state to go through the regular process for the upcoming redistricting. The state Supreme Court should not take up this issue unless the legislature and the governor cannot come up with a plan for redistricting.

Patricia Zody
709 Harrison Ave
Beloit, WI 53511-5529

As a concerned citizen of Wisconsin, I oppose the proposed amending of WIS. STAT. §809.70 [Rule petition 20-03]. I strongly support the work of the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition to create a nonpartisan process for the redistricting of maps in Wisconsin. In addition, I believe that the proposed amending of WIS. STAT. §809.70 [Rule petition 20-03] overrides the due process allotted to the legislature, the governor, and the citizens of Wisconsin in redistricting. Finally, if approved, it excludes non-partisan groups from having a say in the proposed amending process.

Paul Geenen
3900 N. Estabrook Parkway Apt 449
Shorewood, WI 53211

Giving the Wisconsin Supreme Court total jurisdiction over all cases around the process of drawing maps takes it out of the hands of the people of Wisconsin and it in the hands of the legislators and the Supreme Court. We need to have a transparent method to draw fair maps. Voter should select their legislators, and legislators should not be able to select their voters.

Paul Knitter
711 S. Few St. 1E
Madison, WI 53703

Given the widespread and growing concern among Wisconsin citizens about the problem of gerrymandering and redistricting, the petition submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty to take disputed questions about maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court is sure to further diminish already diminishing confidence in the integrity and transparency of the process of determining voting districts.

This was why, in 2009, after extensive examination of the issue, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making rule changes such as the one now being proposed. What made sense then continues to make all the more sense in the present partisan divisions in our State and in our nation.

Having the Supreme Court immediately decide restricting disputations would limit review of the submitted maps and rush the entire process. Also, it would prevent non-partisan groups like unions or membership organization who have in the past been concerned about gerrymandering from engaging in the Court's process.

In order to foster and maintain confidence in our Supreme Court, in order to allow a more free-flowing and transparent process in re-districting, I would urge and implore the Supreme Court not to accept this petition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paula Olszewski
8501-234 Ave
Salem, WI 53168

One person one vote means that the state must be mapped out to make this happen. Cities have more people and thus should have more representation. County's should not be gerrymandered to ensure a safe seat for any political party.

To represent a district an official must Work for it. Compromise is not a dirty word and would move this country closer together.

Paula Olszewski
8501-234 Ave
Salem, WI 53168

I believe in the "one person one vote" principle. The way the map is set up now, thousands of people of one party are so grouped as to make their vote, in affect, not count. For example, compare Milwaukee to Rhinelander. Should each city have the same number of representatives? No

When districts are gerrymandered as they are now, there is no accountability to the people. In the last map redistribution, my senate seat was so manipulated that my state senator had to move. If you take a look you will see how lopsided this map is.

State Supreme Court should not draw a map since they are now political and controlled by one party. The proper way to draw a fair map for the state is by a Non-partisan commission.

Paula Touhey
3011 89th Street
Kenosha, WI 53142

The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty petition is not good for Democracy. It would further politicize the Supreme Court and it will exclude non partisan groups from participation and prevent full transparency. The Democratic process should not start in the Courts.

Paulette Smith
11655N Brook Lane
Hayward, WI 54843

I fear that this rule will ham and politicize the court and exclude non partisan groups from full participation. Furthermore there are insufficient transparency measures!

Paul Linzmeyer
831 W. Saint Francis Rd.
De Pere, WI 54115

I am writing concerning Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

I am opposed to the proposed rule for the following reasons:

First, it would jump any legal challenge to redistricting immediately to the Wisconsin Supreme Court rather than let that challenge work its way through the courts in a normal fashion. The establishment of a record at the lower court level would enhance transparency and enable the citizens of Wisconsin to grasp the evidence in the case and the competing arguments as they wend their way through the courts.

Second, nonprofit public interest organizations and concerned citizens could get eliminated from any hearing on redistricting maps before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The WILL petition, in Section 5(b),

requires only that the political parties be heard by the Court in any dispute over the maps. It does not allow room, explicitly at least, for groups that represent many of us that have a longstanding interest in this issue to be heard. I cannot emphasize enough that redistricting is not simply a dispute between the parties.

Third, the proposed rule that WILL is advancing gives the Court the leeway to disregard the procedures and requirements laid out in the rule itself. So that's no rule at all if it allows you to toss everything out the window and just do what you want. If you're going to have a rule, it should be abided by, and it should be transparent, and it should be applied in a fair manner.

Respectfully

Paul . Linzmeyer

Paul Waldo
6333 Pleasant Valley Rd
Grafton, WI 53024

In my opinion, the current process for drawing congressional districts is an aberration of our democratic process. It is "stacking the deck" so to speak. To me it does not matter which political party is in control of our state legislature and gets the privilege of setting these district boundaries. In either case, the process becomes far too partisan intentionally meaning to ensure that the dominant party retain their majority in the legislature. It is time to remove the authority for setting the districts from the majority in the legislature and allowing the citizenry to have a voice in the process. The court needs to hear from all constituencies and in the end the process for redistricting should be delegated to a commission comprised of non-elected representatives.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Phil Fransen
N 9581 Carla Dr.
Belleville, Wisconsin 53508

We the voters deserve fair maps and not the corrupt maps we have now,

Catherine O'Meara
N5550 County Rd Q
Jefferson, WI 53549

Re: Rule Petition 20-03 Relating to Legal Challenges to Redistricting:

To the Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices:

I'm writing to protest the swift adoption of the rule for redistricting proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Liberty and Law, because it is emphatically not at all in support of either liberty or law in its clearly-flawed suggestions for drawing our legislative and congressional district maps.

What is there of "liberty" in deliberate gerrymandering of voting populations in order that the bill's sponsors can continue to benefit in their craven greed rather than allow every citizen--all of us, before whom you have taken an oath to provide justice--her equal voice in our democracy? As a lifelong citizen of the state, I'm not fooled by this plot, but I am most disheartened by the partisan politics that have begun to rot our governance all the way to your own benches. And, like so many others from whom you likely don't often hear, I have had enough. We see you; we know what you're doing, and the majority of us want it stopped.

This ridiculous fabrication seeks to leap over voter participation and the clarity provided by time and discussion in the lower courts, where all voices can be heard, to launch the will of WILL directly into your laps and/or pockets. It is undemocratic. And you either know this or lack the legal expertise to be sitting on our state Supreme Court, let alone in a fifth grader's desk. All citizens deserve to learn about redistricting and participate in its fair design; WILL would prefer that pesky opinions about fairness and justice be subsumed by their power and money.

Non-profit and citizen groups whose opinions differ from WILL's must be allowed to share their profound, honest, and well-considered views on redistricting as well, which the hasty adoption of WILL's partisan and exclusionary plans would prevent.

WILL's deceit is antithetical to the established rules and procedures for even approaching redistricting, as, in its Alice-in-Wonderland perversion of logic (endemic in the reasoning employed by what currently passes for Republicans), it suggests you both adopt the rule and then invites you to disregard the rules and procedures it outlines, and just do it, already: give them what they want and turn your backs on both truth and justice.

I demand you do better by the citizens of Wisconsin and explore all redistricting options in a thoughtful and inclusionary manner, so we, the people, can be confident that the plan finally adopted for grouping voting populations has been created to ensure all votes matter and are equally powerful under the law.

Thank you,
Catherine M. O'Meara
N5550 County Rd Q
Jefferson, WI

Peggy Creer
615 E BEAUMONT AVE
MILWAUKEE, WI 53217

Redistricting has profound, long-lasting impacts on state governance, which affects every citizen of Wisconsin. It is too critical an issue to bypass lower court review, and it is vitally important for democracy that citizens -- individually or through member organizations -- be heard through access to a fair and open process for public input.

Peggy LeMahieu
7534 W Tuckaway Pines Circle
Franklin, WI 53132

I believe it is essential for Democracy, people of the State of Wisconsin have the opportunity for fair and open voting districts. The drawing of the district map should and must be a non- partisan effort. Both parties in the State have not handle impartiality well. In 2010, the GOP totally destroyed the concept of a fair district mapping . They did it in secrecy, totally anti democratic process. The districts had no rhyme or reason to them. The current mapping has destroyed the perception and actuality that everyone's vote counts equally. Even though the people have voted in larger numbers for Democratic candidates, the gerrymandering has eliminated any chance of people being voted out of office. The State of Wisconsin deserve a non - partisan commission chosen to draw new maps in a coherent and fair manner!!

Peg ODonoghue
317 S. Owen Dr.
Madison, WI 53705

I respectfully submit my concerns regarding the proposed rule which would limit input on the drawing of legislative maps in the state of WI. There is much we need to do to as citizens to repair the hyper-partisan environment in which we are operating. One of the most important things we need to do is to participate as fully as we are able in the map-making process for the ten-year redistributing. More input is necessary not less which would be the result of the rule change if enacted. Neither of the major political parties can adequately represent the feeling of the citizenry. It will take transparency- terribly lacking in the process from ten years ago- and a non-partisan process. Reject any proposal that seeks less participation by citizens and non-political groups in favor of monopolizing the process by political groups. Peg O'Donoghue

Dorothy Thompson

878 E Burton Street
Richland Center, WI 53581

The proposed rule would politicize the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or input from members of the public and groups that aren't political. This directly contradicts the preference of a majority of Wisconsin citizens to have a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process.

Penny Bernard Schaber
815 E Washington St
Appleton, WI 54911

Congressional District 8 Fair Maps Team
815 East Washington Street
Appleton, WI 54911

November 20, 2020

We represent a group of citizens who are working on creating a system to draw nonpartisan legislative districts. We have been working with the counties throughout Congressional District 8 in northeast Wisconsin. Members of our group live in multiple locations in this region from the tip of Door County to Calumet County which is the southernmost part of the district.

As a group, we have been working to support the creation of non-partisan legislative maps to make sure the voices of the people of Wisconsin are heard and heeded by the legislators. With the current gerrymandered maps, legislators can ignore many voters in their districts because their re-elections are assured by the way their districts are drawn. The principle of one person / one vote is undermined by the current legislative maps.

Wisconsin has become extremely gerrymandered through the redistricting that occurred in 2011. We do not support what happened then, and we demand that future maps be structured fairly to create competitive legislative districts. We are contacting you, as the Wisconsin Supreme Court, to ask that you not approve the Petition for Proposed Rule to Amend Wis. Statute 809.70 (Relating to Original Actions) and numbered 20-03. This proposed rule change would alter how the court process for hearing a redistricting case takes place. We believe that the proposed change in the rules would cause further harm to the citizens of Wisconsin by denying them a voice in the process.

The proposed rule change would require discussion and adjudication on lawsuits pertaining to
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Penny Eiler
12 Blue Iris Way
Fitchburg, WI 53711

I want to select my representative, not have my representative select what voters they want. Until we have a nonpartisan way to draw the maps, we need the process to be open to public input and be as transparent as possible.

Penny Robinson
pennyrobinson1@gmail.com
Appleton, WI 54915-4250

I think the proposed rule from WILL poses a conflict of interest for the Wisconsin State Supreme Court to decide that it alone take jurisdiction over any future redistricting cases. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed.

ANNETTE PERKINS
1275 Peniel Rd.
Mineral Point, WI 53565

I objection to Petition 20-03 proposed amendment to rule 809.70. There is no denying that redistricting has turned extremely political. Throughout the state citizens have voiced their opinion through passage of referendums and resolutions that urges the process be turned over to a nonpartisan panel. Given that our legislature will not allow that, it is imperative that as much input as possible is allowed if the redistricting does end up in the court system. Bypassing lowers courts and going directly to the State Supreme Court limits input. I urge you to not enact the proposed amendment to rule 809.7 and further more I the State Supreme Court should make it clear that the Governor and the Legislature must work together to develop a fair, nonpartisan, redistricting map.

Margaret Perri
N6675 Eggens Coulee Rd
West Salem, WI 54669

Honorable Justices:

Please consider the needs of the citizens of Wisconsin and rules are made regarding the map that determines the districts that affect the representation in the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate and also the House of Representatives of the US Congress. The maps should be developed by a bipartisan commission in a transparent way. That way we will trust the democratic process. We need fair maps created openly with input from the citizens of this state. Thank you.

Margaret Perri, West Salem, WI

Peter Ritz

721 Seneca Place

Madison, Wisconsin 53711

Regarding Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

I urge that the proposal be rejected. The issues involved in a redistricting dispute deserve full public airing and complete consideration by the court system. Rushing the issue to the Supreme Court, without the ordinary process that applies to any other dispute, shortcuts the legal process, making the issue seem more political than legal.

Peter Livingston

E6095 County Road WC

Spring Green, Wisconsin 53588

The proposed rule does nothing to ensure that the process by which district maps are drawn fairly represents the needs and will of citizen/voters. That process properly belongs with the voters and their duly elected representatives, including the governor. The courts rightly are the place that aggrieved parties may take their concerns, but definitely are not the place where policy and politics should meet. Furthermore, the courts do not have the scientific tools and training to assess claims made about how well any given proposed map meets the Wisconsin constitutional requirements. Taking original jurisdiction over redistricting would sink the court into a morass from which it, and its reputation, might not recover.

Peter Gorski

1724 Cameron Ave

La Crosse, WI 54601

I am writing to urge you to reject the petition from the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”) regarding the upcoming redistricting process. Advocacy groups and anti-gerrymandering activists deserve to be heard in court, not just political parties.

This petition proposes that the Supreme Court have the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself. Redistricting review should not be optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Please stand up for fair maps and comprehensive checks and balances in our redistricting process. Democracy cannot exist in a gerrymandered state.

Peter Roop
2601 N. Union St.
Appleton, Wisconsin 54911

I would like my Wisconsin votes to count in every election. Gerrymandering has deprived me of that right by designing my district to be locked into Republican seats with little to no chance of ousting current representatives. This makes me not want to vote, but I will not let the current gerrymandering defeat me or deprive me of my vote.

Fair is fair.
The fight for fair representation must continue!

Peter Lepkowski
3233 south 10th st
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215

Stay out of this!

Mark Peters
6229 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

I'm very concerned that the proposed rule requires that political parties be heard by the Court regarding new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups. Some of these groups have been representing their members or other concerned citizens like me in their challenges to gerrymandering. I don't want them excluded from the Court's process. the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to

disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. We need a fair set of rules that everyone must play by, and an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court hears all viewpoints before conducting its legal review. Thank you for considering these comments.

Louise Pfothenauer
1314 Cass St
Green Bay, WI 54301

November 20, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to ask the Wisconsin Supreme Court to reject the petition by Scott Jensen, the former Republican Speaker of the Wisconsin Assembly, together with the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, proposing rule changes be made so that disputed districting maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Transparency in the redistricting process is key to public trust. The proposed rule does not provide adequate information to, or input from, the public. The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting process failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could be heard. The process this rule proposes would not solve this, and in fact would allow the Court to sidestep consideration of any arguments by groups other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or public input.

Sincerely,

Louise Pfothenauer
1314 Cass St.
Green Bay, WI 54301

Peter Gottlieb
212 HIGHLAND AVE
MADISON, WI 537053840

I want to comment on the proposal to the Wisconsin Supreme Court regarding redistricting litigation. I think that the proposal

Peter Gottlieb
212 HIGHLAND AVE
MADISON, WI 537053840

I want to comment on the proposal to the Wisconsin Supreme Court regarding redistricting litigation. I think that the proposal would unduly limit the parties who could provide testimony and evidence to the court by disallowing non-profit organizations and citizens groups from participating. I belong to one such citizens group that has been active for several years on the issue of redistricting and have a strong interest in providing the views of my group to the court. Also, by moving litigation over redistricting directly to the state Supreme Court and disallowing reviews and decisions by any lower state court, the proposal inevitably politicizes the Supreme Court and deprives it of the benefit of the findings and judgements of lower courts. Finally, I think that the proposal lacks the necessary transparency measures that are required for the Supreme Court to show how and why it reached its conclusions in redistricting litigation. Thus, the proposal has the potential to undermine the public confidence in the Supreme Court. Sincerely, Peter Gottlieb

Patricia Dwyer-Hallquist
2030 Hazel St
Oshkosh, WI 54901

The Wisconsin Supreme court should not rule in favor of the petition by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”), to take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. The proposed rule change will not lead to fair districting procedures, and will allow the unfair gerrymandering in Wisconsin to continue.

Joan Sullivan
5110 Black Oak Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

Regarding Rule Petition 20-03. — To the Wisconsin State Supreme Court

I strongly oppose the rule change proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. There is no justification for attempting to shortcut proper deliberations regarding important rule changes. There are good and historic reasons for Wisconsin’s present deliberative process, and any change or reduction in the required steps would be both improper and unwise.

To begin with, any change in the current process must include the discovery, fact-finding, and public testimony steps and proceed properly through the lower courts before reaching any conclusions and certainly before reaching the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Dissemination of information about the proposed rule change should be promulgated at every step of the process, with opportunity for public

comment or objection. Testimony and argument only by and from political parties, as proposed by WILL would be far from adequate.

Wisconsin experience with improper redistributing in 2010-2011 was disgraceful, producing an Assembly and Senate which did not reflect the Wisconsin voters intent. That should make Wisconsinites even more dedicated to proper, non-partisan redistributing in 2021. Wisconsin needs to reclaim its reputation for clean government. Wisconsin would also do well to avoid paying the conniving lawyers outrageous sums again for dishonest, non-representative maps.

Yours truly,
Joan Sullivan

Mike Benco
816 Windhill Street
Onalaska, WI 54650

Mike Benco
816 Windhill Street
Onalaska, WI 54650

November 22, 2020

Clerk of the Supreme Court
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701

To the Court,

I am writing to oppose Wisconsin Supreme Court Rules Petition 20-03, to amend Wisconsin Statute Section 809.70. I oppose the proposed rule for the reasons listed below.

First, bypassing Wisconsin's lower courts prevents discussion in those courts, which clarifies arguments and precedents for and against any proposed redistricting plans. That discussion would help inform the Supreme Court, and Wisconsin's citizens, in any decision that the Court might need to make. As a result, this proposed amendment also wastes valuable Supreme Court time by placing the burden of discovery on that Court.

Second, the proposal interferes with the established responsibilities of the Legislature.

Third, the proposed amendment removes the right of the electorate to protect its rights regarding elections. By limiting input only to certain government entities and political parties, the proposal removes the rights of concerned organizations and citizens to be heard about important redistricting cases. This also increases the risk that important aspects and consequences of redistricting plans might be overlooked.

The proposal allows the Court to discard portions of the requirements specified in the proposal itself. While this seems to allow the Court flexibility in establishing legislative districts, this aspect would actually make the redistricting process less clear, more complex (by requiring the Court to make decisions about which aspects of the rule to follow and which to disregard), and ultimately less efficient.

Sincerely,

Mike Benco

Andrea Benco
816 Windhill Street
Onalaska, WI 54650

Andrea Benco
816 Windhill Street
Onalaska, WI 54650

November 22, 2020

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actually make the redistricting process less clear, more complex (by requiring the Court to make decisions about which aspects of the rule to follow and which to disregard), and ultimately less efficient.

Sincerely,

Andrea Benco

Frederick Lauing
1200 Water St.
Sauk City, WI 53583

I would like to strongly urge the Court to reject WILL's petition requesting that the Supreme Court take jurisdiction over any future redistricting litigation.

The shameful, disgusting, and terribly Un-American actions to promote voter suppression and extreme partisan gerrymandering must be stopped.

Thank you for considering the future of our state and country.

Phyllis Hasbrouck
3113 View Rd.
Madison, WI 53711

I am writing to urge you to reject the rule that the WILL is proposing regarding legislative maps. It would exclude the very groups that have been calling our attention to the gross injustice of our gerrymandered maps. Please act in behalf of democracy and reject this rule.

Lisa Lutz
4975 County Road F
Black Earth, Wisconsin 53515

The lower courts need to gather data. This real change is removing transparency from this process. Not one public group is in support of this change. By making this change your politicizing the supreme court. 55 counties have passed resolutions for fair maps. 28 counties have passed referenda in support of a transparent non partisan map drawing process.

I demand a 60 day continuance.

PATRICK O'LAUGHLIN
232 E Sunset Ct
Madison, WI 53705

- The case before the Wisconsin Supreme Court, which would require any lawsuit about future voting district maps to go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, bypassing lower courts, is asking for an unwarranted circumvention of the normal route through the lower courts. The Court is wrong to hear the case and it should find against the plaintiff. Furthermore, this process is being rushed and I demand a 60 day continuance to allow for public comment.
- Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to ensuring good government. This procedural change would diminish transparency and would prevent voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.
- The people of Wisconsin want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. A lot of counties (55) have passed resolutions and some counties (28) have passed referendum supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair. The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. The lower courts are the appropriate place where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps.
- The petition seeks to authorize the Court to take jurisdiction prematurely based on mere speculation that, with a divided government, there "might" be a future impasse between the Legislature and Executive Branch. While the Court may eventually be the proper party to review actual disputes about redistricting, based on the actual facts then of record, it is not the constitutionally authorized body to usurp and decide redistricting matters in the first instance. Having the Court take over the process at that premature point violates the state and federal constitutions because it would usurp the authority of the Legislature and Executive branch to address redistricting matters in the first instance.

PJ Wetak
w4142 WildGoose Rd.
Waupun, WI 53963

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. We need fair rules.

Peter Knotek
3812 Saint Clair St
Racine, WI 53402

November 21, 2020

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

RE: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges regarding redistricting

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

I write to provide comment on Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges regarding redistricting submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Petition.

I am concerned that the proposed rule precludes legal challenges to redistricting of congressional and legislative district maps by the lower courts and jumps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Allowing challenges to redistricting be heard in the lower courts, in a normal fashion, establishes a record at the lower court level. This in turn, enhances transparency as well as provides the citizens of Wisconsin evidence in the case and competing arguments.

Democracy suffers when checks and balances are reduced. Although the proposed rules may benefit the current political party of the Wisconsin legislature there is no guarantee that this will be the case in perpetuity.

I respectfully ask the proposed rule, that is designed to remove the voices of the people who are directly affected by redistricting, not be adopted.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Peter C. Knotek
3812 Saint Clair St.
Racine, WI 53402

Pamela Knudtson
1006 Breezy Point Rd
La Crosse, WI 54603

Please reject the WILL petition that requests that the Wisconsin Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. It appears to be a move that is meant hold the people of the state even farther away from being able to contribute to the decision-making on redistricting than we are today. It is our will that we be able to choose our representatives rather than having them choose us, which is the present situation under any political party.

Peter Korotev
821 Terra View
Green Bay, WI 54301

Regarding rule petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting:

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a Wisconsin citizen residing in Green Bay. Please reject the above referenced petition that would require redistricting legal challenges to go immediately to the Supreme Court of Wisconsin.

Redistricting in Wisconsin is a contentious subject, as it has become very partisan. Because of this, citizens have less confidence in their state government and in the value of their own votes. the proposed rule would INCREASE the partisan nature of the process, by saying only the Political Parties can be parties to a suit!

In fact, just passing this rule will be seen as partisan. When a process is truncated, there is less opportunity for interested individuals or groups to be heard. Surely not a good idea in something as significant as redistricting!

Sincerely, Peter E Korotev
821 Terra View
Green Bay, WI 54301

pkorotev@gmail.com

Paul Kaarakka
3710 Valley Ridge Rd
Middleton, WI 53562

It is time for non-partisan redistricting in Wisconsin. To date, 17 counties and more than a dozen municipalities have already passed non-binding referendums, and by overwhelming margins each time.

In addition, 53 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. These counties represent more than 75% of Wisconsin's citizens. Wisconsin voters are demanding fair redistricting.

Republican legislators are using the misnamed Institute for Law and Liberty to strengthen their redistricting power so that they don't have to act on what is the obvious will of the people of Wisconsin. They are asking courts to legislate from the bench, something that these same Republicans and judges have decried.

Please deny this petition in the name of Democracy for Wisconsin.

Paul Kaarakka

Philip Leavenworth
230 N. Grove St.
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

Sirs and Madams,

I respectfully submit to you that the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) is a highly partisan organization and any initiatives related to redistricting that it submits to fast-track the legitimate interests of the people of Wisconsin is a prima facie attempt to deny the orderly and legitimate discipline that needs to be undertaken in any legislation, especially one of this significance to the people of the state of Wisconsin. WILL lacks the broad approval of the electorate to promulgate this action. This action is offensive to our proper conduct of legal system and judicial action and must be rejected.

Second, the political parties do not solely represent the breadth of the views of Wisconsinites. It is therefore incongruous that they alone should have the voice of the people. I support a dozen organizations that would be denied the standing they richly deserve to speak to my interests. The WILL initiative is, in effect, an attempt to shut out the voices which have long endeavored to make Wisconsin a vibrant democracy. This particular attempt by WILL is simply undemocratic and must be rejected.

I have been informed that the proposed rule that WILL is advancing gives the Court the leeway to disregard the procedures and requirements laid out in the rule itself. Is this true? Is it possible that the rule could just be thrown out the window? Is that a rule?

My fervent hope is that you would stop these WILL initiatives in their tracks and declare them inappropriate for consideration. Haven't we all gone through enough strife in recent years to stop the incessant attacks on the people's democracy.

Wisconsin has a long-standing and honorable tradition of proper conduct of government. Let us not besmirch it with the inclusion of these actions.

Respectfully and Sincerely yours,

Philip B. Leavenworth

Patti Lechmaier
2456 Hannemann Rd.
Grafton, WI 53024

I urge you to steer clear of the proposal to have the WI Supreme Court assume authority in litigation related to fair maps in the state of WI. The Supreme Court should not be involved in such a volatile political issue. Nonpartisan groups should have an equal voice when issues related to fair maps arise. Fair map disputes arise. All voices need to be heard. An all-inclusive process is essential in order for the court to have knowledge of all sides. Furthermore, the Supreme Court should not be involved in such highly political rulings.

Paula Georgeson
2630 22nd Ave
Monroe, WI 53566

Leave it to the people, not the courts!!

Patricia Martin
1633 N. Prospect Ave 6B
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

RE: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

This rule has the following flaws and I oppose it. It would jump any legal challenge to redistricting immediately to the Wisconsin Supreme Court rather than let that challenge work its way through the courts in a normal fashion. Nonprofit public interest organizations and concerned citizens could get aced out of any hearing on redistricting maps before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Third, the proposed rule that WILL is advancing gives the Court the leeway to disregard the procedures and requirements laid out in the rule itself.

Paul Schoenfeld

323 State Street Apt 507
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

As a strong believer in democracy when each person's vote counts equally and a fair and impartial judicial system I urge the Wisconsin Supreme Court to reject or throw out the petition brought before the Court by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty.

We must have fair maps for each vote to count equally. The process of adjudication map disputes should be open to the two political parties and other organizations. The League of Women Voters, conservation groups and unions must retain the ability to challenge gerrymandering. This must remain part of the court process.

Wisconsin law clearly requires "districts to be bounded by county, town or ward lines, to consist of contiguous territory and be in as compact form as practicable." I'm informed that any computer can generate any number of maps that meet the law.

It is simple for the redistricting process to be a fair, open and non-partisan exercise. This is what I want. The petition before the court does not advance this ideal. I urge the court to reject or throw out the petition of the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty.

Pamela Starnes-Olson
20560 County Highway U
Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin 54655

The Supreme Court should be nonpartisan and be only concern with being fair to all citizens of Wisconsin.

Patricia Mullins
8110 Stagecoach Road
Cross Plains, WI 53528

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

We strongly oppose this rule for three reasons:

1. Any legal challenge to redistricting should go through the lower courts so that the residents of Wisconsin have an opportunity to hear all evidence and competing arguments. Transparency in the process is critical.

2. All people, including concerned Wisconsin residents and nonprofit organizations representing the public interest, should be heard by the Court in any hearing on the redistricting maps. All voices should be heard.
3. It is vital that the requirements and procedures specified in the rule be followed. We urge you to abide by the rule, be transparent in your decisions, and apply the rule in a fair manner.

Patricia Mullins and James Smith
8110 Stagecoach Road
Cross Plains, WI 53528

Pat Nauth
112 Highland Avenue
Pewaukee, Wisconsin 53072

RE: PETITION FOR PROPOSED RULE TO AMEND WIS. STAT. § 809.70

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

I urge you to refuse approval of PROPOSED RULE TO AMEND WIS. STAT. § 809.70. The proposed rule is contrary to the public interest and good government.

It is depressing that most state and local office holders in Waukesha County run unopposed. That reduces political discourse and eliminates a voters' ability to evaluate and act on a candidate's positions.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Sincerely,
Pat G. Nauth
112 Highland Ave.
Pewaukee, WI 53072

Peter Nordgren
22140 Old Highway 13
Cornucopia, Wisconsin 54827

I write to comment on the proposed rule change to have the Wisconsin Supreme Court take pre-emptive jurisdiction in any redistricting litigation. I oppose adoption of this rule.

The rule as proposed gives specific rights to political parties, but disregards the valuable input of nonpartisan organizations in the redistricting process.

The specification that the court may disregard the processes and requirements of the rule itself does potential damage to public confidence in the fairness of the court's prospective actions.

Ultimately, the effect is to further politicize the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Adoption of the rule will further harm the Court's status as a nonpartisan body.

I ask that you reject this proposed rule.

Thomas Germanson
5406 Yesterday Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53718

"Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Ol' Abe

Linda Ness
16008 Elk Hollow Drive
Viola, WI 54664

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 85% of Wisconsin's citizens. The proposed rule change is a sneaky, subtle attempt to take citizens out of the process of creating the next decade's maps before it even gets started!

Peggy Anderson
6317 Scandia Lanr
McFarland, Wisconsin 53558

This change would further politicize the court at a time when transparency and equality are paramount if we are to preserve our republic.

Anne Rackow
4533 N Windingbrook
Appleton, WI 54913

I strongly disagree with the proposed rule change which would give the Supreme Court jurisdiction over future redistricting litigation. The rule change would politicize the court and exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation. It also has insufficient transparency measures.

Barbara Johnson
N28W6640 Alyce Street
Cedarburg, Wisconsin 53012

I am opposed to the rule change regarding future redistricting legislation proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. It contains elements which are against the public interest and is blatantly partisan.

Drawing maps takes place every 10 years and is a process that should not be rushed by fast-tracking any litigation directly to the Supreme Court. Challenges to legislation normally follow a path through the lower courts, ending at the Supreme Court. Skipping over the lower courts to go directly to the Supreme Court politicizes the process and goes against the norm.

In addition, this proposal limits the participation of the public. Non-partisan groups interested in fair maps should be able to be heard by the court. Comments or arguments should not be limited to only political parties. In a democracy all people should be able to be heard.

Wisconsin has had a tradition of fair and transparent government. This proposal would tarnish that tradition.

Phil O'Leary
3888 Laudon Road
Cottage Grove, Wisconsin 53527

This proposal is another effort by "Special Interests" to extend one party rule in Wis. Why should only the two political parties be allowed to actively intervene in re-districting?

The farm organizations to which I belong clearly have an interest in how legislative maps will be drawn. No one can argue the last legislative maps were a success. It has empowered the legislative leaders to ignore their constituents or do nothing.

Until the last few years, Wisconsin has had a long history of admirable government leadership. Implementation of this proposal would accelerate the decline.

Both the decline and the proposal need to be stopped!!

Curtis Rohland
10803 175th Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

To the Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices: you have been requested by a self proclaimed conservative legal organization to approve new rules regarding the redistricting process in Wisconsin. These new rules would, if they were to become law, prohibit public interest groups and organizations from participating in this process. This would be a very undemocratic innovation in our state, and would be very harmful to public trust and confidence in the maps resulting from the redistricting produced in the way these new rules and regulations would require. I urge you to reject this petition. Thank you.

Barbara Geier
3308 Ridgewood Drive
Wausau, WI 54401

Redistricting is absolutely crucial to our continued democratic process. The more voices heard the better. We can't allow something so fundamental to a fair vote to be dependent on politicians. We must have fair AND impartial experts to handle redistricting.

Scott Cashion
W8734 territorial Rd
Whitewater, WI 53190

Our communities deserve to select their representatives. The literal tearing apart of communities with district lines running like jagged lightning bolts is destroying democracy. Allowing the minority of votes to select the majority are hints of fascist tactics. Too much power by any party, governmental branch, or committee poisons democracy's fruits.

Patricia Scieszinski
1218 Texas St
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

The Petitioners well understand that an overwhelming majority of voting citizens in Wisconsin (72+ %) are in favor of a fair, nonpartisan process for redistricting. In order to keep gerrymandering in place, in favor of the petitioner's party, they would very much like to shortcut the inevitable court process so their unpopular abuse of power has less light shed upon it (no discovery, testimony) and for a shorter

timeframe. As a citizen and voter, my representation in government is at the very heart of the democratic process, and is seriously undermined by gerrymander. The proposed rule change would contribute not only to undermining what should be a democratic process, but also further erode our faith in fair government. Thank you for your honest consideration.

Pablo Toral
1139 Eaton Ave.
Beloit, WI 53511

I urge our Wisconsin Supreme Court to favor a nonpartisan and transparent redistricting process. The petition by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) shuts the door to the involvement of civil society and nonpartisan groups in the redistricting process. I suggest a model similar to that adopted by Canada in 1964, which places the responsibility in the hands of an independent commission. Evidence suggests that this model has worked well in Canada and I believe it would work well in Wisconsin also.

Sincerely,

Pablo Toral
Beloit, WI

Cathy White
P.O. Box 54, W9149 290th
Hager City, WI 54014

This needs to be a fair process. ALL groups concerned should have the right to be heard. This is America and it is by the majority that rules are made, not a small majority of only like minded people. The people have a right to be heard and have their ideas considered seriously.

Patrice Veit
W11936 County FF
River Falls, WI 54022

22 November 2020

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court,

I'm writing to ask you not to allow the rules change being proposed that would require litigation regarding changes to legislative maps go straight to your Court.

Gerrymandering is a grave concern in our state. I feel it in my own Assembly district, where we are so gerrymandered that the candidate who won does not even live in the district and was open about it. He had nothing to fear; the maps are drawn to his advantage. He won easily.

Governor Evers has proposed a solution to the problem of gerrymandering. His People's Maps Commission is an attempt to bring transparency and the voice of regular people into the process of creating voting maps. I think it is right that every step of the process be questioned and examined, but these challenges should go through regular channels before rising to the level of a hearing at the state Supreme Court. At every level, people can weigh in and provide testimony and evidence. Without these steps, you will be denied the richness and depth of citizen participation. I know you cannot want that to be the case.

This process is being rushed—another reason to stick with the Court's previous decision on this, made over years of consideration.

I can't think of a more democratic way to enhance democracy in our state than to allow citizens to participate as fully and deeply as possible in the drawing of the maps that will have such an impact on who they will choose to represent them. This rules change is a way to impede the slow march our state is making to correct itself. Please do not approve it.

Thank you,

Patrice Veit

Peter Gasper
N1409 County Road W
Fremont, WI 54940

Redistricting is one of the most complex and difficult tasks of government and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person / one vote. It should never be rushed. On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process.

In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed.

Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Robin Wagner
814 OTTAWA TRL
Madison, WISCONSIN 53711

By state constitution, electoral districts must “be bounded by county, precinct, town, or ward lines, to consist of contiguous territory and be in as compact form as practicable.” The drawing of districts in Wisconsin is being packed or split apart in Wisconsin and lessening my and other voter’s voices. Representatives who are supposed to be chosen by me and other voters are being allowed to instead choose their constituents. I and other voters were left out of the 2011 secret redistricting process - our voices should be heard. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. Please do not rush through this process and please provide a transparent, non-partisan decision about this very important part of democracy.

Richard Adamski
W2348 Hofa Park Rd
Seymour, WI 54165

I am writing to implore the Wisconsin Supreme Court to reject Rule Petition 20-03 regarding litigation of redistricting maps. I oppose the adoption of this rule because the petitioners do not address the problem that they claim to address. They claim that Federal courts are not

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Richard Adduci
S90W34240 County Road NN
Eagle, Wisconsin 53119

The people of Wisconsin have had enough of the contortions being played with our political boundaries. Our borders are the laughing stock of the country, they are so rigged to stack the deck against Democrats. Please keep the following in mind when considering any further changes. We need to undo those so grossly distorted from going any further and ultimately restore them to geography, not politics.

Eliminating the review by multiple courts limits the review of maps and rushes the process, which would normally involve development of a record, including evidence and testimony. Racial gerrymandering violates the Voting Rights Act which is a federal act. Without a complete trial process, the most marginalized could be hurt.

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. This is at odds with the history challenges to districts in WI, where civic groups and individual Wisconsin citizens have been involved in litigation and asserted the rights of their members.

Transparency in the redistricting process is key to public trust. The proposed rule does not provide adequate information to, or input from, the public. The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting process failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could be heard. The process W.I.L.L. has proposed would not solve this, and in fact would allow the Court to sidestep consideration of any arguments by groups other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or public input.

Previously the Court spent years engaging experts and the public to examine potential procedures for redistricting review, ultimately determining there was not an adequate judicial solution in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This time, the proposed rulemaking process has spanned only a few months, with no independent review by a committee of experts. The Court has considered, and rejected, adopting a rule on this topic, and the rule proposal before the Court now offers no reason for the Court to reverse its previous conclusion.

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, without allowing adequate review in the lower courts first, threatens to give the impression the Court is a political branch rather than a neutral arbitrator of conflict between political actors.

Dennis Mengeling
N4754 County Road V
Poynette, WI 53955

I was raised to believe that everyone is equal and that we work together as citizens to solve problems. For several years now this does not appear to be true. Our country has become more polarized. The motto now is "get more power at all costs." Even courts are no longer impartial with "conservative" judges and "liberal" judges. Since redistricting is very important and should be impartial, the task of redistricting should be done by people who are truly impartial and include participation of nonpartisan groups. We need to have true transparency of the process unlike what occurred ten years ago. A map that is truly fair to all citizen.

Sara Ramaker
2545 Oakwood Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54301

Wisconsin Voters voted for nonpartisan commission to draw district maps. This court's involvement a would limit public involvement, politicize the process and undermine voters confidence in the results.

Sara Ramaker
2545 Oakwood Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54301

Wisconsin citizens maybe divided on some issues, but not on how to draw our district maps. In election after election, voters, regardless of political affiliation, have overwhelming supported referendums requesting that our district maps be created by a nonpartisan commission. 28 county and 19 municipalities have passed referendums, the majority having won with more than 70% of the vote. No referendum has been defeated. 54 county boards, out of 72 counties, representing 75% of Wisconsin citizens, have endorsed nonpartisan commissions.

Clearly, Wisconsin voters want a districting system that is open, transparent and allows for citizen
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Randy Skinner
E8187 Maple Dale Road
Viroqua, WI 54665

The proposed rule would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or input from members of the public and groups that aren't political. This directly contradicts the preference of a majority of Wisconsin citizens to have a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process.

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 85% of Wisconsin's citizens. The proposed rule change is a sneaky, subtle attempt to take citizens out of the process of creating the next decade's maps before it even gets started!

Randy Kisling
2136 Allen Blvd. # 2
Middleton, Wisconsin 53562

I disapprove of this rule proposed by WILL because I believe it is not conducive to a good and fair system of drawing up maps that is transparent and inclusive of people beyond political parties.

Randy O'Connell
11245 N Webster St
Evansville, WI 53536-8936

With all due respect, it has become abundantly clear that the people have no say on matters concerning the drawing of voting districts. What the GOP ten years ago is an affront to democracy resulting in a near monopoly on assembly seats and senate positions. Any changes taking away either political party's ability to sway voting maps by placing this responsibility with an independent body is welcome. Legislators are now choosing their voters as opposed to voters picking their legislators.

Randy Krause
N2368 WIBU Rd
Poynette, WI 53955

Letter to the Honorable Supreme Court of the great state of Wisconsin regarding the upcoming redistricting efforts and the proposed rule change offered by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL)

As a concerned citizen, I remember all too well the underhanded and overly partisan process for determining districts after the last census. To say that it was an affront to democracy, done in extreme secrecy, with even the legislators themselves forced to sign non-disclosure agreements to even view their own district's proposed maps, is an understatement.

Wisconsin once had a well-deserved reputation for justice, equality and fair play. I fear that the partisan shenanigans of 10 years ago, along with all that has unfolded since then as a result of those non-transparent political manipulations, did great damage to that reputation. I don't believe it is too great a stretch to suggest that what transpired in Wisconsin and a few other states, played a significant role in bringing us as a nation to the point we are today, one that is more bitterly divided than at any time since the Civil War.

I am an optimist though and believe that if each one of us pushes back on efforts at partisan gamesmanship every chance we have, we can save our democracy.

As Justices you are in a unique position to do the most good; to preserve democracy and your own legacy. Please step up to the plate.

Thank you.

Rachel Tollefson
W15708 Busse rd
Ettrick, Wisconsin 54627

I do not support the proposed changes to redistricting rules. I already think the level of politics in districting is ridiculous and keeps too many people out of the process, don't make it harder for other groups to have their voices heard on these matters.

Ruth Battaglia
320 County Road K
Fond du Lac, WI 54937

I am very concerned that the process for redistricting, following the census, be as non-partisan and fair as possible. Redistricting is one of the most complex and difficult tasks of government and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person / one vote. It should never be rushed. On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process. In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed.

Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Ron Biendseil and Susan Dopp Biendseil/Dopp
7101 Friendship La, Middleton, Wisconsin, 53562 Email: rbiend44@gmail.com
Middleton,,, Wisconsin 53562

Re: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

We are writing to oppose Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting laws in Wisconsin, which would require the Wisconsin Supreme Court to take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation.

This rule would require that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give those same rights to nonpartisan groups civic organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process.

The proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making these procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

This rule will politicize the Court and exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation in the Court
Sincerely,

Ron Biendseil and Susan Dopp
7101 Friendship La,
Middleton, Wisconsin, 53562
Email: rbiend44@gmail.com

Richard Schoenbohm

516 E Wisconsin Ave, Suite E
Appleton, WI 54911

I speak in opposition to the petition for rule change that would send disputed redistricting maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

“You’ve got to be very careful if you don’t know where you are going, because you might not get there.” Yogi Berra. And let me add my own nod to baseball: don’t go to the bullpen if your pitcher is still throwing strikes.

Under the current rule, map disputes to go through evidentiary hearings at the Federal District Court, with appeals from the District Court ruling ascending up through the Federal Appellate Courts. Producing fair and effective districting maps is an extremely complex process, requiring consideration of census data, communities of interest, contiguousness of districts, local boundaries, and a myriad of other factors. These considerations depend on thousands of data points, and increasingly on understanding of computer modeling. Many of these considerations require expert testimony. And the result of any court decision irrevocably affects the rights of Wisconsin voters for ten years.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court, the highest court in our state judicial system, is an excellent court. And just as the Federal District Court does, our it would apply Wisconsin law to a map dispute. But the Wisconsin Supreme Court is not meant to be a fact-finding court. The Federal District Court is.

Taking on this complex and divisive task now, when so many other cases before the Court are filled with explosive partisan land mines, would be like a relief pitcher coming in with bases loaded, no outs, and
th瀆°景瑛敢戢聊柿柿漠漸妨挠浯湏°灵瑛景°峻°慷°楨牯眠瀆°据慨挠愠妨瑄惛猷敢瑛嗽横慥瑒活+
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啟梯梯湯(-)□^ㄝ耀波珣湮瀘氧来污挠慨恭湊敲瀘耀揚獺抵振梯柿敬畝豉潰湍滌獺梓獺獺灰漠鉗
駿擊撓擗愠愁⁴棚獺抵振污煤湯激湯牧擊撓愠嗽来獺懂梯氧景瀘睡忙梓²棚淳条茱楷⁴敬槩戩扼咳
祛愠敦惛泠筆⁴醞+攏獺梓²牡²浚散湯撓振晚挽⁹慶瀘獺潤獺¹瀘²黠渴浹牲敲²敌瑯渴璵概敬+撓
馮氧梓²耀珣敌峻瑒敷繫匠灵敲瀘獺潤¹獺敌璵⁹珣波櫛敷浩瀘敲櫛瑒械瑣^{[NO] [DS]}璵敲恭湊慨污挠来氧
潤敲^{[NO] [DS]}梓瀘瑒地榻稍+²慷^[AFS]愁渠牯敌璵瀘²峻瑒敌撓璵抗峻檢璵紫眠槩獺歲筆²敬柿污档⁴慨璵璵
擗愠⁴梓²潭敷²潤牽⁴敬嗽^[AFS]筆泠^[+]浩抽癯²抵馮⁹牡湊袂映牯²獺¹獺潤獺瀘撓瑩穩湊²瀘膜愠
欠璵敌擗窠敷据²瀘璵敌撓獺²馮^[+]梓²潤灭璵瀘²牡畧敷璵²+²三湯抽景瑩滌於榻²瀘整敲瑒漠杲馮
穩珣溟獺愠擊璵敌耀獺⁴景咥²桷^[NO]牡²潤据²犊敌^[+]楣梯毆獺撓峻撓戩²敬瑯漠瑤漠²馮⁹敌牡瀘²湯
耀揚獺抵振梯柿湮瀘²敢潦敲璵敌¹獺潤獺瀘匠灵敲敷繫峻瑒歌勳湯梯扼匠 景璵敌

Rosemarie Carbino
1410 Morrison St
Madison, WI 53703-3814

16 November 2020 To the Wisconsin Supreme Court I am writing concerning Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I oppose this proposed Rule because it will damage the drawing of legislative and congressional district maps and could lead to another gerrymander in Wisconsin. My specific concerns are these: 1. It would take any legal challenge to redistricting immediately to the Wisconsin Supreme Court rather than let that challenge work its way through the courts in the normal way. Establishing a record at the lower court level would improve transparency for us as Wisconsin citizens to grasp the evidence in the case and the competing arguments. 2.

Nonprofit public interest organizations and the rest of us who are concerned citizens could be left out of any hearing on redistricting maps before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Section 5(b) of the WILL petition requires only that the political parties be heard by the Court in any dispute over the maps. It does not explicitly allow room for concerned groups that have a longstanding interest in this issue to be heard. 3. The proposed rule gives the Court the leeway to disregard the procedures and requirements laid out in the rule itself! If we are going to have a rule, it should be abided by; it should be transparent; and it should be applied fairly. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Rosemarie Carbino
1410 Morrison St.
Madison, United States 53703-3814

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Wisconsin. My specific concerns are these: 1. It would take any legal challenge to redistricting immediately to the Wisconsin Supreme Court rather than let that challenge work its way through the courts in the normal way. Establishing a record at the lower court level would improve transparency for us as Wisconsin citizens to grasp the evidence in the case and the competing arguments. 2.

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Rick Graves
E4952 Timberline Rd
Spring Green, WI 53588

Please support balanced, rather than partisan, redistributing.

Richard Costerisan
23328 Nyren Rd.
Siren, Wisconsin 54872

Fair district maps require access from all parties in our court system.

Sue Boy
N6258 Woodland Rd
Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53083

This would omit too many voices and transparency.

Richard Barbieri
2414 N. 73RD ST
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Please reject this petition The people of Wisconsin want and need to be part of the decision process for the redistricting scheduled for next year.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

nancy desotell
1574 sleepy hollow ct
green bay, WI 54311

I do not believe it is in the best interest of the citizens of Wisconsin to have the Supreme Court be involved in the redistricting of voting maps. It could lead to more partisan politics in the court, and prevent opposition groups from being represented in the court.

Rea Kirk
155 S. Court Street
Platteville, WI 53818

We need a non-partisan or bi-partisan (equal # from each party) to determine re-districting. Without this we take choice and voice away from a segment of citizens depending on which party is in power. Both parties have abused this power and in doing so disenfranchised voters.

Rebecca Schwarz
1507 Weston St
La Crosse, WI 54601

I support non-partisan redistricting to eliminate gerrymandering in WI. I urge the WI Supreme Court to avoid barriers to public and transparent redistricting process, including any process that bars nonpartisan groups from being involved or further politicizes this process or the courts. WI residents widely agree with a fair maps process and I hope that you will allow the public to guide this.

Rebecca Lindsey
2516 S AUSTIN ST
MILWAUKEE, WI 53207

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Barbara Meyer
10756 Trotter Rd

Argyle, WI 53504

I strongly oppose the adoption of a petition that the State Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. Doing so would not give the same rights to nonpartisan groups or organizations that it would give to political parties to be heard by the Court. The proposal would also allow the Court to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself. Neither does it have sufficient transparency measures. On top of all this, it would further politicize the Court. We badly need a new, nonpolitical redistricting process to eliminate gerrymandering

Randy Kabit
214 shady knolls
East Peoria, Illinois 61611

Stop the gerrymandering

Lisa Reinhardt
404 W. Cramer St.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This action limits the review of maps and rushes the process. You are well aware that the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. The citizens of Wisconsin demand a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, and an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review that will NOT harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Renee Gasch
719 Lewis St.
De Pere, WI 54115

Renee Gasch
719 Lewis St.
De Pere, WI

November 15, 2020

Wisconsin Supreme Court
110 E Main St # 440
Madison, WI 53703

Your Honors,

I am writing to ask that you deny the request for a redistricting rule change proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”), which would re-route litigation over electoral district maps to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

The rule-change proposal is not in the best interest of me or my community. As a community organizer in De Pere Wisconsin, I am personally committed to helping my neighbors participate fully in civic life. No place is that more important than in the redistricting process. The electoral maps have a significant impact on the way we community members advocate for our interests in Wisconsin politics. Therefore, I believe it imperative that citizens are able to provide public oversight to the redistricting process.

The redistricting rule change proposed by WILL would significantly limit the ability for the public to provide input and oversight on our electoral maps. Under the current rules, lawsuits over electoral maps are sent through the lower courts and ultimately reviewed by federal judges at a U.S. District Court. Throughout our state’s history, this long-established process has resulted in the fairest electoral maps for our communities. The current process allows the lower courts to play an important role in fact-finding and gathering of public testimony that enables the U.S. District Court to make an informed decision to resolve disputes over electoral maps.

If adopted, the WILL rule change would shortchange this important fact-finding part of the process—undermining transparency and shutting out community voices. Maps litigation would go straight to the Wisconsin Supreme Court to be reviewed by elected state judges, who are subject to partisan influences, rather than lifetime appointed judges on the federal court. The only testimony collected would be from the political parties, not citizens or community groups who play an important civic role in advocating for Wisconsinites who do not identify with a party. It would unnecessarily politicize the process in a state where the citizenry is already frustrated with the partisan gridlock of our political leaders.

The current redistricting rules are a preferred process to prevent partisan gerrymandering of electoral maps, as well as racial gerrymandering. The federal judges are best positioned to review maps to ensure their compliance with the Voting Rights Act, which they are charged with enforcing. Wisconsin is already deeply segregated by race and a racial gerrymander would be detrimental to upholding the voting rights of Wisconsinites who belong to protected minority populations.

A similar redistricting rule change was rejected in the past for these reasons. In 2009, after six years of intensive review, it was determined preferable to uphold the current process. I believe the WILL rule

change proposed in June 2020 is being rushed through to the benefit of powerful political interests and at the expense of Wisconsinites at large. I urge you to deny the request.

Thank you for reviewing my public input. I have invited my friends, family, and neighbors to join me in signing this letter—their names are listed below.

Respectfully,
Renee Gasch
De Pere, Wisconsin

Signed:

Melissa Rink, De Pere
Matt & Alexis Peter, Sturgeon Bay
Keith McGillivray, Green Bay
Jennifer Nowicki, De Pere
John E Jahnke, Green Bay
David Atkins, Bellevue
Kimberly Kase Atkins, Bellevue
Abraham Lyerly, De Pere
Julie Hetzel, Green Bay
Peggy Spierings, DePere
Daniel O. Theno, Green Bay
Tyler G Luedke, Green Bay
Christy Welch, De Pere
Andrew Hetzel, Green Bay
Julie Schroeder, Fond du lac
Nicole Villa, Fond du Lac

Renee Midthun
12476 West Lake St
Hayward, WI 54843

I request that you disregard the "WILL" petition and allow non-partisan groups to provide input/ dispute to future redistricting litigation at the same level as political parties are currently allowed. I want non-partisan input to be allowed to ensure that the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints of all state residents to conduct an appropriate review of the district mapping situation. Thank you.

Renee Gralewicz
1803 S Memorial Drive

Appleton, WI 54915

I DEMAND fairly drawn maps. Adopting Scott Jensen's, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty petition to take the disputed maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court increases the politicization of the Court and a decrease in my trust in Wisconsin's commitment to democracy. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Mark Resch
501 Howard st
RIPON, Wisconsin 54971

I am writing concerning Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.
Deadline Nov 22

One person, one vote, I have a right to be heard. My neighbors and I don't always agree on issues, but we do need to listen to each other, it is the foundation of good citizenship. I don't believe it is in the best interest of the citizenry to have the state supreme court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. The state supreme court needs to allow people and independent groups to challenge district maps which should be drawn for the purpose of fairly and competitively selecting our government representatives. Maps that are not fairly/competitively drawn, I believe, disenfranchise voters because their vote, and hence their independent voice, doesn't count in a stacked deck which favors monied special interest groups. The process of drawing fair maps should not exclude individuals and nonpartisan groups from full participation, and should be done providing full public transparency. Our current set of maps were drawn in the dark of the night and lacked any form of transparency. While our statewide election vote tallies are pretty evenly split between the two major parties, our representation at the state district level doesn't even come close to reflecting the statewide vote. The Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty's petition should be denied. The entire process needs to be reviewed for fairness, it does not need a final chokehold by putting it in the jurisdiction of the supreme court.

Thank You.

Mark

Tim Gittings
410 W. Madison Street
Spring Green, WI 53588

I'm seriously concerned about redistricting in our state and the attempts by certain parties to reduce transparency and limit the opportunities for nonpartisan groups to have a say in any Court review or rulings. I'm speaking of the petition filed in June by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty. The Court is already dangerously politicized in our state and this would only add to that. Also, 54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 85% of Wisconsin's citizens. This proposed rule change is an attempt to take citizens out of the process of creating the next decade's maps and I urge you reject it utterly.

Anne Reynolds
N1136 Redwing Dr.
Greenville, WI 54942

There is no need for swift decisions in regard to this matter, rather a steady forward movement like our state motto. The wisdom of the group takes longer, but is more fair in the end.

The process of review was established long ago and nothing changed to need speedy resolution, in my opinion. Patience is a virtue, let us practice it.

John Fahrenkrug
802 Grant Place
Neenah, WI 54956

I am disenfranchised by the current Gerrymander in Wisconsin. My district representatives in the State Assembly, the State Senate, and in US Congress do not reflect my views. This Gerrymander alone suppresses the one person/one vote pillar of our democracy. I demand a better chance for Voters to choose their Representatives rather than the current situation. Democracy will not withstand UNFAIR MAPS. Wisconsin cannot allow this disenfranchisement to continue.

It is foolish to think otherwise. I want the opportunity for my vote to be counted and to make a positive and fair difference. I want the opportunity to choose my representatives for my district which have a fair chance to be elected by a majority of voters who live in my District. It is obvious that under the current district maps many of us have an unfair opportunity to elect political leaders who represent a view of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness and the many promises of our Constitution. This is due to the current unbalance of power of the vote; where the many are represented by the few. I ask the Court to correct this egregious situation. Thank you.

Robin Fuller
3358 Buckwheat Ridge, Road

Lancaster, WI 53813

I am asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to say NO to adopting a rule that would create a fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases. The rule would undermine our system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process.

The proposed rule would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or input from members of the public and groups that aren't political. This directly contradicts the preference of a majority of Wisconsin citizens to have a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process.

Russell Gilbertson
1508 Merrill Ave., Apt. 115
Wausau, WI 54401

Given that our state's voting districts are already gerrymandered, it is totally unfair to impede attempts to right that wrong.

I urge you to reject Rule Petition 20-03 on behalf of Wisconsin's voters.

Thank you.

Bob WRIGHT
792A Horse Lake Ln
Dresser, WI 54009

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices,

Please reject the petition by WILL to move litigation on redistricting directly to your court. In a democracy all voters deserve to be heard and the political gerrymandering of 2011 has clearly rigged the maps in favor of voters of one persuasion over all others. The data doesn't lie. Because of this, it is imperative that the legal process plays out beginning at the local level and that it include the voices of us the citizens, not just the political parties.

Rick Harris
205 N Iowa St
Mineral Point, WI 53565

why are fair maps so controversial? why wouldnt we want fair maps. this system is ridiculous. these changes are just another form of voter suppression. stop voter suppression in any form.

Reino Hill
72730 State Highway 13
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

I am greatly concerned that the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty filed a petition asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to adopt a rule that would create a fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases. The rule would undermine our system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process. Neither political party or special interest should be allowed to gerrymander our voting districts if we are truly a democracy.

Richard Meyer
4178 Nakoma Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

All groups should have the right to challenge maps drawn by politicians!

Richard Lafans
20325 SW Crystal Lane
Cable, WI 54821

So less public participation is a good thing? Operating with less transparency is good too? The Wisconsin Supreme Court's reputation is already poor and we want to make it worse? When important work is done without oversight the appearance that something untoward is going on is evident. The probability of something untoward being done certainly goes up. With rules such as this is it any wonder the public's faith in our public institutions is plummeting?

I ask that the Supreme Court reject this undemocratic request. It is a naked attempt to take power away from the people.

james ridge
430 S Lexington
Spring Green, WI 53588

To the Court that serves the people of Wisconsin,

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 80 percent of Wisconsin's citizens.

Please consider greater transparency, non-partisan agreement, and an inclusive legal process as the primary values when deciding on the petition filed by "WILL".

Thank you for your work on behalf all Wisconsinites.

Linda Riesen
S70W14955 Dartmouth Circle
Muskego, WI 53150

I oppose the proposal for Supreme Court to take jurisdiction of future redistricting litigation.

Sandy Rindy
N9698 Argue Rd.
New Glarus, WI 53574

I ask that you not honor the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty's petition asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to adopt a rule that would create a fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases. The proposed rule doesn't allow for the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties.

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 80 percent of Wisconsin's citizens. The proposed rule change attempts to take citizens out of the process!

Rita Buchholz
243 2nd Street
Benton, WI 53803

Counties throughout our state have passed referendums calling for nonpartisan redistricting in Wisconsin. Listen to 80 % of your citizenship and rule in favor of fair maps please.

Richard Jacobson
1036 Saddle Ridge
Portage, WI 53901

I strongly believe that any moves to redraw state Senate, House, and Congressional districts should be as open and transparent as possible. All interested parties should be allowed to participate in the process and, should the redrawn districts be subject to litigation, the process should run through the regular district and appeals courts before it reaches the Supreme Court.

Robert Betzig
3542 Harper Ct
Verona, WI 53593

Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices, When it comes to the State Supreme Court taking jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation, I request that you allow all citizens to be heard in the case, not just political party representatives. I also request that you provide full transparency in the process. It is important that the creation of state district maps be done through non-partisan means. This will assure that voters choose their representatives, instead of representatives choosing their voters. It is also important that if the you must rule on these maps that your position actually be and appear as non-partisan to all Wisconsinites.

Brenda Steinberger
N3614 County Road D
Menomonie, Wisconsin 54751

I am against any fasttracking of redistricting measures without allowing input from all parties, including non-partisan groups in Wisconsin. I do not feel that political parties, or legislative members representing a partisan majority, should control the makeup of our voting district maps.

Ron Bula
S4515 Scenic Rd
Baraboo, WI 53913

The issue of fair districting is essential to democracy in Wisconsin. A non partisan panel must be the solution not the Supreme Court. The majority of our citizens support this and if fair districts are not established this could cause political turmoil and civic unrest. The people of this state deserve to have

their voices heard. Wisconsin is the most gerrymandered state in the nation and we have had enough of this and require fair maps!

Dave and Roxanne Leahy
137 W Main Street
Shullsburg, WI 53586

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court: We are greatly opposed to the plans of the Supreme Court to play a role in drawing the lines for our legislative districts. Follow the Kiss method of the State of Iowa in their regard to drawing fair maps. This is fair to all parties!!

Roger Johnson
816 Lincoln St.
Menasha, WI 54952

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Leah Johnson
816 Lincoln St
Menasha, WI 54952

I am concerned that this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, keep nonpartisan groups from full participation so that our citizens do not have equal voice, and does not have actual transparency measures.

Rachel Quade
4246 S Kingan Ave
Saint Francis, WI 53235

I support an impartial, transparent method of drawing voting district maps. Voters have more trust in our elected officials and legislative process when we feel our vote truly counts. Gerrymandering and other impacts of political parties drawing the voting district maps erodes voter confidence in the system.

Nonpartisan group participation would greatly assist to making the process trustworthy, as would adequate transparency into how the process is designed.

Please don't allow the Supreme Court to be drawn into this political fray. Wisconsinites deserve a non-partisan Supreme Court.

Robert and Jean Breslow
4560 Goldmine Road
Dodgeville, WI 53533

To: Wisconsin Supreme Court

Subject: Objection to Petition 20-03 Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70 (Redistricting Process)

It is unfortunate that despite the fact that 55 counties have passed resolutions supporting fair maps and 28 counties have approved referenda supporting fair maps, many legislators have refused to support a fair, transparent, and non-partisan process for drawing voting district maps. Furthermore, it is concerning that the Wisconsin Supreme Court has allowed less than a month for public comment about this very important issue and proposed rule change.

The rule change that would require any lawsuit about future maps to go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme court, thereby bypassing the lower courts, is ill-advised and has the potential to further erode trust in the court and the court's credibility with the potential to further politicize what is supposed to be a non-partisan branch of government.

By eliminating the lower court, access to the judicial system by the average Wisconsin voter would be negatively affected by rushing the process for determining the appropriateness and fairness of the maps and would effectively disenfranchise a majority of Wisconsin voters who are in favor of fair maps. The lower court serves an important role by affording a process by which Wisconsin voters can access the courts to litigate districting maps that are believed to be unfair. The use of the lower court as an entry point allows Wisconsin voters to submit additional evidence and testimony to air concerns about proposed maps.

Furthermore, the rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations who are advocates for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps should there be concerns about the fairness of those maps.

Not only is good government dependent on transparency, it is also dependent on due process whereby the average Wisconsin voter has standing in the court to litigate their concerns about redistricting maps. To be clear, we object to "Petition 20-03 Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70 (Redistricting Process)" and ask the Wisconsin Supreme Court to reject the proposed rule change in the name of fairness, transparency, and due process for all Wisconsin voters.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert and Jean Breslow
Dodgeville, WI

Nancy Miller
108 W. Miller Drive
Mequon, WI 53092

I am writing in response to the process for adopting Fair Maps. I believe the process should not be rushed; but, rather should go through the proper channels. In this way the process would be transparent and would insure public trust.

By adopting the proposed new rule, the State Supreme Court would become politicized. I always believed that the state's highest court, just like the Federal Supreme Court, was to be above politics and be impartial.

The Supreme Court must remain fair in its dealings and not take on the case of "fair maps" before fact finding has occurred in the lower courts and all interested parties have had a chance to make their feelings known.

Let's keep politics out of our Supreme Court.

Roger Sutter
N4169 county E
Brodhead, Wisconsin 53520

That change all make it very unfair to the residence of Wisconsin

Nicole Villa
329 Amory St
Fond du lac, WI 54935

I think it is really important we redraw fair partisan lines for our elections. I firmly believe you are only as strong as your weakest link, and if you have to draw unfair lines that doesn't keep us in a strong democracy by doing right by the will of the people. There have been many referendums passed in WI that people have been firm on wanting fair partisan line maps. And trying to change what the will of the majority of people want by filing a loophole law is not in the best interest in the majority of voters. The public has spoken and this is what they want. We want the US District Courts to make any decisions involving disputes on fair maps in WI. This is what was voted on in the referendums and it should be upheld. We should not change the rules to have the WI Supreme Court make decisions, as this is not what's the majority of voters voted for. If that is what some special interest groups want to change, then hold referendums similar to the ones held that clearly said the will of the people was FAIR Partisan maps, ending the gerrymandering in WI. We are better than this and honestly should be ashamed as a state we even have to discuss fair partisan non gerrymandering lines.

Richard Stephens
1459 County Road F
Hollandale, Wisconsin 53544

Gerrymandering has been with us forever but today's computing technology makes it so powerful that it effectively becomes a path to one party rule. When office holders of either party are assured re-election they do not need to and often won't take opposing ideas and opinions into consideration to the detriment of our counties, states and country. A decision to allow unbridled, partisan gerrymandering will be perceived as a partisan decision favoring republicans but it will truly damage the public's ability to control their legislator's actions no matter who holds the seat and that will be the end of democracy. Don't let your legacy be responsibility for the fall of democracy.

Russell Novkov
602 Sawyer Terrace 308
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

We need Fair Maps

Russell Novkov
602 Sawyer Terrace 308
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

We need to draw Fair Maps in order to end Gerrymandering, it should be up to the people, not the other way around

Robert Johnson
1506 Lori Ct.
Sauk City, WI 53583

I believe the process of redistricting legislative maps is too important to change the rules at this point. Many parties have a right to be heard on an issue this important. It is not fair to the people of Wisconsin to take short cuts in this process. Requirements as stated in the rules must be followed.

Margaret Krolikowski
418 N Wilson Avenue
Jefferson, WI 53549

The rule change proposed by WILL, will only politicize the State Supreme Court which is supposed to be nonpartisan. Any litigation on redistricting should go through lower courts first. I believe it is beyond comprehension that a group would bring such a proposal before any maps are even drawn up! This nothing more than a power grab by conservatives.

Robin Korotko
W2174 Lincoln Rd
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Re Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

Please do not approve modifications to state statute 809.70 regarding redistricting challenges in the courts.

We are at a point where many (if not most) voters have become disillusioned with the redistricting process. "Voters should choose their representatives. Representatives should not choose their voters."

Transparency in the redistricting process and the review of the maps is key to increasing public trust. The proposed rule does not provide adequate information to or input from the public. In Wisconsin the public was cut out of the redistricting process ten years ago. The process WILL proposes would only exacerbate the problem—rushing the process and allowing the Court to sidestep consideration of any arguments by groups other than elected officials and political parties. It makes zero sense to only allow the parties with political interests to make their arguments.

Redistricting has an impact on election outcomes for a decade—and beyond. There is no compelling reason to rush the process and review of the maps. Doing so in the manner proposed in these modifications not only damages the process, but risks adding to the public impression of the politicization of the Court and further shaking public trust in the Court as an unbiased arbitrator.

Jane Tornow
1034 Apple Blossom Drive
Neenah, Wisconsin 54956

Sadly, gerrymandering has a long history in this country. Both parties have come up with maps that distort the overall outcome. The maps should dictate up the population in square like shaped districts as much as possible. The number of assemblymen and state senators should reflect the ratio of total votes by party ... or at least not be so out of wack!

Colleen Robson
2947 Mallard Way
East Troy, WI 53120

November 18, 2020

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

RE: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

My name is Colleen Robson and I am writing to provide comment regarding Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I am opposed to the proposed rule for the following reasons.

First, the proposed rule submitted by the rightwing Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) would allow legal challenges to new legislative maps to go straight to the Wisconsin Supreme Court rather than proceed through the courts in the manner in which the courts are designed to work. This would limit the review and the opportunities to develop the record, as well as limit the correction of mistakes brought forward during the process. Furthermore, it would limit transparency and the ability of Wisconsin citizens to be informed of the evidence and the competing arguments that would emerge as the case progresses through the lower courts.

Second, nonprofit public interest organizations and concerned citizens could be left out of any hearing on redistricting maps before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The WILL petition, in Section 5(b), requires only that the political parties be heard by the Court in any dispute over legislative district maps. It does not explicitly allow for other groups that have a longstanding interest in this issue to be heard. Redistricting is not simply a dispute between the parties. Wisconsin citizens deserve to be informed of the process and given opportunity to have their voices heard in the process.

Third, the proposed rule being advanced by WILL gives the Court the leeway to disregard the procedures and requirements laid out in the rule itself. If you're going to have a rule, it should be transparent and applied in a fair manner. When the Court previously considered special rules for redistricting litigation, an extensive review preceded the Court's decision to not adopt them. The Court concluded that such rules would increase the politicization of the Court and decrease public trust in the Court as a legitimate institution. Inserting the Court in a partisan conflict so early in the process of adopting new legislative maps gives the impression that the Court is a political branch of government rather than a neutral referee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Colleen J. Robson
2947 Mallard Way

East Troy, WI 53120

Carol Richardson
532 W WISCONSIN AVE
BELMONT, WI 53510

“Objection to Petition 20-03 Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70 (Redistricting Process)”.

The Fair Maps Coalition will print comments, make 10 copies of each comment and create 10 binders full of comments to deliver to the Wisconsin Supreme Court by November 30th.

While it is important to put your comments in your own words, below are some potential talking points you can use. Remember these comments are about the process of contesting maps, not about ending gerrymandering per se.

The people of Wisconsin have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. Legislators are not listening. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps.

This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair.

The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated.

This is where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps.

This rule change further politicizes the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its credibility in the eyes of the public.

This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to assuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency.

There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being rushed and I demand a 60 day continuance.

Rodney DePue
1818 E. Shorewood Blvd. Unit 308
Shorewood, WI 53211

I strongly disagree with the petition that has been filed for a proposed rule change to take the disputed maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. I believe this shortened process will allow for no fact-finding by lower courts and may exclude any input from citizens or non-profit groups. It will eliminate transparency in the redistricting process.

I believe that it is imperative that we not allow this to happen for the following reasons:

1. Redistricting is one of the most complex and difficult tasks of government and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person/one vote. It should never be rushed. On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process.
 2. In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed.
 3. Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony, when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.
- Thank you for your consideration.

Roger Kanitz
516 Riverway
Menasha, Wisconsin 54952

I am a member of the Wisconsin League of Women Voters because I am interested in ensuring fair elections that are conducted in a non-partisan manner. The voting

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Sandra Rohde
W3059 Pinecrest Ct
Appleton, WI 54915

In Wisconsin, we believe our court system should rise above partisan politics and ensure that all people have a meaningful way to have their say.

Sandra Rohde
W3059 Pinecrest Ct
Appleton, WI 54915

Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Ron Boehnen
10918 Cave of the Mounds Road
Blue Mounds, WI 53517

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court Judges

Re: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

Please reject Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) challenges to redistricting in Wisconsin. Wisconsin has seen our Democracy erode to where the State Senators and Representatives who were in the majority in 2010 used high technology computer programs to stack the districts so they can control our government and cannot be removed even if a majority of Wisconsin's constituents vote for someone else. As a result of local referendum votes most of Wisconsin residents from both political parties are demanding fair redistricting and each of you as Supreme Court Judges have a responsibility to strike down the WILL challenges and insure redistricting is conducted in a fair, ethic and nonpartisan manner without Special Interest manipulation and monopolistic control of the process.

Sincerely

Ron Boehnen
10918 Cave of the Mounds Road
Blue Mounds Wisconsin

Denise Boehnen
10918 Cave of the Mounds Road
Blue Mounds, WI 53517

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court Judges

Re: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

Please reject Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) challenges to redistricting in Wisconsin. Wisconsin has seen our Democracy erode to where the State Senators and Representatives who were in the majority in 2010 used high technology computer programs to stack the districts so they can control our government and cannot be removed even if a majority of Wisconsin's constituents vote for someone else. As a result of local referendum votes most of Wisconsin residents from both political parties are demanding fair redistricting and each of you as Supreme Court Judges have a responsibility to strike down the WILL challenges and insure redistricting is conducted in a fair, ethic and nonpartisan manner without Special Interest manipulation and monopolistic control of the process.

Sincerely

Denise Boehnen
10918 Cave of the Mounds Road
Blue Mounds Wisconsin

Ronald Budziszewski
5014 Raymond Rd
Madison, WI 53711

- Residents of Wisconsin have worked dilligently to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. They are not listening. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. The proposed rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair. The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. The lower courts are the appropriate place where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps.
- This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.
- Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to ensuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency.
- There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment.
- The petition seeks to authorize the Court to take immediate jurisdiction of the redistricting process upon the request of any party the instant the census is released and then issue an immediate

stay. Taking jurisdiction at that early point is premature, without legal justification; there is not yet any case or controversy. Having the Court take over the process at that premature point violates the state and federal constitutions because it would usurp the authority of the Legislature and Executive branch to address redistricting matters in the first instance. While the Court may eventually be the proper party to review actual disputes about redistricting, based on the actual facts then of record, it is not the constitutionally authorized body to usurp and decide redistricting matters in the first instance.

Thank you for considering by points and justification to deny this petition.

Ronald J Budziszewski

Ronelle Harms
6116 N Cassidy Rd
Evansville, WI 53536

PLEASE NO - fast-tracked, behind-the-scenes process for handling redistricting cases. The proposed rule would undermine our system of checks and balances and shut the public out of the legal process. The proposed rule would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected (by the people) officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or input from members of the public and groups that aren't political. This directly contradicts the preference of a majority of Wisconsin citizens to have a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process.

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 80 percent of Wisconsin's citizens. The proposed rule change is a sneaky, subtle attempt to take citizens out of the process of creating the next decade's maps before it even gets started!

The courts are not designed to promote politics. They are in place to protect citizens, please act in a non-partisan manner.

ronna swift
230 W Seymour St,
Appleton, WI 54915

Gerrymander is bad and needs to be done away with, period. The Iowa model works much better. It is so unfair for a citizen of any county in WI seeing their vote not count because of gerrymandering. We need an independent non partisan board to determine the districts. Ronna J. Swift retired teacher/counselor for Dept. of Corrections

Ron Malzer
331 28th Street S
La Crosse, WI 54601

It shakes democracy to its core to allow gerrymandered maps. It is high time we returned to a democratic process and allow a nonpartisan group draw reasonable lines so that our legislature may start to reflect the will of the poepl.

Rosa Karl
27760 County Highway C
Washburn, WI 54891

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”), filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and limit judicial transparency. I request an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Rosalie Walker
617 Clark Street
River Falls, WI 54022

As a Wisconsin resident, tax payer and voter I disagree with the proposed rule that would allow the state Supreme Court to rule on cases of gerrymandering in Wisconsin. This rule proposed by WI Institute for Law and Liberty and former Republican Scott Jensen is not designed to be a fair rule for developing Fair Maps for state districts to fairly represent the voters of said districts.

David Rosenberg
8930 N Regent Rd
Bayside, WI 53217

redistricting cases should not go directly to the Supreme Court. They should go thru regular court procedure.

Gregory Rossing
201 Grandview

Argyle, WI 53504

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

RoyAnne Moulton
1434 Silverwood Ln.
Neenah, WI 54956

I believe it is NOT in the best interest of the citizenry to have the state supreme court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation.

The state supreme court needs to allow people and independent groups to challenge
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Richard Purdy
N7659 950th St.
River Falls, WI 54022

22 November 2020

Richard Purdy, PhD
N7659 950th St.
River Falls, WI 54022

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices,

I read with alarm that there is a proposed rules change that would alter the way cases having to do with re-districting are handled. Rather than start with local courts and proceed through regular channels, gathering evidence and allowing testimony along the way, these cases will come straight to your docket. For some reason, only political parties are going to be allowed to provide testimony. Why would that be allowed? Regular people are affected by voting districts and how they are created—regular people should be allowed to testify and provide evidence.

This tactic was tried and turned down before. Why allow it to rear its head again? Don't you have more on your plates than to look again at something you really thought about and decided on already?

The wording of the rules change is odd and unwieldy. As I understand it, you don't even have to obey the rules. Can that be so? How can a rule allow itself to be optional? How can decisions made under such a rule be challenged?

Allowing this rule to be adopted will reduce transparency in our process. Reducing transparency eliminates trust in our legal system. A state court should have sunlight on its processes and decisions if it is to hold the trust of the people who depend on its wisdom. It can do no good for the Court or for any of Wisconsin's citizens to have this rule adopted. Democracy depends on transparency, participation, and fairness.

Thank you,

Richard Purdy

Richard Rundell
1270 Perry Dr.
Platteville, WI 53818

I am writing to express my concerns in regards to Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. Wisconsin is currently one of the US states that is so badly gerrymandered that our states political status is hard to be considered to be a Democracy. The redistricting process in the past has been done in secret behind closed doors, hardly democrat, by the party in control all with the intent of maintaining one party control. We need redistricting to be performed by an unbiased, neutral body and this cannot be accomplished if the process is done hurriedly and with out thorough consideration along with time for questions and adequate input. It is time for a fair redistricting Process!

Ron Schalig
19565 Cromwell Ct. West
Brookfield, Wisconsin 53045

Wisconsin is one of the most Gerrymandered states in the country. We have seen what the Republicans in our state legislature do when Governor Evers makes a decision pertaining to the Covid crisis. If this proposed rule change is adopted, it will further restrict the forums in which future legal actions can be filed. Please remember the preamble to the United States Constitution states, "WE THE PEOPLE," not "WE THE COURT."

Ron Schinker
2472 Whistling Swan Ct
Menasha, WI 54952

To whom it may concern,

This rule should not be passed.

Sincerely
Ron Schinker

Robert Thielke
2144 N 83rd St
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

The proposed rule does not give the public sufficient opportunity to learn about and give feedback on the map drawing process. The last time new maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting process did not include enough public hearings where people impacted by the proposed districts could be heard. The process WILL has proposed would not solve this, and in fact would allow the Court to avoid

consideration of any arguments by groups other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or approve maps without hearing evidence or public input.

rob striker
2222 kendall
madison, WI 53726

I'm writing to ask that you the WI State Supreme Court allow nonpartisan groups to have thier voices heard just like the democratic and republican parties are heard on the matter of electoral maps. As you know our state has become quite partisan and only by allowing more diverse voices can this partisan fever be cooled.

Richard Ruecking
6002 Lake St
McFarland, Wi 53558

Protect citizen input and transparency in every aspect of promoting fair and equitable maps. The past proceowas a partisan abomination that created unfair representation.

Kate Hancock-Cooke
216 Bosworth Court
Neenah, Wi 54956

I am dismayed that Wisconsin is no longer meeting the American definition of a representative democracy. We are obligated to preserve our democracy, it is in our care, and we cannot ignore that it is currently failing. I urge you to think about our founding principlles and support a fair and nonpartisan method of drawing legislative boundaries. Thank you.

Diane Toberman
1311 2nd Street
Hudson, WI 54016

The proposed rule change harms constitutional rights to our rights of fair elections and to some extent fair representation. Why wouldn't someone want nonpartisan nonbiased court? A transparent process for litigation is paramount to the very fiber of democracy. The proposal will take away the processes that make our democracy the envy of other countries. Wht would anyone jeopardize that democracy? Everyone should be protecting our system not inhibiting it.

Ruth Ann BERKHOLTZ
6 Elmwood Ct
MADISON, WI 53719

RE: Objection to Petition 20-03 Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70 (Redistricting Process)

There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being rushed and I M A WI CITIZEN DEMANDING A 60 DAY CONTINUANCE.

Rodney Olson
202 N. Main St, PO Box 227
Blanchardville, WI 53516

Please do what is right and make fair maps for the districts of Wisconsin. Allow for impartial individuals/groups to determine our next voting districts.

Richard Whisler
303 Maas St.
Lake Mills, WI 53551

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court,

I am writing to ask you to decline the petition from the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty to revise the procedures for legal challenges to redistricting. I ask that the current procedures for redistricting litigation remain unchanged.

Please let the judicial process work as it has without rushing to eliminate steps in the process. All parties need to be heard and a record of their support or objections needs to be created. Creating voting districts every 10 years after the US Census is complete should be a nonpartisan, administrative process.

Please decline the petition from WILL. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Richard Whisler

Ron Wolfe
5601 Dahmen Drive
Waunakee, wi 53597

TO: Wisconsin Supreme Court
FROM: Ron Wolfe, Springfield, WI
RE: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

Is democracy, still the goal of the American governance model or is it merely promoted where it serves the interests of political parties and their wealthy supporters?

It is obvious that WI's gerrymandered legislative and congressional district maps have been created to secure the power of one political party, not the power of the people.. Redistribution of opposition voters to districts where they represent a minority position compromises the power of a voting majority to choose their representatives.

By removing the incentive for legislators of one party to meet the expectations of a balanced constituency we remove the premise of a government by the people. Political district boundaries set by politicians of either party, without review and input from concerned citizens and apolitical citizen interest groups defeats constitutional intent.

Rule Petition 20-30 should be rejected by the Wisconsin Supreme court

Richard Zietko
1944 E Washington Ave, Apt 2
Madison, WI 53704

Justice must be objective. Support redistricting that allows for fair districts to be formed out of the the morass the GOP legislators have created!

Ruth Zubrensky
3404 N. Summit Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53211

I am 93 years old living in Milwaukee since 1953. I've seen the draconian efforts of Republicans over the decades to try to disenfranchise minority populations in order to satisfy their racist fantasies to live with all white representatives. The good news is that members of minority communities are rising up in protest and will make "good trouble" (quoting the revered John Lewis) if they think they can get away with this rule change to take contested redistricting maps directly to the WI Supreme Court (a majority

who are clearly racist). There have been partisan differences in the past but Wisconsin legislators always settled these differences either through federal court orders or through individuals who had the right to petition the the federal or state courts. Not any longer. Republicans are using a sledge hammer to get their way with a disgusting show of racial animosity.

Thanks for nothing. Ruth Zubrensky, 3404 N. Summit Ave., Milwaukee,Wi

Susan Kozinski
3729 S Packard Ave
St Francis, WI 53235

Right-wing partisans are trying to short-circuit the upcoming legislative redistricting process and rig it in their favor to increase the likelihood that another Republican gerrymander can be put in place for the next 10 years just like the one that was foisted on Wisconsin in 2011. The far-right Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) is maneuvering to limit any judicial review of redistricting in our state to the Wisconsin Supreme Court with its conservative majority. This is a clear case of court shopping in hopes of guaranteeing they get the outcome they want. They don't want lower state courts to have any say or to give citizens the opportunity to weigh in, and they also want to avoid what happened in Wisconsin in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s when federal judges were asked to intervene in the process and drew state legislative and congressional district maps that did not clearly favor either major party. WILL's cynical ploy should be seen for what it is and rejected.

Sharna Ahern
338 Kinzie Ave.
Fontana, WI 53125

I do not agree with the rule change and wish to see fair redistributing by a nonpartisan, independent committee. The state Supreme Court should not be involved in this becoming politicized. Thank you!

Sharon Hildebrand
426 Summit Ave
Eau Claire, WI `54701

I am very opposed to changing the rules for redistricting. I think it is undemocratic and disrespectful to exclude the participation and input of individuals, community, labor or citizen groups in deciding how and where they are represented in Wisconsin. Please discourage further political manipulation using our courts and deny changes to legislative redistricting.

Stephanie Kracht
426 Zida Street
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This action limits the review of maps and rushes the process. You are well aware that the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. The citizens of Wisconsin demand a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, and an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review that will NOT harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Stephanie Krueger
3063 W Olson St
Blanchardville, WI 53516

The proposed rule change would undermine democracy in Wisconsin and the checks and balances enshrined in our state constitution. We deserve and want fair maps through the process of nonpartisan redistricting. Citizens should choose who they vote for, not politicians and courts picking their voters.

Sally Langan
924 Cortez Ct
Oneida, WI 54155

Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

Please reject the petition to establish a rule that allows disputed redistricting maps to bypass our current procedures and be submitted directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This procedural change will increase the politicization of the Court, thereby decreasing public trust in the Court as a nonpartisan body. Eliminating the current process denies public participation and gives the impression the Court is a political branch rather than a neutral arbitrator of conflict between political parties.

In a world rife with polarizing political conflict and partisanship, we need to do all we can to protect the traditional and steadfast rules of our democracy that provide open discourse and input from its citizenry. The court procedure in existence now gives this opportunity; I ask nothing more than this current procedure remain intact.

Sincerely,

Sally Langan

Sally and John Mather
6524 County Road K
Blue Mounds, WI 53517

Hello,

It certainly feels unique to be writing the Wisconsin Supreme Court about a rule change and weigh in on process vs. law. And to be required to do so in an abbreviated period of time. What has happened to Wisconsin? How much power is enough for one political party? Why is it that the majority of our legislators and their proxy lawyers believe they're entitled to dismiss the role and responsibilities of the lower courts and just on this one (currently nonexistent) issue?

We sincerely ask that the Justices listen to what other parties have to say regarding Rule Petition 20-03 through the customary 60 days of public comment. This procedural change smacks of the last redrawing of districts maps which was done behind closed doors using taxpayer dollars and was then sprung on everyone else. That is not "good" government. Nor does it help maintain a robust democracy. It further divides and disenfranchises the electorate. It's overreach, dishonest, and promotion of a self-serving monopoly.

If the Supreme Court rules in favor of this change, you'll have future contributed to Wisconsinites believing that what they want or how they vote doesn't matter. Many elected officials have equated gerrymandered wins with the belief that they have the corner on the truth, enabling them to do whatever they want regardless of our constitution and the consequences of their actions on others. Please do not dismiss the will of the people as demonstrated by the passage of so many county fair maps resolutions and referendums. People want balance! Not a greased path to further power grabbing. RULE AGAINST the petition that requests all lawsuits about redistricting maps go immediately to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

Sally and John Mather

Ann Smiley
2102 Mayflower Drive
Middleton, WI 53562

Note please that this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. Thank you.

Ann Smiley
2102 Mayflower Drive

Middleton, WI 53562

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and limit judicial transparency.

Carrie Van Hallgren
557 N. Cincinnati St.
Spring Green, WI 53588

Please reject the rule proposed by WILL. The process of re-districting must be non-partisan and transparent. The rule allows the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. This directly contradicts the preference of a majority of Wisconsin citizens to have a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process.

Samara Frame
104 Holiday Ct
Verona, WI 53593

I strongly oppose allowing the WI Supreme Court to take jurisdiction on future redistricting litigation. It will be harmful to the citizens of Wisconsin, politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. This procedure must not become optional. Maps and districting should be an open, fair process that considers the voice of the people, not a deliberate manipulation for one party's benefit. This proposal is the opposite of inclusive and fair and threatens to continue our extreme, illegal manipulations of electoral maps.

Brianna Samson
613 7TH ST N
HUDSON, WI 54016-2308

My name is Brianna Samson and I am a resident of North Hudson. I am writing today to oppose the rule change brought forth by Scott Jensen and the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty that would exclude nonpartisan groups from the legal process, grant the State Supreme Court jurisdiction, and give the Court the option of making procedures optional. . This creates an unlevel playing field, rushes the redistricting process, and excludes the facts and viewpoints necessary for a full and appropriate legal review. 55 out of 72 counties in Wisconsin want fair maps. Passing this rule would not be giving the people what they want and what they deserve. I strongly encourage the Supreme count to oppose this rule change.

Samual Odin
4020 E Fitzsimmons Rd
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154-5432

The proposed rule change raises a number of concerns:

Adopting a specific rule for redistricting could politicize the Court by encouraging lawmakers to settle redistricting disputes through litigation, rather than making every effort to avoid litigation by drawing maps that are acceptable to both political parties. This is of particular concern in the State Supreme Court where, unlike the U.S Supreme Court, Justices are elected by voters and often campaign with the support of political parties and partisan groups.

The proposed rule could exclude nonpartisan interests. While the rule allows the governor, legislators, and political parties to intervene in redistricting cases, nonpartisan organizations and voters impacted by the new district maps could be left out. Historically, civic groups and citizens have engaged in redistricting litigation to challenge district maps; this rule could prevent them from doing so in the future.

The proposed rule would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing proper evidence or input from members of the public.

Sandee Beaman
216 N Iowa St
Mineral Point, WI 53565

This rule change prevents voters & nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps. Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical. This procedural change diminishes transparency. There is no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change. This process is being rushed and we need a 60 day continuance. We need the lower courts to rule ahead of the Supreme Court.

Sandra Stanfield
10900 Stanfield Rd
Blue Mounds, WI 53517-9410

This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary. Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to ensuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency.

Sandy Whisler
303 Maas St.
Lake Mills, WI 53551

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court,

I am writing to ask you to decline the petition from the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty to revise the procedures for legal challenges to redistricting. I ask that the current procedures for redistricting litigation remain unchanged.

Please let the judicial process work as it has without rushing to eliminate steps in the process. All parties need to be heard and a record of their support or objections needs to be created. Creating voting districts every 10 years after the US Census is complete should be a nonpartisan, administrative process.

Please decline the petition from WILL. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sandy Whisler

Sara Bode
115 North Fairway Drive
Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005

The request by Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, which requests the Wisconsin Supreme Court take jurisdiction of all redistricting litigation, is clearly a move toward limiting public comment from the map-drawing process. Public participation must be an integral part of the creation of fair maps. Wisconsin's counties have passed 28 referenda in favor of fair election maps. Additionally, 54 of 72 county boards and 19 municipalities have passed resolutions in favor of the creation of fair election districting maps. The people of Wisconsin have raised their voices to say fair maps must be drawn in 2021. To continue with the extremely disproportionately drawn maps is to subvert democracy. The Wisconsin Supreme Court must rule on the side on democracy and reject the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty's request for nothing less than upholding state's belief in democracy.

Sarah Yacoub
81 Lockwood Court
Hudson, WI 54016

The rule change as proposed by WILL will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient measures for transparency. I'm writing in opposition of the rule change.

Sarah Karlson
1155 Erin St
Madison, Wisconsin 53715

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures

Sarah O'Neill
626 Vine Street
Hudson, WI 54016

Fair maps are integral to representative government. Yet, partisan redistricting has rendered Wisconsin among the most gerrymandered states in the nation.

The rule proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty would allow justices to adopt new districts without discovery, a trial, or presentation of evidence or testimony by anyone other than partisan politicians. This end-run around Wisconsin's constitutionally-mandated redistricting process would weaken faith in government and further erode our democracy.

I urge you not to adopt the rule.

Sarah Weltzien
2576 North Murray Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

This rule will harmfully politicize the supreme court., exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Sara Johnson
317 Acadia Dr
Madison, WI 53717

Regarding: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

I am opposed to this rule proposal. My concerns include omitting in other state courts to be involved in redistricting cases, minimizing public & non-partisan involvement in such important matters, lack of transparency & standard processes. This rule undermines democracy in our state.

Sara George
N2074 County Road N
Pepin, WI 54759

Every voice should be heard. Please do not settle this issue in court. Listen to the constituents in each community to make a better WI.

Sara Tedeschi
57196 Rush Creek Rd
Ferryville, WI 54628-7060

This ruling would harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation in the process, and has insufficient transparency measures to ensure democratic process and public trust.

Susan Armour Seidman
2412 E Stratford Ct
Shorewood, Wisconsin 53211

This is a partisan attempt to disallow the people's voices to be heard. We NEED fair maps, not the extreme gerrymandered districts we now have that are unfair and undemocratic

Sally Stix
2217 Aspen Rd
Madison, WI 53711

This rule will further politicize the Court as it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or

membership organizations, which represent additional interests and groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process.

Finally, the rule has insufficient transparency measures.

Sue Barker
24419 68th St.
Paddock Lake, WI 53168

Re: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

Dear members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court,

When districting is allowed to be cynically manipulated to favor specific political parties or causes, democracy is undermined. Please do everything in your power to ensure fair representation by ensuring the redistricting process is a truly fair one. The faith of the people of Wisconsin in their state government depends on it.

Thanks,

Sue Barker

Steven Cary
PO Box 243
Blanchardville, WI 53516

For a citizen/politician to choose their voters rather than the other way around is the worst kind of hit against democracy. I beg you to consider a fair and open process for redistricting. What we have now in Wisconsin is terribly gerrymandered, and not fair. I admire our neighbors in Iowa for doing a fair and open job. We should do the same.

Debra Schachenman
W77N755 Harvest Ln
Cedarburg, WI 53012

I DO NOT support this proposed rule change. As written, it will politicize the court and does not ensure transparency and participation for non-partisan groups. Re-districting should be done by an independent commission with a fair set of rules and an inclusive legal process.

Susan Johnson
175 Nautical Drive Apt. 7
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

The State Supreme Court should not have jurisdiction over redistricting. This would politicize the process to create fair maps. It would exclude many stakeholder groups from having a

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Bruce Schmidt
190 West Knollwood way
Platteville, Wisconsin 53818

It is my understanding that there is a proposed rule change that would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create preference or bias maps without hearing evidence or input from members of the public and groups that aren't political. This directly contradicts my preferences and I am hereby requesting you to vote against this proposed change.

Jeff Schimpff
2721 Kendal Avenue
Madison, WI 53705

It is unacceptable to have the state supreme court govern redistricting. This is NOT a judicial function for one, and the state supreme court is a very partisan body, elected under partisan elections. We need a truly independent, non-partisan body to draw fair maps that will result in apportioning representation in the Assembly and Senate according to the proportion of votes for each party.

Debra Schmid

1021 4th Street
Port Edwards, WI 54469

We want fair maps and a nonpartisan Supreme Court

Patricia Schmidt
N2232 ALPINE DR
WAUTOMA, WI 54982

PROTECT DEMOCRACY IN WAUSHARA COUNTY

November 22, 2020
Wisconsin Supreme Court
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

RE: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to the process of redistricting

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

We are writing on behalf of the Waushara Fair Maps Committee to provide comments in opposition to Rule Petition 20-03 proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the petition.

The participation of the individual citizen and civic groups is the bedrock of our democracy. This proposed rule change is designed to limit involvement in the democratic process going forward. The citizens of Waushara County overwhelmingly supported our referendum calling for nonpartisan redistricting. Across the state, in response to the highly gerrymandered maps designed following the 2010 census 55 counties passed resolutions and 68% of voters in 28 counties passed referenda supporting this issue.

This process should not be rushed but allow time for thoughtful consideration of issues brought forward by the citizens of the state of Wisconsin. If this process is rushed citizens will not be able to express their opinions on this issue.

This proposed rule bypasses lower courts, an elemental necessity in our judicial system. Such bypass limits the necessary fact-finding process and eliminates any appeal options. Without an inclusive legal process, the Supreme Court will be denied access to facts that normally would be presented. Adopting this rule will only add to decreasing public trust.

Further limiting citizen participation, Section 5(b) of the rule change proposal only allows political parties to bring disputes before the court. This rule change would significantly restrain involvement in the democratic process going forward and put the Court in a partisan light, rather than serve its role as a neutral arbitrator in partisan matters.

The Waushara Fair Maps Committee advocates a fair, transparent, inclusive legal process that ensures all viewpoints will be heard. Thank you for considering our comments.

Patrick Enright
Nancy Erickson
Judy Harris
Joe Horvath
Stephen Kehm
Gary Lawrence
Patricia Schmidt

Rachel Pufall
1610 9th Ave West
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

I am not in favor of the petition that WILL filed with the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Moving in the direction this petition requests would limit the review of maps and rush the process of redistricting.

This guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process.

Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Thank you for your time.

Roger Schmidt
1715 Linnured dr
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

why is it that this state is still lying about voter fraud? because of this the voter I.D. law was put in place witch disenfranchised 300,000 voters! in 2016. then their is the gerrymandering witch again helps to rig elections! then their is the electoral collage witch also can give un fair advantages ! it is NOT RIGHT nor is it fair to game the system witch then puts a person in charge that is not the rightful winner! witch then is not doing the will of the people! this does great harm to the election process with gets us less voters and further erodes the peoples will! how is it that the country that pushes democracy around the world DOES NOT HAVE A TRUE DEMOCRACY! their is NO true and fair reason to let any party rig and steal our election ! this must end NOW!

Gregg Schneider
703 Milwaukee Road
Beloit, WI 53511

I am in support of obtaining a nonpartisan process for the redistricting of maps in Wisconsin. I oppose the proposed amending of WIS. STAT. §809.70 [Rule petition 20-03] for the following 4 reasons. While these words are not mine, I believe in them wholeheartedly. They are written more eloquently than I would and express my thoughts more clearly.

1. The consideration for this proposed rule to amend WIS. STAT. §809.70 should not be rushed. Previously the Court spent several years engaging experts and the public to examine potential procedures for redistricting review, ultimately determining there was not an adequate judicial solution in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This time, the proposed rulemaking process has spanned only a few months, with no independent review by a committee of experts. The Court has already considered, and rejected, adopting a rule on this topic, and the rule proposal before the Court now offers no reason for the Court to reverse its previous conclusion.
2. Adopting this proposed rule would risk increasing the politicization of the Court and decreasing public trust in the Court as a legitimate institution. Insert605i605n605g605
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Natalie Schneider
14450 CLUB DR
ELM GROVE, WI 53122

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Sue Schneidler
N38 W35926 Ravinia Dr.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Supreme Court Justices:

The laws regarding the process for handling disputed maps during the redistricting process should not be changed. The process needs to stay intact because of the following:

* Redistricting is one of the most complex and difficult tasks of government and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person / one vote. It should never be rushed. On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process.

* A shortened process will eliminate fact-finding by lower courts and may exclude any input from citizens or non-profit groups. It may eliminate transparency in the redistricting process.

* In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed.

* Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in

favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

The Court needs to look at including all citizens in the redistricting process, remaining transparent, following past Court decisions, and maintaining the trust and will of the people of Wisconsin. Do NOT change the redistricting rules.

Thank you,

Sue Schneider
Oconomowoc, WI

richard schoemer
N4007 County Road A, N4007 County Rd A
Cambridge, WI 53523-9045

OUR METHODS AND SYSTEMS ARE BEING CHALLENGED BY BOTH SIDES... ON ONE SIDE, REPUBLICANS FEEL OUR VOTING PROCESS WAS NOT TRANSPARENT ENOUGH... YET, WHEN THESE MAPS WERE DRAWN LAST TIME...IT WAS DONE IN SECRET.. A CLOSED ROOM, SIGN IN TO ENTER, NO LOOKS AT THE WHOLE MAP, AND MANY LEFT COMPLETELY OUT OF THE PROCESS....

I'M FOR TOTAL TRANSPARENCY...THAT'S WHAT A DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE...AND FAIR ELECTIONS MUST BE OUR GOAL... OTHERWISE ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE TO THEIR ELECTORATE, BECAUSE THEY CANNOT BE DEFEATED...AND AS WE HAVE SEEN OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS...THESE OFFICIALS HAVE SOLD OUT TO POWERS OUTSIDE OF WISCONSIN.. POLITICAL MOVES DRIVE OUR STATE AND KEEP US FROM MOVING FORWARD ON WHAT OUR WISCONSINISITES WANT....LIKE NO GERRYMANEDED MAPS... THIS HAS BEEN PASSED IN ALMOST ALL WISCONSIN COUNTIES, AS WELL AS CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES... THE IOWA MODEL MUST ADOPTED HERE... WE WANT OUR STATE BACK!

Christine Scott
1406 W. Edmund Dr.
Appleton, WI 54914

Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Steven Smith
12603 N Town Hall Road
Hayward, Wisconsin 54843-5126

As a citizen and registered voter and taxpayer in the State of Wisconsin, I am writing today to implore you to do the right thing and reject the request submitted in June 2020 for a rule change to the Wisconsin Supreme Court submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. At this time our Democracy needs more transparency and more real engagement of all citizens – not less as requested by the so-called Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty.

The United States of America is a Democracy built on the bedrock principle “of the people, by the people and for the people”. In reality, in recent years elected officials in the State of Wisconsin have increasingly taken steps to ignore their constituents. Instead elected officials are now doing everything possible to get elected and stay in power even if it means violating the bedrock principles that have created and sustained our Democracy.

In the State of Wisconsin, the most egregious step that has been taken by the Republican leadership is gerrymandering. It has gotten to the point where Republican legislators have created voting district maps that result in legislators selecting their voters – instead of voters selecting their legislators. This must be fixed. And it will not be fixed by only allowing political parties to be heard in a dispute about future voting district maps.

In Wisconsin a total of 55 counties that have passed resolutions and 28 counties that have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing voting district maps. If you approve the proposed rule change it will further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating our voice from the process of litigating voting district maps that are unfair.

If you reject this proposed rule change you will allow voters and nonpartisan groups to continue to advocate for good government and fair voting district maps.

At a minimum the Wisconsin Supreme Court should allow a 60-day continuance rather than allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change. Why rush? Is there some reason the Wisconsin Supreme Court is in a hurry to disenfranchise Wisconsin citizens?

Do the right thing and reject the request submitted in June 2020 for a rule change to the Wisconsin Supreme Court submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty.

Bernard Barwick
5004 Tomahawk Trl

Madison, WI 53705

Ben and Marie. Barwick
5004 Tomahawk Trail
Madison, WI 53705
sculptstone@aol.com
608-238-0597

11-20-2020

Dear Readers:

I am sickened that I must write this letter to supposed learned, fair, and just people.

I am very strongly against the WILL petition, and I am sick and saddened by the fact that a political party would initiate such an action. What ever happened to fair elections?

I am for fairly determined districts. No political party should take advantage of the system.

I believe that the United States is in treacherous decline.

Please, Please do not perpetuate this decline.

Sincerely,

Bernard Barwick

Dyan Pasono
N9071 Ridge Lane
Watertown, WI 53094

It has been a true travesty for the citizens of Wisconsin the manner in which our political maps have historically been drawn. It has been far too partisan and the citizens have been the losers. It is time the citizens be truly represented in this process. Our Governor has developed a process whereby all parties have a seat at the table and can be heard and represented. It is time Wisconsin develops fair maps through an INCLUSIVE process so that ALL citizens are appropriately and fairly represented.

Diane Posner
119 N 9th Ave W
WASHBURN, WI 54891

To our esteemed Justices of the Wisconsin State Supreme Court: I have recently become aware of a petition submitted to the Court by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty requesting the the Court take jurisdiction on any further redistributing litigation in regard to redistricting legislation.

I strenuously object to this petition. I believe it would politicize the redistricting process, limiting and rushing the review of maps. This will undermine our system of checks and balances, exclude nonpartisan interests and reduce transparency in redistricting. It will politicize the Court by encouraging lawmakers to settle redistricting disputes through litigation rather than making every attempt to draw maps that are fair and acceptable to both political parties.

Thank you for giving my opinion in this matter serious consideration.

Sincerely, Diane Posner

Diane Savides
3076 West Capitol Drive
Appleton, WI 54914

I am writing in opposition to the petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation.

I believe that it will interfere with the ability for citizens with interest in this matter to express themselves.

I also believe it will lead to further politicization of the Courts and damage our trust in the process.

Sincerely

Diane Savides

Sally Durgerian
4060 N Farwell Ave
Shorewood, WI 53211

Redistricting is designed to assure one person, one vote. It has become a political process that has taken that right away from many Wisconsinites and reduced citizen trust. The proposed rule will make redistricting less transparent, more partisan, and less open to public input. In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed. I opposed it then, and I oppose it now.

Sharon Klavins

1210 Sunset Drive
Platteville, WI 53818

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in reference to Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

1. This proposal is profoundly undemocratic. By limiting participation to political entities, it obstructs access to the judiciary process for other groups representing the interests of the citizens of this state. Redistricting affects all people of this state and is not simply a technical dispute between political parties.
2. This proposal seeks to deliberately obscure processes that are intended to be open and accessible to the citizens of Wisconsin. It eliminates the transparency of public records that are the hallmark of a healthy democracy.
3. It continues the process of politicizing the Supreme Court and grants the absurd power for the Court to disregard procedures and requirements of the rule itself. That the rule gives the Court the ability to disregard the rule is an inherently corrupting element.

The potential for abuse is ready-built into this this petition, continuing the trend of undermining our democratic principles of a trustworthy judiciary. I absolutely oppose this rule and hope that you will do the right thing in rejecting this petition.

Thank you for your attention.

John Hagen
800 13th ave, #323
Monroe, WI 53566

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this to urge you to reject the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty petition since implementing it provides a means to restrict public input about political redistricting.

sandra stark
2720 Gregory St
Madison, WI 53711-1841

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.: We recommend highlighting the fact that this rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

sandra stark
2720 Gregory St.
Madison, WI 53711

Please reject WI Supreme Court jurisdiction over future redistricting litigation, on the grounds it short-circuits the process of orderly, inclusive,

Kathy Sewell-Jensen
451 Westfield Way
Pewaukee, WI 53072

This rule should not be passed! Please stop the abusive gerrymandering in our State. It does not allow for accurate representation of the citizens.

Joanne Hesselink
W2838 EAgle Rd
Neshkoro, WI 54960

We are already so gerrymandered that some of our votes do not even count! Do not make t hat even worse.

Sharon Gaskill
10405 Bell Rd.
Black Earth, WI 53515

I am very concerned about securing fair redistricting maps. Many suggestions have been made, but having the Supreme Court handle this is not appropriate.

Political parties should not have a larger say in this process than the rest of us through other organizations. And the process should be done in such a way that everyone has a chance to weigh in and examine the procedure. We need to restore trust in our government and in fair representation.

I like the Iowa process, using former judges.

Suzanne Peranteau
4214 Sheffield Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

Honorable Justices,

I am horrified by the way this state lacks basic, fundamental representation of the voters. The current legislators have demonstrated their unwillingness to work on critical issues, they have no accountability due to their victory-by-gerrymandered district strategies. In a representative democracy the people must be heard., whether as a single entity or a membership group. I am opposed to the proposed rule change because it will limit transparency, marginalize groups who have worked very hard to end the nefarious gerrymandering and politicize free speech. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Best regards,
Suzanne Peranteau

Sara Gleason
4001 Monona Dr. #403
Monona, WI 53716

Gerrymandered districts do not allow every citizen of Wisconsin an equal voice in choosing their representatives.

The proposal that the state Supreme Court should claim jurisdiction on future redistricting legislation concerns me greatly!

I am opposed to the petition filed by WILL which would allow the state Supreme Court to claim jurisdiction on any redistricting legislation. This would limit review of fair maps. It also allows political parties to be heard in disputes about new maps; but it doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups such as the League of Women Voters.

This rule will politicize the Court which should concern every Wisconsin citizen.

James Cassidy
W5481 CENTER RD
MONROE, WI 53566-8835

Dear Receiver(s),

I implore you to rule in favor of a neutral, third party to redraw Wisconsin's legislative district maps. As a government/civics teacher, I find it quite difficult to educate my students about the idea of representative democracy when our state is so highly gerrymandered to the point of one political party receiving more votes than the other, yet ends up with fewer representatives in our state house. Let the voters decide who represents them, not the lawmakers choosing who votes for them.

Respectfully,

James Cassidy

Suzanne Haislmaier
7212 N. Crossway Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53217

I am opposed to the petition requesting that the WI Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation.

Redistricting is one of the most complex and difficult tasks of government and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person/one vote. It should never be rushed. On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process.

In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed.

Adopting this rule risks increased politicization of the Court and a decrease in citizens' trust in it. Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony, when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Allie Simon
N7018 County Rd E
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Wisconsin needs to use the bipartisan committee standard that most of us have voted for. We will fight to make sure our State is not gerrymandered as it has been since 2011. We need to hear from all our voters not just the Republican gerrymandered districts. We need to make our votes heard and stop the unfair gerrymandering. We have had more votes cast for Democrats in the elections since 2011 and we need fair districts.

Sharla Miller

1628 N Golf Glen Unit E
Madison, WI 53705

Fair maps will go a long way in prohibiting the rampant voter suppression.

Sharon Ryan
6845 Littlemore Drive Apt 215
Madison, Wisconsin 53718

This proposed rule change should not be adopted.

1. This process should Not be rushed.
 2. The proposed rule only considers partisan interests.
 3. Adopting this rule results in increased politicization of the Court.
 4. Transparency in the redistricting process is key to public trust.
-

Sharon Stark
E6095 County Road WC
Spring Green, WI 53588

I demand that you rule in favor of fair maps. No more partisan gerrymandering. The state of WI is completely corrupted because of partisan gerrymandering, making my vote less than important than it should be.

Sharon Locklin
4551 Trellis Dr
De Pere, Wisconsin 54115

I am an independent voter in Wisconsin. I believe in voting for the best person for the job and not voting on party lines. Because of this I believe the maps of our jurisdictions in this state should not favor any party. I am aware that the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty have approached the court about taking on any litigation related to redistricting. I disagree with their proposal because it could limit input from people like me who are not members of either party. Rather than having a majority party draw maps it would make sense to have a non-partisan group draw the maps. That way neither party gets to make the maps work in their favor and the voters are truly represented. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,
Sharon Locklin

Sharon Munson
12127 W Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, Wi 53224

As a member of the League of Women Voters I feel this rule would discriminate against nonpartisan groups in providing an equal voice in creating new maps for voting.

Sharyn Stumpf
6614 Woodgate Rd.
Middleton, WI 53562

Democracy is based on citizen input and the citizens have spoken. Groups like WILL should not have influence over the drawing of our maps, especially since it believes in covert, back-room mapping which nearly guarantees Republicans will maintain power no matter what the public wants. Instead, we need non-partisan maps that the citizens of our state can trust are fairly drawn.

Be noble. Vote for a democratic process for our maps, not a politicized one.

Jamie Christensen
1721 Rusk St
De Pere, WI 54115

I believe everyone's voice needs to be heard and everyone's vote needs to count equally. Please make sure that districting maps are drawn fairly. Not in favor of any political party, just equally so that everyone can have their vote and voice heard. Thank you.

Sheila Mitchell
65722 Lake Park Road
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

I am writing to state my opposition to the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty's petition requesting that the Wisconsin Supreme Court take jurisdiction over any future redistricting litigation. This is neither for decent law or any liberty!

Both the Democratic and Republican parties have used gerrymandering to cheat, and sadly Wisconsin is presently used as an example to the rest of the country of the effects of such corruption. That the Wisconsin Supreme Court would lower itself to act to push this petition forward would be another blow to any perceived Democracy in our state.

Please take the honest and Democratic approach to this, leave your partisan hats at the door, and deny WILL's request.

Thank you

Nancy Shinnars
2206 Calypso Rd.
Madison, Wisconsin 53704

Our legislators are not listening to the people of Wisconsin, to the a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. . Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair. Are there any public interest groups asking for this rule change? NO!

The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. The lower courts are the appropriate place where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps.

This rule change further politicizes the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its credibility in the eyes of the public.

This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to ensuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency.

There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being rushed and I demand a 60 day continuance.

I object to the constitutionality of the requested rule change. The petition seeks to authorize the Court to take immediate jurisdiction of the redistricting process upon the request of any party the instant the census is released and then issue an immediate stay. Taking jurisdiction at that early point is premature; there is not yet any case or controversy. The request rests solely on the speculation that, with a divided government, there "may" be a future impasse between the Legislature and Executive Branch. Having the Court take over the process at that premature point violates the state and federal constitutions because it would usurp the authority of the Legislature and Executive.

Joyce Arndt
N4656 Piper rd
Weyerhaeuser, Wisconsin 54895

Please do what is right and fair for wisconsin

Shirley Allison
2243A Circle Ridge
Delafield, WI 53018

I recently discovered a serious threat to democracy in Wisconsin. Wisconsin's gerrymandered districts allow for state representatives to choose whomever they like to be their voters! This is wrong. Voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around. Currently, a petition in the Wisconsin Supreme Court threatens the possibility of this happening for another 10 years. Citizens for fair maps put forward a petition for drawing district maps by a nonpartisan process, but now learn that powerful Republicans are trying to make a rule that only our biased legislator branch can give input to map-drawing, excluding a majority of Wisconsin citizens who are not represented by that group! This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and limit judicial transparency. Please, please, do not to allow this ill-advised rule to move forward.

Mary Rose Meis
811 Ellen Lane
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

We recommend the fact that this rule "WILL", will harmfully politicize the Court, and exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Sharyl Manwiller
1644 60th Street
TURTLE LAKE, WI 54889

Your Honors,

Sharyl Manwiller
1644 60th Street
TURTLE LAKE, WI 54889

Your Honors, I am writing to ask you to make sure that our redistricting maps be fairly reviewed and all parties concerned be heard. The petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty would if passed limit the review of maps and rush the redistricting process. Those who have questions about their district should be heard. Also, following all the rules helps to make the process fair to all. Please seek the integrity of the court and the hearts of all people concerned. Than

Sharyl Manwiller
1644 60th Street
TURTLE LAKE, WI 54889

I am writing to tell you I am opposed to the rule petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. Our country is struggling with trusting our institutions especially the governing bodies. Please encourage non partisan drawing of our districts to better reflect the voting population. Thank you.

Judy Shultz
805 Michaelson St N # A
Hudson, WI 54016

It's time to create fair maps to elect Wisconsin's state and federal representatives. Allowing political parties to change voter districts is not acceptable. The state Supreme Court is not the place to create maps or decide who creates maps.

Steven Hutchinson
360 W Washington Ave Unit 501
MADISON, WI 53703-2768

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Sidney Bremer
2023 Lakeside Place
Green Bay, WI 54302

20 November 2020

Dear Honorable Justices:

Recently, Scott Jensen, the former Republican Speaker of the Wisconsin Assembly, and the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty have filed a petition with a proposed rule change to take the disputed maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

I write to ask this court to reject the proposed rule, because it will not improve the districting process and will further undermine citizen's confidence in the system. Rushing the dispute to the Supreme Court and limiting the parties will deprive the court of the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review. Allowing the Supreme Court to ignore all procedures will make the process look very political and decrease public trust in this Court.

Wisconsin citizens want the districting process to be open and transparent. This is supported by the fact that all referendums (28 counties and 19 municipalities) asking for a nonpartisan commission to create Wisconsin districts passed, a majority with over 70% of the vote. Wisconsin needs to have confidence in our systems and the best way to ensure that is for this Court to make no last-minute change to the process and simply allow the issues relating to districting to go through the normal court procedure.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Emilee Martell
431 208th Ave
Somerset, WI 54025

I oppose the effort by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty to change the rules on drawing maps. It is a clear effort to exclude ordinary citizens from the map-drawing process and create a rushed and unfair process.

Sims Delaney-Potthoff
4112 Hegg Ave
Madison, Wisconsin 53716

Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty ("WILL"), filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process. I believe it is unfair and support a more balanced and fair redistricting- no more gerrymandering!

Geraldine Kline
585 County Rd. Z
Sinsinawa, WI 53824

Members of the state Supreme Court

The process of gerrymandering is harmful. It politicizes the Court and excludes nonpartisan groups from full participation. Neither does it have sufficient transparency measures.

This disregards the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. It does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Sylvia Bull
2459 E Glenhurst Lane
Appleton, Wisconsin 54913

I support fair maps and want to stop partisan gerrymandering - I promote independent redistricting. I also want to keep the Supreme Court nonpartisan. We the people of Wisconsin - me, my family, friends, neighbors - need to be involved because it ultimately affects all of us not just a few politicians. Thank you.

Susan Schlachtenhaufen
1368 Wedgewood Ln.
Neenah, WI 54956

I am writing to oppose the proposed rule to request that the Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. I believe this rule will harmfully politicize the Court. Furthermore, it will exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation. Finally, I believe the proposed rule would give the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself, making them optional. How is this fair and inclusive?

Sharon Warner
412 Cassandra Dr
New Richmond, WI 54017

The State Supreme Court should be NON-POLITICAL. You serve all people of Wisconsin. Do your job!

Sam Kast
626 Vine Street
Hudson, WI 54016

In the great state of Wisconsin, there are more groups representing our diverse communities than just the two political parties. From indigenous groups, to unions, to other community advocacy groups - this new procedure would stifle their ability to represent and protect those they serve without any day in court. Furthermore, this new procedure would rapidly expedite the delicate process of redistricting which defines the power of these local communities - allowing for mistakes, limited time for public scrutiny, and maps that may benefit one political party over another despite calls for change.

I ask the court to please consider the harms that this procedure would bring. Wisconsinites, like myself, want fair representation which leads to a healthy democracy and representatives that listen to local issues. We must have fair maps and protect our vulnerable communities.

Thank you for your time,
Sam Kast

Susan and Thomas Holmes
S5694 Highway 113
Baraboo, WI 53913

In 2018, Democrats received 205,000 more votes than Republicans, but the election gave a 27-candidate advantage to Republicans. Gerrymandering in Wisconsin is "election proof" for Republicans and works for them in successfully disenfranchising a fair voting process. It is time to redraw our maps like Iowa does and without partisan rancor. Now we have to write to our Wisconsin Supreme Court to beg you to stop the Republicans from pre-rigging a way around a fair redrawing of the election maps. I worked for the district courts for years and understand the logistical process of a case proceeding through the court system. We have to wonder how it is that these Republicans can leapfrog the process and go straight to you? If you justices go along with the Republicans and don't maintain the standards that a non-partisan court should, we will fully understand that representative democracy is our beloved State of Wisconsin is dead.

Stephanie Kessenich
105 Commerce St
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Dear Legislators and the WI Supreme Court Judges,
Please slow down!!
We the people are asking you to uphold our democracy!!

Susan Phillips

2753 Pheasant Run
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

You must not shut out the public in the redistricting process. You must not grant the narrow petition from the group Law and Liberty. Wisconsin citizens deserve a transparent process. Do not take away our rights to address gerrymandering in the redistricting process! This rule will further politicize our courts and prevent non-partisan groups from participating. The people of Wisconsin deserve a fair process and fair maps!

Sylvia Kriegl
E12581 State Rd 33
Baraboo, WI 53913

Please pass the law to require independent nonpartisan redistricting in Wisconsin.

Please pass the law to require independent nonpartisan redistricting maps in Wisconsin. We should not be undermining our system of checks and balances and shutting out the citizens of Wisconsin from the legal process.

Thank you

Sylvia Kriegl, Sauk County, Baraboo, Wisconsin

Shawn Sigafus
1007 Railroad Street
New Glarus, WI 53574

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Lawrence and Judith Skupien
54524 Marie Rd.
Oregon, WI 53575

Objection to Petition 20-03, Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70 (Redistricting Process)

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court Judges:

This is a comment in response to Scott Jensen's petition 20-03, regarding how legislative maps will be drawn in 2021 if the legislature and governor cannot agree on new maps. I understand a hearing is set for January 14.

This proposed change would require any lawsuit about future maps to go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, bypassing lower courts. This limits the review of maps and rushes the process. It eliminates the introduction of evidence and materials that are obtained in the lower court processes (such as the number of counties that have passed resolutions and referenda, and the margin of victories for passed referenda, etc.).

This proposed rule change would exclude nonpartisan groups from the process! What an abomination!! We need more transparency in government, not less.

I understand that fifty-five counties have passed resolutions, and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair. If this rule change passes, it will further politicize the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its credibility in the eyes of the public. We need the redistricting process to proceed as in the past, going through lower courts first if the legislature and governor cannot agree. This will assure maximum transparency, and assure that arguments on all sides are open and publicized to all Wisconsin residents.

Thanks for listening.

Lawrence and Judith Skupien
Oregon, WI

Scott Laeser
5532 County Road G
Argyle, WI 53504

In the eyes of WI citizens, the Supreme has become more partisan and politicized with each passing year. Instead of being independent, in perception or action, the court is seemingly becoming just another politicized branch of government. Adopting rule changes that limit public participation in the redistricting process and further obscure it will only further the politicization of the court. Please reject rule changes that politicize the court and obscure the redistricting process and allow for full participation of citizens and the groups representing them.

Robert Slamka
6810 Winstone Dr

Madison, WI 53711

The average Wisconsinite without a law degree or political science degree will only understand abuses of public trust if they see the failings of the Court to avoid implicit favoritism to a political party. Here in Wisconsin, we were horrified to have the U.S. Supreme Court rule that the individual legislature's were allowed to ratify their own districting lines. Wisconsin had a tremendous reputation for good governance, but it took legislators of good character and even larger principle to fight for those equities. A lot has changed in time. I know that Wisconsin can do better, but it has to start somewhere.

Sharon DePue
1818 E. Shorewood Blvd. Unit 308
Shorewood, WI 53211

The petition that has been filed for a proposed rule change to take the disputed maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court is a blatant attempt to subvert the underpinnings of our American democracy. It all-but-eliminates fact-finding by lower courts and citizen input, with resultant loss of transparency as it relates to redistricting. Shame on Scott Jensen and the WILL.

Our nation is already dangerously polarized. Further politicization of the Courts will only serve to further divide us.

Many citizens, myself included, are watching the redistricting process with heightened interest and not a little wariness. We are simply tired of the institutions of government serving private interests at the expense of the interests of the American public at large. This has to stop!

Sarah Britton
2972 60th Ave
Wilson, WI 54027

Make it fair for everyone.

Susan Fiore
3256 Timber Lane
Verona, WI 53593

It's no secret that Wisconsin's current legislative districting maps do not represent our citizens; they were designed to give unfair advantage to the candidates who had them drawn up the way they are now. Neither political party should be allowed to distort districting maps undemocratically. Please protect fair maps! Please protect democracy in Wisconsin.

Sylvia Gilbertson
4510 Midmoor Rd
Monona, WISCONSIN 53716-2042

I am writing to oppose the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty's petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. Groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process, and considering the number of Wisconsinites who favor fair redistricting, this could deprive important stakeholders of their voice on this important issue. It is time for a fair assessment of gerrymandering with input from all the affected parties, an inclusive legal process that does not include only politicians and partisan representatives.

Sara Dingess
5205 Riverfront Place
Weston, WI 54476

Please allow fair and free elections by forbidding partisan gerrymandering and replacing decisions on district boundaries to be made by a nonpartisan committee.

Sher Brandl
1810 Midway Road
De Pere, WI 54115

I oppose the proposed rule change 20.03. It would shorten the process and exclude fact finding, input from citizens and nonpartisan groups. It would rush the process and take away the transparency which is important to the people of our state. Public confidence in our government depends on that transparency.

Our constitution says, "We the people" not we the political party in power, not we the republicans and democrats, but we the people (the citizens). The proposed rule change would take away our voice in public hearings. It furthers the polarization that has developed over recent years.

The current process has worked in the past and should be allowed to continue to work for the 'people' of Wisconsin going forward.

Thank you.

Steven McCosky
1545 Comanche Glen

Madison, Wisconsin 53704

This proposed rule change is a blatant attempt by WILL to limit input from groups they prefer to not have a voice on redistricting matters.

As currently written, the proposed rule change drastically alters the existing processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself and does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

William and Susan Chandler
369 Lakeview Drive
Whitewater, WI 53190-2224

The Peoples Commission should draw the maps, not a partisan party. Then the selection of a map should be done a federal court, not the WI Supreme Court or the legislature. Thank you

Marie Garnhart
7835 W. Canterbury Ct.
Franklin, WI 53132

Do not let this rule politicize the court. Make sure that all voices are heard including non-partisan groups such as the League of Women Voters. We need FAIR maps.

Betsy Ralph-Tollefson
460 Monroe St.
Platteville, WI 53818

We need more transparency, not less. Our courts should be nonpartisan. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Carol Smith
790 Hampton Ave

Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Dear Supreme Court Justices, State of Wisconsin, I am a Wisconsin citizen, writing to comment on the Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. The Wisconsin lower courts need to hear the legal challenges to redistricting and the gerrymandered maps that currently exist. These important questions need be allowed to work through the courts if democracy is to be served. Records at the lower court level will allow the citizens of Wisconsin to understand the evidence and arguments regarding redistricting. The petition, submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL), in Section 5(b), requires only that the political parties be heard by the Court in any dispute over the maps. This would seem to shut out the voices of concerned citizens and organizations. Please allow rules that have been established to be followed and justice to be transparent.

Susan Jarvela
1773 Turquoise Trail is
Green Bay, WI 54311

This rule would disenfranchise voters. It removes transparency, and is nothing but a power grab by Republicans. We need fair non partisan districts.

Shauna Jungdahl
1403 Williamson St
Madison, WI 53703

FAIR MAPS!!! DO NOT GERRYMANDER AND RIG FUTURE ELECTIONS!!!!!! WISCONSIN IS AGAINST THIS CHANGE!!

Ron & Sheila Hunt & Landsverk
W12746 State Road 60
Lodi, WI 53555

November 23, 2020

To the Honorable Supreme Court
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STEVEN MORGAN
2405 RUGBY ROW
MADISON, WI 53726

I am writing with regard to Rule Petition 20-03

I am a 46 year Wisconsin resident who has been dismayed by the erosion of democracy which has occurred over the last 10-15 years...of which the most egregious example is the cynical and heavy-handed manner in which the 2010 redistricting took place: behind closed doors, with no representation from one side, with hired experts who were able to achieve ("with surgical precision") a highly partisan Gerrymandered system in which both congressional and state legislative districts are now stacked in a way that is wildly disproportionate to the actual breakdown of Wisconsin's population.

The Wisconsin Gerrymander is a national embarrassment, and a poster child for the systematic undermining of fair representative government. We are respectfully asking...imploing, our judiciary to do the right thing by allowing a thorough and fair court process for establishing a districting plan in which our representation actually reflects our states population in all its natural and healthy diversity.

Sharon Neylon
10 S Rock Rd
Madison, WI 53705

I ask that you require a fair, public involved process for determining voting representation maps in Wisconsin. Much work has been done to ensure a fair, non-partisan, representative process and I ask you as a Wisconsin citizen to honor that. Thank you for considering this input.

Sandra Pratt Bennett
605 Ohio St
Darlington, WI 53530

In the November 2020 election 52 county's backed fair maps resolutions in the state of Wisconsin. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Jane Speer
34143 Venice Park Rd
Delafield, Wisconsin 53018

To The Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin,

I am writing To state my opposition to the WILL/ Jensen petition for proposed rule change Wisconsin Statute 809.70.

I believe the proposed rule change would deny the electorate the opportunity to shape public policy in the form of fair redistricting for our state. At this time, the public is working in a bipartisan effort which would lead to legislation for a fair maps process.

By turning to the Supreme Court and bypassing lower courts, many groups with an interest in this process may be excluded. It would also serve to politicize the Supreme Court and lead to increased polarization of our electorate.

Please let the process unfold. Other states have successfully used legislation to create a fair maps process. Litigation should be a very last resort, not the first response of a partisan led effort to have its way.

Sincerely and respectfully,
Jane Speer

Jane Speer
34143 Venice Park Rd
Delafield, Wisconsin 53018

To The Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin:

I am writing to state my opposition to the WILL/Jensen Petition for proposed rule change Wisconsin Statute 809.70

I believe the proposed rule change would deny the electorate the opportunity shape public policy in the pursuit of fair redistricting for our state. At this time the public is working on a bipartisan effort which would lead to legislation for a fair maps process.

By turning to the Supreme Court and bypassing lower courts, many groups with an interest in this process may be excluded. It would also serve to politicize the Supreme Court and lead to increased polarization in an already polarized electorate.

Please let the process unfold. Other states have successfully used legislation to create a fair redistricting process. Litigation should be a very last resort, not the first response of a partisan led effort to have its way.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Jane L Speer,
Delafield WI

Jeff Spitzer-Resnick
430 Sidney St.
Madison, WI 53703

As an attorney and member of the Wisconsin bar for over 35 years, I have watched for 10 years as our democracy has been eroded by gerrymandering. This cannot be permitted to continue for another 10 years. The maps we labor under have consistently given one party nearly 2/3 of Wisconsin legislative seats even though that party does not win a majority of legislative votes.

Relying on political parties in mapping litigation would only continue this problem. Democracy has been harmed by political parties. This Court must reject WILL's petition which seeks to enhance gerrymandering by keeping citizens out of the litigation process.

Patricia Kurowski
1147 Pine Street
Green Bay, WI 54301

I want fair maps drawn out so we have a vote that counts every body.

Sharon Stauffer
390 Merry Christmas Ln
Mineral Point, WI 53565

I urge you to reject the new rule proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) regarding redistricting. This rule would harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Mary Ellen Ruesch
215 Strangeway Ave.
Lodi, WI 53555

Letter to Supreme Court on proposed rule change for future redistricting litigation.

I am Mary Ellen Ruesch, Wisconsin citizen, submitting comments on the rule change re: legal challenges to redistricting proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL).

I object to the proposed rule change because I find it contrary to the PROCESS that is compatible with “government of, by, and for the people” in our democratic republic.

1) The proposed rule does not make provision for public involvement—whether receiving information about the redistricting proposal or hearings to share input/reaction to same.

The previous redistricting process failed to accommodate any public input; it was opaque, rather than transparent. Transparency engenders public trust.

2) The proposed process takes an abrupt shortcut from proposal to final decision, eliminating intermediate appeals, contrary to typical judicial practice. No provision is made for independent review by committee of experts. Redistricting has serious and lasting repercussions. The redistricting process should be conducted with due diligence, and should not be hastened.

3) Adopting the proposed rule change would set the redistricting result directly at the door of the Supreme Court, involving the Court in the political decision, jeopardizing public trust in the Court as the neutral Third Branch of Government.

4) The proposed rule change includes only partisan positions. Non-partisan groups and voters affected by new districts, can be excluded. Historically, civic groups and individual citizens have asserted rights and been involved in litigation.

Again, redistricting has serious and lasting repercussions. Wisconsin citizens deserve a fair, open process for redistricting, acknowledging “government of, by and for” the people. The proposed rule change results in a process that is exclusive rather than inclusive.

With all due respect, I ask that you do not adopt this rule change.

Respectfully,
Mary Ellen Ruesch

Shawnta Sayner
3145 Burlawn Pkwy
Brookfield, WI 53005

This proposed rule change will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation and offer insufficient transparency measures.

Shirley Schmidman

N29W6555 Lincoln Ct
Cedarburg, WI 53012

The redistricting procedure should be fair and include people and groups outside the government. Our state has been gerrymandered to insure that Republicans stay in control no matter what the people want.

Suzanne Lefevre
2021 Larkspur Dr.
Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

I think that allowing politicians who only represent a portion of the population of Wisconsin to dispute new maps is not representative of Wisconsin as a whole. This petition should be thrown out!

Stacci Barganz
102 Red Fox Dr
Johnson Creek, WI 53038-9557

Please allow for a non-partisan committee to draw these maps, so it is fair to all involved. As a Republican who has voted for a Democrat in recent elections, I am astounded by how dirty my party is playing, and I want this to end. It's not good for either party to be excluded, we need to work together.

Katherine Stahl
N7607 1010 St.
Elk Mound, WI 54739

To the Honorable Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices:

I respectfully request that you leave the process of deciding redistricting disputes to a nonpartisan coalition. The Fair Maps Coalition is currently studying a way to create a fair districting process, asking for input from Wisconsin citizens. Please let that process make a determination as to how best to fairly determine districts and handle map disputes. It is important that we as citizens have an opportunity to participate in this decision-making process. My fear is if this becomes a court determination, those of us who participate in nonpartisan groups will not be able to have a voice in the process. Recognizing that the state Supreme Court is supposed to be a nonpartisan elected group, it is well recognized by voters that the court has become increasingly politicized. The request to have the Court determine redistricting disputes will further exacerbate the perception (and perhaps the reality) of the court as a politically partisan board. This will not serve the Court nor us as citizens well.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Stahl

N7607 1010 St.
Elk Mound, WI 54739

Deborah Ceasarini
5220 N Hollywood Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

To the Wisconsin Supreme Court,

Please do NOT adopt the rule proposed by Wisc. Institute for Law and Liberty.

This rule would undermine the ability of all our Wisconsinites to be heard, and weaken the fabric of our communities - and therefore, also our state. The majority of our citizens favor a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process. A non-partisan process with more transparency rather than less is even more important that ever for the health of our democracy.

Thank you for your consideration of all the people of Wisconsin, those who are asked to place enormous trust in you and whose participation is necessary for a strong, healthy, and thriving state.

Deborah Ceasarini
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

James Wagner
824 Greenwood Ct
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901

I am writing concerning Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I am opposed to this rule! Elections should be free of unfair Gerrymandering!

Wendy Stein
77015 W Maple Hill Rd
Washburn, WI 54891

Transparency is critical and this rule does not accommodate that. Nonpartisan groups deserve a voice.

Stephanie Eastwood
10756 Trotter Rd

Argyle, WI 53504

I'm concerned about and oppose your adoption of a rule proposed by Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) that gives the Wis. Supreme Court jurisdiction in future challenges to the state legislature's redistricting plans

Stephen Ballou
34 S. Broad St., PO Box 680, Apt 201
BAYFIELD, Wisconsin 54814

Wisconsin and all states deserve FAIR MAPS drawn along nonpartisan boundaries.

Kathryn Stern Holmes
11640 Pinecrest Dr.
Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin 54568

The only way forward for our state and our country is to protect and promote democracy. Without fair maps and non-partisan court systems, the foundation of democracy on which our society was established will be weakened. We care about democracy, and do not want to see it's demise...please protect the will of the people by protecting fair maps.

Steven Herro
1016 N Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115

As a member of the Greater Green Bay League of Women Voters, I am concerned that the drawing of our legislative district maps be as transparent as possible. The request by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty would limit nonpartisan citizen input in the very important process of legislative map drawing. This process needs to become more democratic and transparent, not less!

Stephen Fisk
318 S Lexington St
Spring Green, WI 53588

Partisan programs directed at drawing representative districts to maintain an electoral advantage, undermine our representative democracy. That effort has only grown more problematic over the last

decade. Please do what you can within your mandate to improve the system. We look to you to not make it worse.

Steven Winters
2919 W Glenpark Dr, Apt 216
Appleton, WI 54914

As a citizen of Wisconsin, I am asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to retain the current redistricting process and reject the recently proposed rule change to bypass lower courts and escalate disputed maps directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Redistricting is a complex and difficult task, and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person, one vote. It should never be rushed. The proposed rule change shortens the process and will not allow for fact-finding by lower courts. Further, the change may exclude any input from citizens or non-profit groups, and it will eliminate transparency in the redistricting process during a time where maintaining trust in our basic institutions is paramount.

Public interest in redistricting is at an all-time high in Wisconsin. This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process. In fact, these referendums have passed 100% of the time when Wisconsinites have had the opportunity to vote, most with more than 70% support.

Please retain the current redistricting process in 2021 to promote transparency and participation in our Wisconsin voting maps.

Thank you,
Steven Winters, Iraq War Veteran.

Steven Moon
801 14th Ave
Monroe, WI 53566

I do not support the rule regarding re-districting proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. In my opinion it will limit open discussion of proposed re-districting and could lead to improper districts being approved. More than just political parties should be able to make a case for or against districting and as I understand it the rule proposed by WILL does not allow that. I also believe we need a rule in place that needs to be abided by. As I understand it the rule gives the court too much leeway to disregard the rule. Lower courts input and consideration will allow more public input and transparency which would be lost if the rule is in place and everything automatically goes to the WI

Supreme Court. I would suggest using the Iowa model of a non-partisan committee drawing districts and the legislature approving.

Steven Ralph
W395N5868 Almar Drive
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066

November 19, 2020

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

RE: PETITION FOR PROPOSED RULE TO AMEND WIS. STAT. § 809.70

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

I urge you to refuse approval of PROPOSED RULE TO AMEND WIS. STAT. § 809.70 for the following reasons.

In 2009, after several years of exhaustive study, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided against making a rule change such as the one currently proposed. The rule proposal before the Court now offers no reason for the Court to reverse its previous conclusion.

The proposed rule gives political parties standing to present maps before the Court, while non-partisan groups and voters impacted by the new districts may be excluded. This is at odds with the history of challenges to proposed redistricting in Wisconsin, where civic groups, nonprofit advocacy groups, unions and individual Wisconsin citizens have been involved in litigation and asserted the rights of their members.

This is not a time to exclude public testimony when 54 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have passed Board resolutions and 28 have passed referendums in favor of a nonpartisan redistricting process.

Adopting this rule will increase the politicization of the Court and decrease public trust.

Stephanie Hurt
133 Walker St.
Evansville, WI 53536

The proposed rule to give the Supreme Court complete jurisdiction over future redistricting litigation is not a fair idea. Nonpartisan groups and unions should have a legal right to be heard on this issue, just as much as each political party. I believe this rule has insufficient transparency measures and harmfully politicizes the Court. Please do not allow this rule to be instituted. Thank you for your time.

Beth Hoppe-Stidham
2104 CHESTNUT DR
HUDSON, WI 54016-1470

Our founding fathers put in place the checks and balances of our democracy to ensure the rights of the individual. I oppose the petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty ("WILL"), requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. You took an oath to honor our democracy. We need fair maps to accurately reflect the will of the majority. The values of the individual can not be prioritized over the will of the majority. Honor and integrity are the foundation of our democracy. Please act accordingly.

Donald Stirling
45641 Sand Creek Rd
Gays Mills, WI 54631

Honorable Justices: I am writing to urge you not to fast track a proposal by WILL to limit public input into the redistricting, leaving only political entities a chance to respond. Most of the people of Wisconsin have already spoken on this issue through County Board resolutions, referendums, or both, including my own, Crawford. The people do not want political parties determining who will have a chance to represent them, but rather a non-partisan entity managing redistricting. I have heard that this response period was supposed to end Nov. 23 at 5:00 pm, which seems a strange and abbreviated time to do this. I only heard about it at 3:05 Nov 23, and I serve on the Crawford County Board, and have been following this process assiduously. I hope you will still accept my comments. Thank you. Donald L. Stirling

Will Stites
425 Bukolt Ave
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Do not grant WILL's request to limit review of proposed district maps. Wisconsin voters in a great many counties and smaller jurisdictions have voted overwhelmingly in referenda for fair maps. The YES vote on these referenda is almost always 70% or more. WILL's request is just a way they hope to perpetuate gerrymandering.

Lisa Stone
W5447 Cumberland Lane
Neshkoro, WI 54960

To the Wisconsin Supreme Court,

I am writing concerning Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting in a proposed rule submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL).

As I understand, the proposed rule would send any legal challenge to redistricting immediately to the Wisconsin Supreme Court rather than allow it to progress through the courts in a normal fashion. The establishment of a record at the lower court level would enhance transparency and enable the citizens of Wisconsin to grasp the evidence in the case and the competing arguments as they progress through the courts.

I'm very concerned that citizens would not be able to participate in any hearing on redistricting maps before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The WILL petition, in Section 5(b), requires only that the political parties be heard by the Court in any dispute over the maps. This is undemocratic and skews the political process further, in gerrymandering our state.

The proposed rule that WILL is advancing gives the Court the leeway to disregard the procedures and requirements laid out in the rule itself. Rules should be abided by, be transparent, and be applied in a fair manner.

I urge you to consider and rule according to established rules, and reject the further politicization of how voting districts are organized unfairly. The people of Wisconsin voted for Fair Maps. Please listen to the voters.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stone
Neshkoro, Wisconsin

Lyn Strangstad
327 Doty
Mineral Point, WI 53565

"Objection to Petition 20-03 Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70 (Redistricting Process)".

The people of Wisconsin have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. We are tiring of our legislators not listening.

In Iowa County the referendum passed with 73.8% of voters supporting a nonpartisan, transparent process for drawing voting district maps. This is an unusually strong majority, indicating the will of the people. Other counties have had similar results.

In spite of this strong public response, a request for a rule change was made to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The Court agreed to a date of November 30, an unjustifiably short time period. It would require any lawsuit regarding future maps to go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Dorothy Stroud
2790 E County Rd S
Beloit, WI 53511

We as a state must strive to maintain and strengthen our Democratic Republic against which the proposed rule change seeks to undermine. We must hold dear and value a nonpartisan, transparent redistricting process. I strongly believe the proposed rule will chip away at "the separations of power," disregard "the will of the people," harmfully politicize the court, exclude non partisan groups from full participation, and limit judicial transparency.

Christin Harding
1021 Ash St.
Baraboo, WI 53913

Please consider districts be drawn based on population and county lines-at the very least, hire an independent organization to do this. The current districts do not fairly represent the citizens of WI. This is such an easy way to begin to 'right' our election system.

Mary Stuber
1414 Vilas Ave
Madison, WI 53711

The Supreme Court of Wisconsin should NOT be involved in settling disputes about voter district mapping. Given recent examples of the partisan rulings in the state and the inability to consider the will of the people, allowing the court to put its thumb on the scales of justice will continue to hurt Wisconsinites.

Case in point, limiting the Governor's ability to handle the public health crisis is partisan politics. Wisconsin is the epicenter of the COVID crisis.

Sue Heintz
8338 Jade Dr
Lodi, WI 53555-9558

Wisconsin's district maps that determine who represents the citizens do not adequately represent the makeup of the people. They have been deliberately drawn up so that the wealthiest Wisconsinites, who are the minority, have a greater say in how our governments are run. The petition brought forward by Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty ("WILL") would limit review of the maps and would be harmful to the public interest. Political parties would have the right to be heard by the Court, but other groups that are nonpartisan or community based would not have that right. We need a fair set of rules for everyone or an inclusive legal process where the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints to conduct a legal review.

Susan Koehler
2345 Timber Ridge Dr
PLOVER, Wisconsin 54467

Concerning Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges regarding redistricting

To Wisconsin Supreme Court members:

I am writing in regard to Rule Petition 20-03 regarding legal challenges to redistricting. The 2020 US census was just completed. Taking the time in the lower courts to discover, fact find, and evaluate public testimony is important to determine a fair legislative representation for Wisconsin citizens. It is imperative in our democracy to have a fair distribution of our legislative body in order that all Wisconsin residents are equally represented.

Susan Anderson
2652 N. Humboldt Blvd #G
Milwaukee, WI 53212

I am writing in objection to Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. Redistricting in Wisconsin should be an open, fair and transparent process, not one that clearly intends to once again leave out the will of the citizens. When one party garners a majority of votes in the state but only about

1/3 of the legislative seats, there is clearly something wrong. Wisconsin is the poster child for partisan gerrymandering and yet the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) seeks to not only perpetuate the current inequities but to make the process even more anti-democratic. I urge you to reject this rule change.

Susan Dottl
5311 Brody Drive #102
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

Dear Justices,

Susan Dottl
5311 Brody Drive #102
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

Dear Justices, I believe in fairness. Gerrymandering is the opposite of fair. In our democracy, everyone's voice should be heard, and each vote should have equal weight. The rule proposed by "WILL" will exacerbate the effects of gerrymandering, prohibit non-partisan groups from commenting on proposed maps, and inappropriately politicize the Wisconsin Supreme Court. It also reduces transparency in the process; transparency is another vital characteristic of a healthy democracy. Therefore, in the interest of fairness and protecting our democracy, I ask that you reject the proposed rule change. I and all other citizens of Wisconsin depend on you to protect us, guard our democracy, and ensure everyone is treated fairly. Thank you for your attention. Sincerely, Susan Dottl

Susan Neitzel
N9530 Hickory Rd
Pickett, Wisconsin 54964

Partisan gerrymandering disenfranchises voters. Both parties in our two-party dominated system are guilty of engineering maps to benefit them in future elections. Our 2011 redistricting maps are some of the most extremely gerrymandered in the United States and the results of these maps are that approximately 50 times more voters were moved to a new district than in the past. These maps were also drafted in secret with almost no public input and have resulted in expensive, ongoing litigation for the State of Wisconsin.

Polling across Wisconsin has resulted in overwhelming support for a fair, non-partisan approach to redistricting with almost two-thirds of Wisconsin counties passing referenda to that effect. When introduced, these referenda have passed 100% of the time. Public interest in the issue of redistricting is

at an all-time high. Fair redi645s645t645r645i645c645t645i645n645g645 645i645s645 645a645t645
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Susan Deming
3775 Park Knoll Drive
Madison, WI 53718

In order to have and maintain a democracy it is imperative that gerrymandering, which gives one party an unfair advantage be replaced by fair maps which would allow the actual votes for candidates be reflected in who we choose to represent us in the state legislature. Enough is the enough.

Susan Simon
1626 Wheeler Rd.
Madison, WI 53704

.The court shouldn't allow itself to be used by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) who is maneuvering to limit any judicial review of redistricting in WI. That will only further politicize our court system and further undermine public confidence in the state Supreme Court.

Sue Strickler
1502 Waterfall Rd

Platteville, WI 53818

More time is needed to make sure fair boundaries can be established. Over 70% of the state wants fair boundaries to make sure elections are fair and the people are honestly represented.

Susan Widmer
1331 N Jossart Rd
Luxemburg, WI 54217

We deserve fair elections. I object to the proposed rule, because it does not allow for citizen participation that a normal court proceeding would provide. Quit the partisan politics.

Terri Belz
W2726 Doyle Rd
Belleville, WI 53508

Please consider carefully. I believe this rule will harmfully politicize the Court. It will likely also exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation which means it will not be working for all of us in the community. Finally, I believe it has insufficient transparency measures which are necessary for a fair and true democracy.

Arris Sullivaan
N6568 COUNTY ROAD B
NEW LISBON, WI 53950-9748

We would like to see a more reasonable mapping out of our districts. The one area is WAY up by Ashland (4+ hours away) and comes down to Wisc Rapids (only 40 minutes away) - that doesn't even make sense.

Albert Sulzer
2725 Westview Ct #5
Cross Plains, WI 53528

I understand that the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty WILL proposed a rule that would affect redistricting and I believe that rule has some unacceptable clauses.

First, it would forward any legal challenge to redistricting immediately to the Wisconsin Supreme Court rather than let that challenge work its way through the courts in a normal fashion.

Second, nonprofit public interest organizations and concerned citizens could get left out of any hearing on redistricting maps before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The petition, in Section 5(b), requires only that the political parties be heard by the Court in any dispute over the maps. It does not allow, explicitly at least, for private citizens or activist groups to participate.

Third, the proposed rule gives the Court the leeway to disregard the procedures and requirements laid out in the rule itself. If you're going to have a rule, it should be abided by, and it should be transparent, and it should be applied in a fair manner.

To me these are significant flaws and make the proposed rule unacceptable. If you're going to have a rule, it should be vetted by all of the stakeholders, and transparent, and applied in a fair manner. And if you're going to have rules they should be adhered to and enforced.

Carol Larsen
9593 Overland Rd
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

I think it is egregious not to allow citizens to have input. Citizens who have been considering the issue of redistributing for some time and have considered opinions to share. Reject the proposed rule change because it is unfair.

Everett Fuchs
1724 Laurel Avenue
Hudson, WI 54016

The people of Wisconsin have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. They are not listening. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair. Are there any public interest groups asking for this rule change? NO!

The work that occurs in lower courts is an important step in the process and must not be eliminated. The lower courts are the appropriate place where additional information can be provided to support concerns about proposed maps.

This rule change further politicizes the Wisconsin Supreme Court and damages its credibility in the eyes of the public.

This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to ensuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency.

There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being rushed and I demand a 60 day continuance.

I object to the constitutionality of the requested rule change. The petition seeks to authorize the Court to take immediate jurisdiction of the redistricting process upon the request of any party the instant the census is released and then issue an immediate stay. Taking jurisdiction at that early point is premature; there is not yet any case or controversy. The request rests solely on the speculation that, with a divided government, there "may" be a future impasse between the Legislature and Executive Branch. Having the Court take over the process at that premature point violates the state and federal constitutions because it would usurp the authority of the Legislature and Executive branch to address redistricting matters in the first instance. While the Court may eventually be the proper party to review actual disputes about redistricting, based on the actual facts then of record, it is not the constitutionally authorized body to usurp and decide redistricting matters in the first instance.

Justin O'Brien
831 Center St.
Mineral Point, WI 53565

To the Court

I would like to add my voice to the many who have expressed outrage by the apparent disregard of the popular support for fair re-districting, and to ask you to disallow or postpone the rule change before you.

As a member of the Iowa County Board I voted for a resolution in support of Fair Maps for re-districting, as well as a subsequent resolution to include the question as a 2020 general election referendum item for the voters. The voters of Iowa County then responded with overwhelming support for Fair Maps. You are no doubt aware that in 2020, 55 of Wisconsin's 75 counties have voted to back Fair Maps.

The rule change that is coming before you will render the will of Wisconsin voters irrelevant. I ask you, what is more relevant in a democracy than the will of its people? Omitting the voices of the voting population is the essence of the inequity at the heart of the very subject of Fair Maps.

Transparency and inclusion are essential to good government.

I ask for the justices to consider the will of voters and disallow the rule change or postpone to consider its impact.

respectfully submitted,

Justin O'Brien
Iowa County Board of Supervisors, District 18
831 Center St., Mineral Point, WI 53565
supervisor18@iowacounty.org

Susan Baumgartner
2913 West View Ct.
WAUKESHA, WI 53188

I would like to voice my concerns about Rule Petition 20-03 relating to proposed changes to Wisconsin redistricting rules and regulations.

I oppose this proposed rule. My specific concerns are:

- I want challenges to redistricting to go through the court system as the system is designed currently. I do not think challenges should be able to jump directly to the Supreme Court as outlined in this proposal.
- This proposal seeks to keep non-profit public interest groups and concerned citizens from being able to participate in hearings. I believe these groups and individuals should be allowed to participate and defend against potential gerrymandering by political parties.
- I want clearly defined procedures and requirements for our redistricting rules and operations. Redistricting should be fair and transparent. This proposal does not offer any of this.

Thank you for your time.

Susan Johnson
2113 Mt. Zion Avenue
Janesville, Wisconsin 53545-1240

To WI Supreme Court: The drawing of the district maps, both state and federal, should be a democratic process in a representative democracy. I would like Wisconsin to follow the Iowa Model for redistricting. The Iowa Model is the most democratic one, I have seen. In our time, particularly the last ten years, Wisconsin has been oppressed by highly gerrymandered district maps. The word "oppressed" is not hyperbole in this case. Over the last ten years, the majority of Wisconsinites have been ruled by the minority among us! In my book, that spells oppression. It is definitely NOT representation. I don't have the exact percentages on hand, but I could look them up afterwards. The percentages of votes goes something like, Democrats cast 65% of the votes to receive 35% of the seats, or thereabouts. Wisconsin

CAN and should DO better! I deserve representation as much as every other person in the state. Please consider my plea. The WI Supreme Court should not draw WI maps. It should be a democratic process, similar to, if not, the Iowa Model for Redistricting. Thank you for listening.

Susan Johnson,
Janesville City Council Member,
Janesville, Wisconsin
2113 Mt. Zion Avenue,
Janesville, WI 53545-1240

Susan Wallenslager
2600 Fox Court
Waukesha, WI 53189

Fair maps will not come from partisan politics. Fair maps will only come from a non-partisan team that encourages and allows input from ALL interested parties. The process of creating fair maps needs to be visible to the public. People need to be able to see that the process is equitable. This is how people come to have faith in our democracy. This is how to strengthen our democracy.

Susan Cohen
15165 Woodbridge Rd
BROOKFIELD, WI 53005

This proposed rule change will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation and offer insufficient transparency measures.

Susan Curran
8726 County Road K
Omro, Wisconsin 54963

Please use careful deliberation on this petition. I am concerned about efforts to deviate from standard procedures in order to provide one political party an advantage in the courts.

Susan McParker
2317 Winnebago
La Crosse, WI 54601

Given the gerrymandering of districts that happened last redistributing, it is vitally important to have more than 1 group (preferably non-partisan) evaluate districting. This would also help with transparency in the process and help prevent the court from becoming a partisan institution or being seen as partisan.

susan hall
1103 Riverview Drive
Menomonie, Wisconsin 54751

I fervently hope that the members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court constantly strive for fair, transparent and nonpartisan judgments. The "WILL" petition, which would limit testimony and transparency for an issue that affects all Wisconsin citizens, is highly undemocratic and should be rejected by the Court.

Susan Knox
206 Warren St
Albany, WI 53502

The redistricting process should be non-partisan and transparent. This is crucial for a true democracy.

Susan Robblins
711 S. Orchard Street Unit 301
Madison, Wisconsin 53715

As a long-time citizen of Wisconsin, I am outraged at the introduction of Rule Petition 20-03, which would make unacceptable changes in how redistricting cases progress through the legal system. A fair redistricting process is vital to the future of fair elections in Wisconsin. This rule would potentially eliminate the opportunity for concerned citizens and groups other than political parties to comment on cases related to redistricting. And the elimination of lower court hearings regarding these cases further limits the public's access to timely information about cases brought before the court. Finally, the rule allows the Supreme Court of Wisconsin to disregard any aspect of the rule at will!

We are a divided state and a divided nation. Rules such as the proposed one are an assault on our democracy from a clearly politically partisan group. You have been elected to protect democracy in our state, and I can only trust in your wisdom and impartiality in rejecting this rule.

Thank you.

Susan Read
2545 Van Hise Ave
Madison, WI 53705

I oppose the rule change proposed by Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty.

Suzanne Schalig
19565 Cromwell Ct. W.
Brookfield, Wisconsin 53045

I strongly disagree with the petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty. If adopted, it would politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation in any future redistricting, and would deny any measure of transparency to the general public.

Suzanne Stute
122 Nygard st
Madison, WI 53713

Your Honors:

According to state and federal constitutions, the legislative and executive branches are to deal with redistricting first. This rule change allows any party to request the Supreme Court take over the redistricting process as soon as census data are released, before the other branches have created any maps. This takes away the power of the legislative and executive branches in the redistricting process, and it would be premature for the Court to takeover the process before there is a "case and controversy" for the Court to address.

The proposed rule would reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or input from members of the public and groups that aren't political. This directly contradicts the preference of a majority of Wisconsin citizens to have a NON-PARTISAN redistricting process.

54 of Wisconsin's 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. 55 counties have passed a referendum, resolution, or both - representing about 80 percent of Wisconsin's citizens. The proposed rule change undermines the will and interests of the Wisconsin people.

Please do not endorse this rule change, it is exclusionary and undemocratic.

Respectfully Submitted.

Suzanne Stute

Susan Krause
4284 Oak Road
Ridgeway, Wisconsin 53582

I object to proposed changes to rules regarding potential law suits over district voting maps. If such a law suit is sent directly to the Supreme Court without being heard in lower courts, democracy will be circumvented. The lower courts provide a forum for non partisan participation in accumulating fact based evidence or in disputing potential discrepancies on the way district maps are drawn. With less than thirty days for public comment on this rule change, this process denies citizens adequate time to express their opinions. For the sake of transparency in government, and for democracy itself, I request a sixty days continuance.

Suzanne Niemi
PO Box 127
Iron River, WI 54847

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”), filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This guidance is undermines judicial process and is harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn’t give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations such as the League of Women Voters. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court’s process. This is not what democracy is about and could lead to further unfair re-districting. I implore you to reject this latest attempt to further politicize the esteemed Wisconsin Supreme Court. Please listen to the citizens of this great state and reject this rule. Prior to the recent election, 77% of Wisconsin voters in counties that passed fair maps resolutions voted in favor of Fair Maps. In the recent election, all counties that had it on the ballot passed overwhelmingly. We need to adopt the Iowa model which will not only produce a fair system for redistricting but also save the taxpayers millions of dollars. In addition to your legal duty, please keep the fiscal responsibility in mind. Thank you for your consideration.

Steven Vizanko
208 S 10th St

Bayfield, WI 54814

I strongly oppose the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty's petition that gives the State Supreme Court jurisdiction on any future redistricting legislation. We need to establish competitive districts through the work of a nonpartisan group to insure fair, transparent, and participatory processes to generate them.

I support the Fair Maps Project to address the end of Wisconsin's politically constructed gerrymandered districts. I consider this a profound issue threatening the very foundation of our democracy.

Suzanne Van Mele
393 Coulee Trail
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016

Honorable WI Supreme Court Judges,
The Supreme Court has received a petition from the WI Institute for Law and Order that would make the current process for redistricting optional. Any lawsuit in the future would come directly to you, Supreme Court bypassing lower appeals courts. Also it would bypass any input from non political groups (i.e. League of Women Voters) and/or individuals. Ideally what we need is a non-partisan group doing redistricting. But in the meantime, the present law for districting should not be weakened as this petition would do. Please disregard it.

Kayla Beerkircher
N2406 County RD HH
Lyndon Station, WI 53944

It is undemocratic to subvert the will of the people by lumping us together in districts that are advantageous to one political party, bypassing popular opinion and making some peoples votes "worth" more than others - which is exactly what this rule aims to make easier to do. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Penny Coogan
407 Mineral St
Mineral Point, Wi 53565

The people have spoken! It is your job to listen! Stop gerrymandering!!

Ann Haglund
953 Golfview Dr.
Platteville, WI 53818

Please, do not take jurisdiction over redistricting legislation. In my ideal schema, there would be no need for the State Supreme Court to be involved in the process at all. I would like the whole process to be done in a bipartisan or even non-partisan manner, with no regard for party advantage. This would allow for legislators to make laws that would help all of Wisconsin, allow the Supreme Court to make rulings on those laws and the citizens of Wisconsin to know that their representatives actually work for them.

Dennis Reifsteck
e10275 Xanadu rd, PO Box 114
lk delton, wi 53940`

to whom it may concern. I'm an independent, not a republican or a democrat. Why are you limiting myself and those like me

Dennis Reifsteck
e10275 Xanadu rd, PO Box 114
lk delton, wi 53940

I'm writing to let you know why I dislike Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I'm an independent, not a republican or democrat and am offended that they are the only parties that matter here. Unfair gerrymandering is one of the reasons I feel that it's those two groups that are the biggest problem in politics today, Less power for those two power mongers, the BETTER. The third biggest problem is these lawyers who want a bigger piece of the action, and limiting into those two groups will enhance their chances of more \$\$\$\$. thanks for the consideration

Marilyn Swiontek
N20W29956 Glen Cove Road
Pewaukee, WI 53072

Wisconsin residents deserve fair maps so that their votes actually can make a difference.

sorrel Wunderlin

S 871 Eness Road
Cashton, Wi. 561

People above politics, PLEASE

Sylvia Wright
2016 Ewing St
Wausau, WI 54403

The Supeeme Court cannot take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This proposed rule change would harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Tom Hartfiel
N2058 Marlys Court
Hortonville, WI 54944

I would encourage the Supreme Court to reject the effort to bypass the lower courts which would allow input from the public.

When voters have had the opportunity to voice in advisory referendum they have overwhelmingly voted in favor of fair non partisan maps over 70% approve and recommend a non partisan way of determining maps.

My Assemblyman, who represents a very gerrymandered district, proclaimed in the Appleton Post Crescent he did not even have to campaign. Within 5 miles of my home there are 4 different Assembly districts, with one of the Assemblyman living over 45 miles away.

We need to have competitive races where all sides have to debate and defend their positions. It is critical for our democracy that our voters choose their representatives not the representatives choosing their voters. I oppose gerrymandered districts by ANY political party.

Ann & Barton Stevning-Roe
209 S Columbus
Marshfield, WI 54449

November 21, 2020

Wisconsin Supreme Court
PO Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

Re: Rules Petition 20-03 to amend Sec. 809,70 Stats.

To the Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court

We reside in Marshfield, Wood County Wisconsin. Our municipality of 19,089 has been divided between two assembly districts and two state senate districts since 2011. Our county of 74,814 people has been divided into 4 assembly districts, 4 state senate districts and two congressional districts since 2011. Instead of the statutory and normal procedure of municipalities setting their boundaries, which were then incorporated into county districts and then into the legislative districts, the redistricting in 2011 went from the top down and municipalities had to try to force their districts and wards within the legislative lines. The result is that our communities do not have a voice to a single legislative representative or state senator on local issues.

1. The proposed rule change will only give standing to political parties instead of the individual citizens and voters who are impacted by the redistricting to voice concerns as set forth above. Further, this rule change takes away the voice and standing of municipalities, counties and civic groups to voice concerns about the way in which proposed redistricting affects their communities or constituent groups. The most important group is the voice of the voters who this rule change would further disenfranchise.

2, The proposed rule change to bring redistricting issues directly to the Supreme Court, does not allow the lower courts to complete the fact-finding, evidentiary and legal process to the trial courts for expert testimony and most importantly to address the concerns of the voters. Testimony of experts is needed to develop analyses regarding the proposed apportionment and its compliance with the Wisconsin constitutional requirements "to be bounded by county, precinct, town or ward lines, to consist of contiguous territory and be as compact form as practical." (Article IV, Sec. 4) and also comply with the US Supreme Court requirements for equality of population among electoral districts. 58 Atty. Gen. 88.

3. The proposed rule timelines do not give sufficient time for interested candidates to know what districts may affect a decision to run for office. It also does not allow sufficient time for federal issues to be addressed by the federal courts with regard to the Voting Rights Act.

4. Full transparency and development of facts, issues and evidence is necessary to inspire the trust of the voting citizens in the redistricting and voting process.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Ann & Barton Stevning-Roe
209 S. Columbus Dr.
Marshfield, WI 54449

Tim Connor
1003 Main Street
Ridgeway, WI 53582

Please follow the will of the majority of county governments, and citizens, of Wisconsin by ensuring a transparent and fair voting maps redistricting process by denying the petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty ("WILL") requesting that the Wisconsin Supreme Court have sole jurisdiction in deciding disputes over voting district maps. It is imperative that local counties, and individual Wisconsin citizens have the right to be involved in the redistricting process and that any redistricting decisions are enacted only after a transparent airing of issues and fact.

Thank you
Tim Connor

Anne Donovan
35 Alden Ave
Platteville, WI 53818

We have severely gerrymandered districts in Wisconsin already. This new set of changes is just making it worse. We need fair maps in Wisconsin, not further restrictions on fighting politically motivated district boundary changes. Shame on us for even letting this type of change progress this far! We need to have normal, fair districts that fairly represent the people of Wisconsin. There can be no justification for anything else.

Tamara Adams
1422 S Coachlight Dr
New Berlin, WI 53151-1448

Fair maps should go through a thorough process. Not just straight to the Supreme Court. Developing and creating fair voting maps are a process that needs to be handled FAIRLY and not through a quick easy process.

Tami Hughes
2449 N. 72nd St.

Wauwatosa, WI 53213

The new proposed rule by WILL will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. This issue is too important to our democracy, it's critical that we do this fairly and get it right. It doesn't matter what your politics are, this is about our democracy!

Tammy Moothedan
361 canyon blvd
Hudson, WI 54016

Do not change the rules to allow for continued partisan drawing of maps. Overwhelming, people of both parties want fair maps as evidenced by the many fair maps resolutions that we're passed by the voters. It is imperative we have a neutral, none partisan commission drawing up the next District maps.

Tania Mathews
622 Culver St
Eau Claire, WI 54701

WILL's petition Would limit the review of maps and rush the process and I'm very concerned about its implications!

The proposed guidance is harmful to the public interest. It requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. THIS IS NOT FAIR OR JUDICIOUS!

This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process.

Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Tania Mathews
622 Culver St
Eau Claire, WI 54701

The proposed rule change raises a number of concerns:

Adopting a specific rule for redistricting could politicize the Court by encouraging lawmakers to settle redistricting disputes through litigation, rather than making every effort to avoid litigation by drawing maps that are acceptable to both political parties. This is of particular concern in the State Supreme Court where, unlike the U.S Supreme Court, Justices are elected by voters and often campaign with the support of political parties and partisan groups.

The proposed rule could exclude nonpartisan interests. While the rule allows the governor, legislators, and political parties to intervene in redistricting cases, nonpartisan organizations and voters impacted by the new district maps could be left out. Historically, civic groups and citizens have engaged in redistricting litigation to challenge district maps; this rule could prevent them from doing so in the future.

The proposed rule would further reduce transparency in redistricting by allowing the Court to circumvent the process of seeking facts and input from anyone other than elected officials and political parties. It would allow the Court to create or bless maps without hearing proper evidence or input from members of the public.

Terry Burko
6067 N. Milwaukee River Parkway
Glendale, WI 53209

The proposed rule to the State Supreme Court will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Thomas Ackerman
1903 26th St
Monroe, WI 53566

We must have fair, unbiased setting of the legislative districts instead of the current gerrymandering that doesn't fairly represent me and my neighbors.

TOM CROFTON
16005 CROFTON DR
RICHLAND CENTER, WI 53581-6

regarding Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

TOM CROFTON
16005 CROFTON DR

RICHLAND CENTER, WI 53581-6

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. We need a bipartisan redistricting authority on the order of the successful Iowa system. We currently have almost 60% of the voters acquiring less than 40% of the seats in the Assembly .This is undemocratic and immoral . The result is the minority abuses its position to to delegitimize the function of other branches when in the control of the opposition. The courts should not politicize their function by condoning gerrymandering. One person one vote and equal representation should be the rule. Neither party is capable of being fair on their own. No judge can be non partisan when elected by outside money. Reject this rule

Ron Rathmann
1520 Apache Ave.
Green Bay, WI 54313

RE: Rule Petition 20-03, Lgal challenges to redistricting. To the Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court: The rule of law is the bedrock of American democracy, the principle that protects every American from the abuse of demagogues. The integrity of the institutions that protect our civil order is, tragically, under assault from Legislators whose job it should be to protect them. The current electoral district maps, drawn under the auspices of Republican Governor Scott Walker, used mega-computers, sophisticated mapping software and terabytes of voter census data to gerrymander political districts with surgical precision to advantage Republican candidates. A poll by the nonpartisan Campaign Legal Center (CLC) found 71 percent of voters oppose permitting politicians to draw election districts crafted to assure the election or defeat of one party's candidates. The electorate is losing trust in the electoral process. Manipulating Voting Districts substitutes a candidate's fiduciary responsibility to the electorate with their party affiliation. They are more concerned with reelection, the accumulation of personal wealth and the support of the moneyed elite intent on extracting every last cent from our natural resources. Redistricting reform is a core issue for Common Cause, a bipartisan group of citizens responsible for drawing congressional and legislative districts in California, some of the nation's most competitive election districts. Please allow your decision in Will v. Witford to reflect my concern.

Pamela Tennant
105 Red Bud Trail
Columbus, Wisconsin 53925

Would like to see transparent redistricting

Tenzin Botsford
245423 State Highway 97

Athens, Wi 54411

Regarding Rule Petition 20-03, legal challenges to reconstructing.

I understand the need to update maps and political boundaries, to keep up with changing populations, etc.

But we all know that these maps are being meticulously cooked toward political advantage of the party in power with that regard. It's been going on for a long time, by both parties. But it isn't now, and never was a right thing in the spirit of our democracy.

Unprecedented access to data, and high end computer modeling have transformed this "election gimmick" a huge political force that works in the interest of the party and against the will of the people.

In fact, the people of Wisconsin have shown overwhelming support for creating a non-partisan maps coalition to draw the maps in a reasonable way.

Constant partisan power grabs and using our legal system to keeps changing the rules of the game have become the norm and are seriously eroding the people's faith in our leaders, and our entire model of democracy.

A shared faith in the importance of the rule of law is all that holds this ship together, please don't erode it any further.

Sincerely,

Tenzin Botsford

Teresa Sosnoski
2620 templeton place
Oshkosh, Wis 54904

Dear State Supreme Court,

I don't think it is fair that the Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process.

This jurisdiction doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. It does not make the rules fair for all.

Thank you,

Teresa Sosnoski

Tess Carr
PO Box 105
Lodi, WI 53555

Re: Request to Deny Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty's Petition for Proposed Rule to Amend Wis. Stat. § 809.70

Honorable Justices,

I strongly urge you not to approve the rulemaking petition by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty ("WILL") to bypass federal or state trial courts and limit evidence in reviewing Wisconsin's district boundaries. Approving WILL's request would severely undermine our state's democracy in two ways: 1) by cutting off the route to neutral maps and thus fair elected representation, and 2) by weakening confidence in the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

It is absolutely imperative for our democracy that nonpartisan district map-drawing, which is demanded by overwhelming majorities of Wisconsinites (regardless of their party), be allowed to take place in our state. For this to happen, the process of map-drawing must be careful, thorough, nonpartisan, and able to transparently demonstrate its care, thoroughness, and nonpartisan nature. In other words, the evidentiary record needs to be complete and public. WILL's request is intended to fast-track legal reviews and minimize opportunity for evidence-gathering and public input and review. Wisconsin's democracy deserves careful protection, not rushing and hiding.

Wisconsinites are well aware of past legislative attempts to rush and hide while creating biased partisan maps in secret rooms. Furthermore, Wisconsinites are no longer ignorant of the reality and harm of gerrymandering. In our November 3 election, 14 county and municipality fair maps ballot measures won by an average of 70%. Similarly, a 2019 Marquette Law School poll found that 72% of Wisconsin voters prefer that a nonpartisan commission carry out the redistricting. Membership and action are increasing among grassroots fair maps advocacy groups. Public awareness and desire to end gerrymandering is growing. Wisconsinites see gerrymandering reform occurring all over America. We see the neutral Iowa model working successfully right next door. We know it is time for Wisconsin to reform its maps, and we are talking to each other and reading the news about it. Wisconsinites are paying attention to the Court's action on this request. We care that the Court protects the fair process of any litigation related to district map-drawing.

To approve WILL's request, therefore, would undermine the Court by diminishing Wisconsinites' confidence in our Supreme Court as a nonpartisan administrator of justice. Approving WILL's request would give the impression that the court is taking sides in a partisan battle. Wisconsinites would see the

Court's approval as a nod to Republican attempts to avoid lower court proceedings and sidestep consideration of arguments by groups other than elected officials and political parties. The Wisconsin public also recognizes that WILL's proposed rule would allow the Court to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself, making the procedures optional and the playing field uneven. It would appear plainly to the public that the Court could create or approve maps without an inclusive legal process involving transparency and the necessary fairness, evidence, public input, testimony, and review by multiple courts. Wisconsinites would perceive the Supreme Court as shortchanging democracy in exchange for political gain.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge that the Court must deny WILL's request and ensure that democracy, and faith in democracy, are upheld in Wisconsin. Thank you for considering this comment.

Sincerely,

Tess Carr
Lodi, Wisconsin

Theresa Geyer
10166 Patricia Lake Ln
Minocqua, WI 54548

I don't understand why this should be a Supreme Court Decision. I have attended several meetings on the process of re-mapping and strongly believe this should be decided on a local level. This ruling leaves out non-partisan groups from fully participating and makes this court very partisan. ling

Theresa Wiggins
224 E. Lloyd St. #2
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212

I oppose the rule change proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, that suggests that disputed district maps should be taken directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. I note that the state courts have tended toward more partisanship than federal courts. Redistricting is one of the most complex and difficult tasks of government and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person/one vote. It should never be rushed (going directly to the Supreme court), and should never be partisan (state court). On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process.

Nadene Terry Derleth

W5944 Theisen Rd.
Tomahawk, WI 54487

We desperately need a nonpartisan commission to draw up fair maps. Please save our democracy.

Terry Dorr
1835 N. Riverwalk Way
Milwaukee, WI 53212

The proposed rule to take jurisdiction on future redistricting litigation will limit the review of maps and rush the process. This is harmful to the public interest. It is not in the public's interest to exclude groups from the Court's process if they have challenged past gerrymandering. We need a fair set of rules for everyone ensuring that the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoint to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Ellen Terwilliger
105 Mount Washington Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54703-5911

Redistricting of maps needs to be handled in a fair and equitable manner with adequate public input. The process should include more than just the branches of government. Right now we have a vast majority of Republicans in our Wisconsin legislature even though the majority of people vote on for Democrats. Lets have the maps drawn in a transparent manner so that it reflects voters wishes.

Holly Bland
test
test, test test

testestest

T. Greg Bell
11 Court of Brixham
Madison, WI 53705

The legislature needs a bipartisan committee to design the revised District boundaries. This new proposal is not for the Court to decide. That would be unconstitutional, and you don't want to be doing anything unconstitutional now, do you?

Trish Henderson
1300 19th St.
Reedsburg, Wisconsin 53059

Please listen to the majority of our state.

Wisconsin's Supreme Court justices need to hear from the public on this. The court shouldn't allow itself to be used this way to politicize our court system and further undermine public confidence in the state Supreme Court.

The people of WI have worked hard to get our legislators to listen to a large majority of its citizens who want a nonpartisan process for drawing voting district maps. Legislators are not listening. Fifty-five counties have passed resolutions and 28 counties have passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure for drawing maps. This rule change would further disenfranchise Wisconsin voters by eliminating their voice from the process of litigating maps that are unfair.

Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to assuring good government. This procedural change diminishes transparency.

Tracy Thaden
S11478 Soeldner Road
Spring Green, WI 53588

As the high court in our state, please do all you can to prevent gerrymandering of our voting districts! We need fair, impartial discussions with plenty of involvement from the public. Do insist on transparency with this process!

Ted Haglund
S10091 Bear Valley Rd
Lone Rock, Wisconsin 53556

I am very concerned about the increasingly political actions and influence of the courts. It is critical of democracy that we all participate and that all proceedings be open.

Patricia Adams
516 N 52nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208

In order for democracy to flourish, Wisconsin needs the input of several groups that represent real human beings, like trade unions and community organizations, to focus in the fair drawing of lines for elective offices. THE PEOPLE MUST NOT BE REPRESENTED BY MERE AMALGAMATIONS OF MONEY.

Nancy Thayer
100 North Franklin Street, #105
JANESVILLE, WI 53548

The Wisconsin State Supreme Court should in no way have anything to do with re-districting in Wisconsin. The Republican party has gerrymandered us enough!! The re-districting should be set up and managed by a bi-partisan committee.

Robert Gleason
5117 Sudbury Way
Madison, WI 53714

I believe redistricting decisions should not involve anyone who runs for office.

James Botsford
163408 Hollirob Lane
Wausau, WI 54403

My name is James Botsford. I am a career attorney, mostly retired now except for an appointment as an associate justice to a tribal Supreme Court. I was honored to receive the Howard B. Eisenberg Lifetime Achievement Award by the Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund in 2013. I am politically independent, and do not belong to any political party.

I am prompted to write a comment to Proposed Rule 20-03 regarding amendments to Wis. Stat. Sec. 809.70 (relating to redistricting) because I find the proposed rule submitted on behalf of Scott Jensen and the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty to be deeply flawed both as a matter of public policy and as a matter of law.

I believe it would be unwise to circumvent the judicial procedures the people rely on for access to justice by allowing redistricting challenges to skip over the trial and appellate courts and go directly to the Supreme Court. Such a rule would eliminate the vital contributions of parties to examine evidence, call witnesses, and create a full record for the Supreme Court to review. This proposed rule would create a closed insider process akin to what my father used to refer to as a 'bum's rush.'

I believe limiting the participation in the redistricting review process to the Democratic Party and the Republican Party (in addition to governmental offices of course) denies voice to the people. Why should those two political parties be allowed to claim the mantle of voice of the people? There are many other entities and individuals who might indeed have a legitimate claim to present to the court. I believe limiting participation to those two political parties violates the constitutional protections of both Equal Protection and Due Process. Let me provide a hypothetical. What if the current Trumpian disruption of our political norms results in the creation of a more traditional Conservative Party, and that party gains significant support in the state? Under this two currently-favored party proposal that Conservative Party would be precluded from representing traditional conservative perspectives in the redistricting process.

Our state already has a bit of an identity crisis due to the extreme gerrymandering we currently function under. You can just feel it in the air. This proposed rule would lock that in. People would, rightly, feel even more disenfranchised. 'The books are cooked' my mom used to say. For the citizenry to take pride in their state and its' governance at all levels they must feel that the system works, that it is accessible, participatory, and transparent. Those are hallmarks of the country we were all brought up t believe in. Until we can arrive at a fair and nonpartisan way to express and enact our highest principles in terms of representational government we should at the very least not allow any further degradation of the integrity of our political and judicial systems. Thank you for your consideration.

James Botsford

Ann and Phillip Dettwiler
2674 County Road P
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Sunday, November 22, 2020

We are writing this letter concerning Rule Petition 20-03, relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

It is our understanding that the Wisconsin Supreme Court is taking public comments on a proposed rule that would pre-rig the process for drawing of legislative and congressional district maps. We already feel we definitely have a gerrymandering situation in the state, and are vehemently opposed to this rule.

Not only our state, but our nation has been torn apart by those who wish to make rules/laws that fit their wishes, and we've certainly seen many instances of how one can at least attempt to overthrow or subvert rules and laws that have been set for years.

We are opposed to this proposed rule because it won't allow challenges to go through the courts in a normal fashion. Having challenges go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court immediately will create more backlog in that court, and the transparency for the ordinary citizen will be gone. Having challenges go through lower courts allows the average citizen to read about propositions and voice opinions to their legislators. A direct Supreme Court appearance would certainly eliminate the general public's knowledge of propositions prior to an appearance in that court.

Is not the idea of a Supreme Court to handle decisions that can't be rectified in a lower court? Going through lower courts first is a "sifting", if you will, where many minds of law can decipher and offer opinions. Going directly to the Supreme Court is like ignoring a "chain of command", which is fair for all parties.

So many items in our government of late have taken away the fairness for the ordinary citizen.

We urge you to throw out — in fairness to the general public of Wisconsin — and not even consider Rule Petition 20-03.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my request.

Ann Lee Dettwiler
Phillip Dettwiler

2674 County Road P
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

608-437-2674

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Thank you for your time and consideration of my request.

Ann Lee Dettwiler
Phillip Dettwiler

2674 County Road P
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

608-437-2674

Beth Coleman
1581 Ranch Lane
Ellison Bay, WI 54210

DATE: 11-18-20
TO: The Members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court
RE: Rule Petition 20-03, Relating to Legal Challenges to Redistricting

Dear Members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court,

I am deeply concerned about the petition filed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty that requests that the WI Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation, and how such a rule change could affect public participation, transparency, and undermine the will of WI citizens who clearly want to avoid future gerrymandering in our state.

If allowed to pass, this rule would allow any redistricting court challenges to move immediately to your court--thus bypassing the lower courts and the normal legal channels that allow for transparency, and give Wisconsinites the ability see and grasp evidence and competing arguments as they wind their way through this system. Citizens have the right to see and understand the full import of this process!

I am also concerned that this law requires that political parties be heard by the court, but does not give those same rights to non-partisan public interest groups , membership organizations and concerned citizens. Consequently, groups that have typically expressed their concerns about gerrymandering would not be allowed to participate in what should be a broad, public process; again, this appears to be a move designed to bypass the will of a clear majority of WI citizens who voted for fair maps.

Finally, this rule change would appear to politicize the WI Supreme Court, which could undermine public trust in what should be a non-partisan institution.

I ask that you deny this proposed rule change, as it clearly does not provide for an inclusive legal process that such a vital topic—and the citizens of WI—deserve.

Kim Hunter
w7770 Franklin Road
Browntown, WI 53522

End gerrymandering, please.

Amanda Syler
E5870 State Highway 56
Viroqua, Wisconsin 54665

Please, do not harmfully politicize the Court by accepting Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty's petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This proposed rule is not only undemocratic, but harmful and unfair. It would exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Thomas Connell

5690 Longford Ter
Fitchburg, Wisconsin 53711

We deserve to have fairly drawn districts in Wisconsin. There is a history of partisan gerrymandering in this state, and we need reform. The US District Court should oversee the decisions regarding the redrawn maps. Since our Wisconsin Supreme Court judges are elected, partisan decisions are inevitable. We need a fair, non-biased court to oversee the process so we can overcome the obstacles of politics in drawing district maps. The future of our state depends on it, and every voter deserves equal representation. I am a long-time Wisconsin resident, and I am asking for fairness and the absence of partisanship. Thank you.

Karen Thomas
5310 Terminal Drive
McFarland, WI 53558-8719

The proposed rule change further politicizes the court and the redistricting process, which should be nonpartisan in nature. It limits nonpartisan participation and lacks accountability to the people of Wisconsin.

Thomas Osting
box 190
Platteville, WI 53818

I oppose the proposed rules suggested by WILL. These proposals shut out the public from any input on this crucial matter. Gerrymandering impacts all Wisconsin citizens not just political parties. I am sick of politicians picking their constituents instead of citizens picking their representatives.

Jody Lenz
2249 150th St
Star Prairie, WI 54026

I am writing to show my concern for the proposed rule that would put the court in charge of redistricting our state. This would open the door to much more partisanship in the court and much less transparency. I am very much against this move. Please vote against this measure. Thank you.

Tim Escher
N2378 Summerville Park Rd

Lodi, WI 53555

Fair redistricting is fundamental to democracy. The attempt to circumvent proper review of the upcoming redistricting is not only an obvious attempt to "game" the system, but lowers the trust in the democratic system which is already at an ebb. Please reject this.

Tim Cordon
205 N. Sixth St.
Madison, Wisconsin 53704

Regarding: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting.

Dear Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

Thank you for our service, and for your consideration of my concern.

I am writing to ask that you not make changes to the current policies rega674r674d674i674n674g674
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Timothy Cordon
205 N 6th Street
Madison, WI 53704

Public Comment on Petition 20-03
To Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices

On behalf of the Board members, staff and volunteers of the nonprofit Wisconsin Network of Peace and Justice, Inc. we officers make our Public Comment opposing the adoption of the Rules Petition submitted by Scott Jensen and the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL).

As an organization we continue a long history of working for civil rights, voter engagement and social justice. It is these values that bring us to strongly oppose adoption of the Rules Petition that reduces voter rights in Wisconsin.

Petition 20-03 would prohibit a voter from taking a court claim on redistricting anywhere but directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This means there can be no fact finding in lower level State courts. This also means plaintiff(s) cannot seek redress in Federal Court which has a long history of handling voter rights cases.

Therefore the process proposed in the Petition 20-03 imposes unnecessary and arbitrary limits on citizens' right to petition, rights that are clearly guaranteed in Article 1 Section 4 of the Wisconsin Constitution. "The right of the people peaceably to assemble, to consult for the common good, and to petition the government, or any department thereof, shall never be abridged."

So why does WILL propose this process? WILL expresses its intent in its Memorandum of Support. It says that "procedural efficiency" is its purpose. Basically the redistricting process will get done more quickly and efficiently if WI Supreme Court names itself as the sole and final arbiter of all redistricting disputes right from the moment the census figures are due to the states.

Every ten year redistricting is essential to the principle of one person / one vote in which each person's vote has, as nearly as practicable, equivalent weight in determining the outcome of our elections. WILL's proposed path toward presumed efficiency in redistricting ends up destroying the purpose of the redistricting in the first place. When citizens see they are left out of the process and do not have a fair shot when they vote, their trust in democracy is eroded. Their one person / one vote power is significantly reduced.

The petition reads also that the Governor, either or both branches of the Legislature and political parties shall be granted intervention as of right in any case brought regarding redistricting. However, there is no mention of guaranteeing similar rights to impacted citizens, non-partisan local elected officials and communities in decisions that will impact them profoundly for decades.

Timothy Hall
1105 Maple Drive
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016

I strongly oppose the proposed rule change. As a citizen of this state I want District gerrymandering to be put to an end. Neither party should be able to draw maps for their own benefit. Gerrymandered districts serve to make elections uncompetitive, reduces voter involvement. Say no to this proposed rule change!

Augustine Murray
2721 Cordley Street
Fitchburg, Wisconsin 53711

I pray that the Court will make decisions that provide a non partisan result for all redistricting issues. One vote one person should not be based on districts that give an unfair advantage to either party. I am a taxpaying citizen whose family members (five generations) have served in the armed services (Army,

Navy, Marines, Air Force), World War Two, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf, Haitian Uprising and now. They volunteered to fight for our freedoms. In your positions you also have a responsibility to fight for our freedoms. Please put aside any partisan beliefs and let our democracy live up to our constitution for all citizens as you live up to the oath you have taken.

Tina Lueck
1407 Timber Ridge Trail
Watertown, Wisconsin 53098

This should not be passed!

Nancy L Collentine
3005 W Parkridge Ave
Appleton, Wisconsin 54914

What has happened to the state of Wisconsin politics? Such a sad transformation from what we once were. Never perfect, but at least attempting to be fair. I strongly oppose the request that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. All parties should be heard, including nonpartisan groups, not just political parties. The court should not disregard the process, nor should any policy lead to rushing this. Why would anyone or any group (Republicans) want to create unfair advantages if they care about the people of this country and not just power? Let's get back to fairness.

Terence Galka
5777 Dawley dr
Fitchburg, WI 53711

I disagree with the current petition presented by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty regarding the coming redistricting of the state. It will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. Please to save our state from partisan gerrymandering.

Thank you

Anthony Jacobson
935 Burnwyck Drive
Janesville, Wisconsin 53546

As a lifelong Wisconsin resident I find the current gerrymandering of our districts as a slap in the face to democracy. The current maps amount to voter suppression and need to be changed and the ability of any political party to do this in the future eliminated.

Timothy Burke
5700 Main St,
Gratiot, WI 53541

I oppose this rule change and furthermore advocate for a non partisan redistricting system. Iowa has a good system and we need to copy it.

Thank you

Tana Feiner
5513 McKenna Road
Monona, WI 53716

54 of 72 county boards have passed resolutions urging the legislature to pass a law requiring independent, nonpartisan redistricting. The people want this and the legislature needs to listen to the will of the people they represent. Do not adopt this proposed rule.

tom kriegl
E13049 County Hwy W
Baraboo, WI 53913

I just learned that in June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”), filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. This would limit the review of maps and rush the process.

The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL”) petition is a request for the supreme court to play favorites by from the start.

That request is totally anti-democratic, anti-American, unwise, and unjust. I see no justification.

The courts can only be fair and just if there procedures carefully provide all sides the opportunities to make their case. The petition tries to violate that sacred principle.

During most of my decades in life, I saw the Supreme Court as a source of justice but also was aware that the Dred Scott decision was the court system at its worst. I have been troubled in the last decade and a half to see the courts headed to see the courts heading back in direction of the Dred Scott type of injustice.

It is an attempt to politicize the courts and to make every level of the court system below the supreme court irrelevant. If you agree to the petition you are telling me you don't have enough to do and then ought to eliminate all of the lower courts and handle every case in the state yourselves.

It is an attempt that is just as ridiculous as the current attempts by Trump/Giuliani to overturn the election for president.

Supporting the petition would be harmful to the future of this state, to the court system and to your legacy.

teri engelke
6205 Lomax Lane
Madison, WI 53711

Hello, my name is teri engelke and I am submitting this comment on the rule change being proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) specific to legal challenges to redistricting. As a citizen of Wisconsin I am opposed to this proposed rule change for a number of reasons. This affects our democracy at our core which we continue to see be eroded.

1) This process cannot and should not be rushed. Previously the Court spent years engaging experts and the public to examine potential procedures for redistricting review, ultimately determining there was not an adequate judicial solution in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Now what is being proposed, the rulemaking process has spanned only a few months and without independent review by a committee of experts. The Court, in the past, has considered and rejected, thereby adopting a rule on this topic; and that should remain as is as there is no reasonable justification to reverse its previous conclusion.

2) Keep the public trust in the Court as a legitimate institution. Adoption of the proposed rule by WILL risks increasing the politicizing the court and erodes the public trust in the Court as an unbiased institution to uphold and interpretation of the rule of law. 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.

3) This proposed rule really only considers partisan interests and does not consider what it should keep our democratic process of voting at the center for what is best and representative of all the citizens within this state. While political parties are given standing to present maps before the Court, non-partisan groups and voters impacted by new districts may be excluded. This is at odds with the history of challenges to districts in Wisconsin, where civic groups and individual Wisconsin citizens have been involved in litigation and asserted the rights of their members.

4) There is already too much distrust in the election process over the past decade, keeping transparency in the redistricting process is key to the public trust and rebuilding the trust in our election process. The proposed rule does not provide adequate information to, or input from, the public. The last time new

maps were drawn in Wisconsin, the redistricting process failed to include robust public hearings where individuals and groups impacted by the proposed districts could have their voices heard and represented. The process WILL has proposed would exacerbate this issue, further it would allow the Court to sidestep consideration of any arguments other than elected officials and political parties, which is already skewed due to the previously drawn maps. It would allow the court to create or bless maps without hearing evidence or public input.

The people of Wisconsin deserve a fair process for redistricting. The proposed rule change would not be contrary to a fair process. I respectfully request that you do not adopt this rule change.

Respectfully,
teri engelke

Theresa Lowder
9240 N. Bethanne Drive
Brown Deer, Wisconsin 53223

Gerrymandering is unethical. It interferes with legitimate elections, eroding a democracy.

Now is the time to have fair maps drawn up in Wisconsin, and this takes time. Please do what is morally correct, and do not change the rule that allows redistricting to go through ascending levels of federal courts if necessary.

Thank you.

Ted Griggs
218 7th Ave. East
Ashland, Wi. 54806

Strongly urge you to allow fair district map drawing that is not controlled by any political party.

Tom Murphy
2757 CREEKWOOD CIR
GREEN BAY, WI 54311-4618

I object to the proposed rule, because it does not allow for citizen participation that a normal court proceeding would provide. Citizens deserve to be heard and deserve to be fairly represented by our government - no more partisan gerrymandering!

Tom Kastle
218 N. 6th Street
Madison, WI 53704

No more Republican gerrymandering

Jackie Tomberlin
107 Sutherland Ct. #303
Madison, WI 53704

I am opposed to the proposed rule change. It seems like a rule to block the will of the people. This rule would limit the review of maps and rush the process. This guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new maps, but doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This means groups who have in the past challenged gerrymandering on behalf of their members could be excluded from the Court's process. Finally, the proposed rule also gives the Court the option to disregard the processes and requirements set forth in the rule itself — making the procedures optional. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

Thomas Littellmann
5506 West Brooklyn Place
Milwaukee, WI 53216

Regarding redistricting litigation please don't exclude nonpartisan groups.

Marni Poquette
3215 Sussex Street
River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

Recently, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty ("WILL"), filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting litigation. I am concerned that this rule will harmfully politicize the Court and exclude nonpartisan groups from having a voice. Gerrymandering is a problem in WI.

Tom Neubauer
5341N Idlewild Ave
Milwaukee (Whitefish Bay), WI 53217

I'm at a legal disadvantage -- not an attorney, not affiliated with a partisan organization, not a student of the Supreme Court, not familiar with legal precedent in redistricting matters. So why is a voice like mine important? I'm a concerned citizen writing at a time (Nov. 19) when our democracy is under extreme duress and I'm commenting today on a "petition" from WILL that won't serve to allay it. WILL is continually engaged in an exhausting, relentless drive for power -- continuing, unrelenting power -- and they're not accountable to anyone.

Wisconsin must adopt a process for independent non-partisan redistricting. I believe there are already criteria in place for defining "fair" in the drawing of maps. Use them. Why is the court involved at all? This is a legislative issue. Involving the court will only further politicize the institution. According to the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition (November 2020), as of the November 3 election 28 counties and 19 municipalities have approved non-binding referendums in support of fair maps and 54 of 72 county boards representing 80% of Wisconsin citizens have done something similar. The people have already spoken.

Why cement a sclerotic system in place in ten year increments whereby a representative can arrogantly ignore communications from constituents and still be reasonably assured of being re-elected? Why would well-meaning opponents choose to run for office when the deck is stacked against them? We need more participants, not fewer. It doesn't matter to me what party holds the majority. The mapping process is out of control when legislators can choose their voters, not the other way -- the right way -- around.

Thomas Zigan
1321 E Conway Street
Milwaukee, WI 53207

I have concerns regarding Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. I object to this rule change because any legal challenge to redistricting would immediately go to the Wisconsin Supreme Court rather than allow it to work its way through the courts in a normal fashion, which creates a record at lower court levels and enables Wisconsin citizens to understand the evidence of the case and the arguments for and against it. Also, the change would prohibit nonprofit public interest organizations and citizens from hearings before it got to the Supreme Court, even though we, the citizens have personal interest in this issue. Finally, I object to disregarding the procedures and requirements laid out in the rule itself. It should be transparent and applied in a fair manner.

Tony Krzyzewski
746 Fish Drive
WISCONSIN DELLS, WI 53965

I do not want the State Supreme Court to have jurisdiction on future redistricting litigation for the following reasons:

It is not a transparent process.

It limits the input of the voters of Wisconsin; groups other than political parties must be allowed to have a voice.

It will unfairly rush the redistricting process and review of maps.

It will appear to be (and possibly will be) a partisan, rather than fair, decision.

ANNE bACHNER
4091 County Road Z
Dodgeville, WI 53533

let's follow a fair set of rules so we have the necessary facts and information that we need to make impartial decisions. this way the court will not become politicized, and the decisions will be transparent. Anne Bachner

Zane Torgrude
7213 Harvest Hill Rd
Madison, WI 53717

WI

roz tornatore
1633 n prospect ave
milwaukee, WI 53202

it is important to have fair voting districts defined by a non-partisan group. we see what is happening in the court system and we must keep the courts from being any more politicised anymore than they already are. please do not enact this rule.

Tom Pamperin
32 1/2 W. Cedar Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Dear Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court,

I am writing as a private citizen to voice my strong opposition to Petition 20-03, submitted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL), regarding the process by which legal challenges to legislative redistricting will be heard. I urge you to reject this petition in its entirety. Indeed, doing so is the only course of action consistent with the idea of government by, for, and of the people.

Legislative redistricting is the very foundation of democracy—legislative representation is the vehicle by which voters participate in their own government—yet WILL is asking you, as members of the state’s highest court, to restrict private citizens and private groups from having a voice in the redistricting process. The rules proposed in Petition 20-03 require that political parties must be heard by the court on the issue of redistricting, but does not allow private citizens and private groups that same right.

That fact alone should be enough to cause the court to reject petition 20-03 out of hand. The fact that I, and thousands of my fellow citizens, are not members of a political party does not mean that we do not have a legitimate interest in governance. To deny access to private citizens and private groups on this issue is to contradict, in spirit if not in explicit legal terms, the ideal of equal protection under the law as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.

But there is another important reason that petition 20-03 must be rejected: it prevents lower courts from making rulings on this issue, which would provide a much-needed dose of transparency to a crucially important function of government. By following a set of rulings through the courts via normal routines and precedents, the citizens of Wisconsin would be better informed, and have more time to weigh in on issues that directly affect their own governance. It would be irresponsible to agree to WILL’s attempt to hasten the decision-making process and so limit public involvement.

Finally, the rule proposed in petitions 20-03 would give the state’s highest court the option of disregarding its recommendations anyway. And time and again in recent politics, we have seen that an optional rule is not worth the paper it is printed on.

Wisconsin is currently under the influence of some of the most precisely engineered gerrymandering in the entire U.S. Please ensure that private citizens like me are given the opportunity to seek redress from the courts for this injustice. I urge you, as members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, to reject WILL’S petition.

Trish Pasquino
32 fountain street
Mineral point, WI 53565

Please change this law . The maps should reflect all voters in this state .

John Walt
11646 S RR St
Solon Springs, WI 54873

Wisconsin must have fair maps to hold fair elections

Tracy Greer
N3388 Deer Path
Poynette, WI 53955

This change seems to be in keeping with a move towards something other than democracy.
Transparency in the process of developing voting district maps is critical to assuring good government.
This procedural change diminishes transparency.
There seems to be no good reason for allowing less than 30 days for public comment on this important rule change, unless it is to deter public comment. This process is being intentionally rushed.

Richard Scott Smith
11655 Brook Lane
Hayward, WI 54843

I understand that this case regards which courts should receive lawsuits for future district maps for representation in state and federal legislatures.
But it's really about much more than that. The people in a very NONPARTISIAN way have come together to ask that these maps be chosen in a fair and unbiased way. 55 of 72 counties have passed resolutions and the people in 28 counties have actually passed referenda supporting a transparent and nonpartisan procedure to draw maps.
Now, really, if the people have spoken up and asked to be treated fairly in being able to choose their representatives without the thumb of one side or the other trying to tip the scales in their direction, how is this proposal conscionable? Legislators on either side may want to push this, but the people have clearly said NO!
The proposed rule change will have the effect of depriving the people of the simple opportunity to cast a fair vote – That is clearly wrong! Let's get back to one equal vote per person.

Nicholas Stibak
617 n 1st st
Bruce, Wisconsin 54819

Totally unfair what Republicans are doing. got to get rid of them

Trude Pletcher
N22W24080 Cloister Circle 4D
Pewaukee, WI 53072

I have received information stating that WILL(Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty) has filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court take jurisdiction on any future redistricting legislation. This change will politicize the court! It will exclude participation from non-partisan groups. It also will lack transparency for all state residents. There are excellent models of Fair Maps which we could review. None include putting the court in charge. This limits the review of maps. Why would you only listen political parties? Thank you.

Trudy Karlson
110 N Allen St.
Madison, WI 53726

November 18, 2020
Wisconsin Supreme Court
Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

I am writing to oppose this rule which would deny the citizens of Wisconsin from the full airing of issues and facts surrounding the drawing of legislative and congressional maps.

Bypassing the lower court proceedings in this case cuts off the full access to the fruits of the judicial system for the citizens of Wisconsin.

Citizens deserve to have a chance to learn, think about, deny or accept for themselves the arguments at each level of proceedings of the Wisconsin courts. Restricting the interested parties to political parties also denies the existence of civic organizations that have had a long and active interest the results. Not each citizen with interests is represented by one political party or the other, larger principled interests are also important.

Important facts and understandings should be allowed to emerge during the redistricting process. This will improve the functioning of our democracy. Having the courts weigh in on this important issue at each level is typical and should be preserved.

Trudy Karlson
110 N. Allen St.
Madison WI 53726

Terri Skrzypcak
906 Clearview Court
Edgar, WISCONSIN 54426

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

TammyJo Welcome
840 State Highway 42
Ellison Bay, WI 54210

Dear Esteemed Judges,

The law that you are to consider, which has been offered by a private partisan organization in an attempt at an end-around the will of a strong majority of Wisconsinites in the matter of drawing district lines does not warrant a second of the Court's time. The result of the referendum vote regarding "fair maps" makes it clear that the people want a say in the drawing of those maps and that we believe they must not be bent into ridiculous shapes allowing politicians to choose their voters instead of the voters choosing their candidate. This law was presented by WILL is simply another attempt to remove voters from the equation. Citizens are most affected by the district drawing and we must have input in every step, including being able to follow issues/conflicts through the system. This law before you, it seems to me, puts the Court in the position of making laws, or at least gives that impression. In the days when there is so much distrust developing around the partisanship of our highest courts, accepting this law would only help to make that impression more legitimate.

Tina Smith
N3906 Blackhawk Rd
Pine River, WI 54965

This petition filed would limit the review of maps and rush the process. This guidance is sparse and in several places, harmful to the public interest. And it doesn't give the same rights to nonpartisan groups like unions or membership organizations. This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it

Hence, on its face, the proposed rule only considers partisan interests. There is no provision to ensure that interested, impacted parties will be able to present their view on the maps to the Court. In addition, if lower courts are not given a chance to hear testimony and review the proposed maps, there will be a very limited record for the Court to rely on in making its determination.

Unfortunately, this process will risk 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, without allowing adequate review in the lower courts first, threatens to give the impression the Court is a political branch rather than a neutral arbitrator of conflict between political actors.

WILL's proposed rulemaking process has spanned only a few months, with no independent review by a committee of experts. The Court has considered, and rejected, adopting a rule on this topic, and the rule proposal before the Court now offers no reason for the Court to reverse its previous conclusion.

Sincerely,

Carita Twinem, Esq.

Susan Kurtz
608 S. 18th Ave
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

To whom,

I am opposed to Petition 20-03 Proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70. I site various reasons why I opposed this amendment. Today now more than ever legislative and judicial functions of government need to be transparent this change would take away any transparency.

What is the rush why are you keeping this secret and only allowing 30 day comment period. You should allow and again be transparent let the people of Wisconsin see and have the opportunity to make comment.

Lower courts have a great impact to this ruling and should be allowed to be a part of the process. The County of Door passed with large margins agreeing in a non-partisan alliance that Fair maps and transparency in the determination of them is the extremely important. Don't pass off the votes of the citizens of Wisconsin of which 28 of the Counties all passed resolutions and referenda on the transparency of Fair Maps for Wisconsin.

This proposed rule change will undermine the Supreme court thus damaging it in the eyes of the citizens.

I urge you to not pass the proposed Amendment to Rule 809.70

Tygan Shelton
7126 Heather Glen Dr.
Madison, WI 53719

Transparency is a vital aspect to democracy. The proposed time reduces transparency in redistricting and is undemocratic.

Ulrich Sielaff
32 Fountain Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Do not approve the Wisconsin Institute For Law and Liberty's petition that would create a fast track, behind the scenes process for handling redistricting cases.

David Rozelle
6063 County Road T
Spring Green, WI 53588

I am absolutely opposed to any measure which excludes the public from comment on any measure to redraw (gerrymander) Wisconsin's voting districts. Democracies do not thrive in the exercise of urgent matters, such as this one, by the imposition of darkness instead of light. I appeal to your sense of fairness to thwart any effort to deny voters a significant role in fairly modifying the boundaries of the districts in which they cast their votes. Thank you.

Tim White
8178 County Road G
Verona, Wisconsin 53593

In opposition to Rule 20-03

As one who has followed the partisan redistricting issue for years, I find it upsetting that the Court is considering Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty's Rule 20-03. W.I.L.L. should not be able to subvert the will of the people to effect fair political districts. Nor should Wisconsin's Highest Court consider yet another naked power grab from the highly partisan W.I.L.L.

Rule 20-03 directly attacks the process of districting.

Joan Unrein
5575 Tancho Drive, Apt. 107
Madison, Wisconsin 53718

To the members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

I am writing to let you know that I believe the best way to achieve fair redistricting in Wisconsin is to use a bipartisan panel to determine maps for our state. This should not be the job of the Wisconsin Supreme Court unless and until all interested parties have had a chance to participate in the process. This includes representatives from both parties of the legislature and non-partisan groups such as League of Women Voters, Unions, and other interested groups.

Please do not allow private meetings of the legislature to create the unfair maps we have now. I have personal experience with the last redistricting. I am a former town board member of the Town of Waterloo. The last redistricting was created to separate the Town of Waterloo from the City of Waterloo; both areas had worked together previously and this cooperation ended with the change. Our effective Assembly representative at that time was removed from our district because lines were drawn around his property to remove it from our district and put into a totally different district. Please do not allow this sort of manipulation to happen again!

I am a member of the League of Women Voters and believe strongly that non-partisan maps should be returned to Wisconsin.

Barbara Brown
401 Arrowhead Drive
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301

November 22, 2020

I am a member of the League of Women Voters Fair Elections team in Brown County and a member of the Congressional District 8 Fair Maps Coalition

I believe that the principle of one person / one vote is undermined by the current legislative maps.

Wisconsin has become extremely gerrymandered through the redistricting that occurred in 2011. I am contacting you, as the Wisconsin Supreme Court, to ask that you not approve the Petition for Proposed Rule to Amend Wis. Statute 809.70 (Relating to Original Actions) and numbered 20-03. This proposed rule change would alter how the court process for hearing a redistricting case takes place. This would cause further harm to the citizens of Wisconsin by denying them a voice in the process.

Considering the overwhelming majority of Wisconsin citizens support a nonpartisan process for creating maps and have expressed a desire to be involved in the process, this proposed rule change absolutely undermines citizens confidence in our Wisconsin Supreme Court as a nonpartisan, legitimate arbiter of judicial questions and concerns and will surely lead to an erosion of public trust in the fairness of the Court.

In support of Wisconsin's constitution and in your role as a Supreme Court Justice to uphold this constitution, I ask that you not approve of this proposed rule change and allow the current longstanding and supported process to stay in place.

Please honor your role as a member of the Wisconsin Supreme Court by uphold the law and burnishing the now tarnished reputation Wisconsin government now shows to the country.

Respectfully,
Barbara Brown
401 Arrowhead Drive
Green Bay Wisconsin 54301
920-336-6098

Kristine Schwartz
2360 Elben Ct
Green Bay, WI 54302

The proposed rule does not allow for the very important citizen participation. Please do not shut out the voices of ordinary Wisconsinites.

Vik Verma
2301 West Jackson Street, Apartment 26
Merrill, Lincoln 54452

November 21, 2020

Wisconsin Supreme Court
PO Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

Re: Rules Petition 20-03 to amend Sec. 809,70 Stats.

To the Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court

I reside in Merrill, Wisconsin. I am writing to express my concerns with the rule change being proposed.

1. The proposed rule change will only give standing to political parties. It does not consider the concerns of citizens, voters, municipalities, counties, and civic groups who are impacted by the redistricting.

2. The proposed rule change to bring redistricting issues directly to the Supreme Court, does not allow the lower courts to perform their customary and proper roles in this process. The Supreme Court should be the court of last resort, not the court of only resort.

3. The proposed rule timelines do not give sufficient time for interested candidates to know what districts may affect a decision to run for office.

4. It also does not allow sufficient time for federal issues to be addressed by the federal courts with regards to the Voting Rights Act. In particular, ensuring that minority voting rights are protected is a must and this will require the involvement of federal courts if issues arise.

5. Full transparency is necessary to ensure that there is faith and trust in the redistricting and voting process. The citizens of Wisconsin deserve nothing less.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding my thoughts on this proposed rule change.

Vik Verma
2301 West Jackson Street, Apartment 26
Merrill, WI 54452

Vicki Aro-Schackmuth
920 S. Imperial Dr.
Hartland, WI 53029

November 17, 2020

Wisconsin Supreme Court,

My name is Vicki Aro-Schackmuth, I am a resident of Hartland, WI, Congressional District 5 and Assembly District 99. I am submitting personal comments on my opposition to the proposed rule change to Wisconsin Statute 809.70 from Scott Jensen and Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. I oppose the rule change to Wisconsin Statute 809.70 because:

1. There is an adequate alternative remedy to the Supreme Court. Three of the past four Wisconsin redistricting maps have been drawn by the Courts following a full judicial process. Justice is

best served when a full and complete process takes place. Justice should be done and be seen to be done.

2. This petition for rule change does not cure the 694i694s694s694u694e694
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Scott Pederson
5534-1 century ave
Middleton, Wi 53562

This proposed change to the law regarding redistricting is a bad move. Cutting public review out of the process seems undemocratic to me. Please don't make a bad problem worse by giving consideration to this rule change.

Victor Weers
4478 N 99th St
Wauwatosa, WI 53225

Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

Mary Jones
12917 n colony dr
Mequon, Wi 53097

The proposed change is not a democratic action.

LINDA MEADOWCROFT
120 6TH AVE
BARABOO, WI 53913

Objective and independent Voter Redistricting MUST be implemented across the country in order to provide fair representation for constituents !!!

Virginia Huber
5193 Nannyberry Drive
Fitchburg, Wi 53711

Redistricting should allow for maximum choice for voters of greatest diversity.

Vivianne Hanke
46115 Crystal Lake Rd,
Cable, Wisconsin 54821

Hey ! Its time every person has a voice. Quit messing with the voting districts to suit your purpose. This rule change prevents voters and nonpartisan organizations advocating for good government from fully participating in the process of contesting voting district maps, should that become necessary.

Virginia Drath
1541 County Road O
Emerald, Wisconsin 54013-7923

I believe in transparency. We teach our children to be honest and open with us, shouldn't we have the right to expect the same from our law makers. This did not happen 10 years ago and I expect it to not happen again if we want a democracy. Thank You

Victoria Johnson
W5951 Quarry Rd.
APPLETON, WI 54913

Other states use apolitical processes to determine representation. Stop this obsession power and put in place a process that exemplifies a democracy.

Conrad Weiffenbach
166 Rodney Court
Madison, WI 53715

Nonprofit public interest groups and concerned citizens of Wisconsin ought to and must have a say in hearings on any rule about changing maps of legislative districts, the same as for any other case of rule-making for legislation going through the courts. This will ensure that all pertinent considerations are made clear to the legislators and the public before the rule is finalized. And any properly-filed Legal challenges must be heard. Requirements and procedures laid out in the rule finally approved must be followed. The rule proposed by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty does not allow for public interest groups not affiliated with any party to be heard, will harmfully politicize the court, and needs to be rejected or modified to meet all of these standards.

David Weingrod
2815 E Oklahoma Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Wisconsin currently has one of the most extreme gerrymandered legislative districts in the nation. This process essentially undermines the idea of one person one vote which is a bedrock of democracy. Over the past 10 years this has played out in numerous elections so that even when Democrats win statewide races by a large margin they rarely pick up a single legislative seat.

It is important that the process of redistricting, which is so important to what occurs in policymaking, have a thoughtful deliberation in the state. Public opinion is strongly on the side of maps that represent more competitive maps. In all 54 counties where citizens had a change to vote on a better map drawing process it voted in favor of a better process.

This process should not be rushed and it should not be curtailed at the end of this month.

Wendy Greeney
1110 Ogden Ave

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Wendy Greeney
1313 N. Franklin Place, Apt 2002
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Clerk of the Supreme Court
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701

November 17, 2020

RE: Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

Dear Clerk of the Supreme Court,

I write in opposition to the proposed rule to amend WIS. STAT. 809.70. The Wisconsin Supreme Court should hold itself above the partisan tactics of legislative and executive branches of government. The proposed rule will further politicize this nonpartisan branch and erode public trust in our judicial system.

Participation in court proceedings regarding the redistricting process should not be limited to political parties. The fullness of citizen representation cannot be bound by political party affiliation. Wisconsinites are complex and deserve a comprehensive expression of their values.

At a time when confidence in our democratic institutions has been undermined for purely political gain, we look to our courts to check the imbalance. We hope you will provide an unbiased approach to all redistricting processes, restoring faith in our system.

Sincerely,

Wendy Greeney

Lisa West
2884 Osmundsen Rd
Fitchburg, WI 53711

Redistricting is one of the most complex and difficult tasks of government and one that is fundamental to the principle of one person / one vote. It should never be rushed. On the contrary, public confidence in government depends on an open and transparent process.

In addition this rule change will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and allow insufficient transparency.

Kate Westerlund
210 Moore Street
Mellen, Wi 54546

The people need to be heard and should be part of the decision making process.

Lollie Wheeler
E11329 State Road 136
Baraboo, WI 53913

this rule will Regarding Rule Petition 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting: When ruling on this rule, please consider it will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures.

Erica Eddy
1106 Emerald Drive
Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin 53406

The majority of Wisconsinites have voted, if they were able to, to support a non-partisan redistricting process. The rule change requested by Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty does not. Citizens are tired of the partisan bickering and so many feel they are not represented by their state legislators.

Surely this court does not want to be seen as favoring one political party over another. Please respect the views of all Wisconsin citizens and make sure that the redistricting process is fair and transparent to all. Thank you for listening to all of us who are not in favor of this rule change.

Deb whitelaw Gorski
331 s neenah ave
STURGEON BAY, WI 54235

In June, the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) filed a petition requesting that the state Supreme Court should claim jurisdiction on any future redistricting legislation, I believe effectively limiting the review of fair maps and rushing the process altogether. Please continue to act accountably and act fairly in all of our best interests.

Martha Pings
218 Oak St
Madison, Wi 53704

In our "purple" Wisconsin, we need a non-partisan Court. This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures

Christine Wick
800 Frank St
Darlington, Wi 53530

I want Fair Maps in Lafayette County and all over Wisconsin!!!!

Scott Wilker
1524 Matthew Way
Stoughton, WI 53589

I urge the state Supreme Court to oppose the proposed rule to allow any contested disputes on the maps to go directly to the Supreme Court. I feel this will bypass the will of the people to have fairly drawn maps, bypass parts of the legal system skipping the lower courts rulings, and show a lack of transparency for the citizens of Wisconsin.

William Jarvis

408 West Florida Street, Apt 712
Milwaukee, WI 53204-1568

Fairness is important in our system, and the "WILL" petition flies in the face of what we stand for in Wisconsin. I've voted third party and frankly all parties throughout my life, so non-partisan people having a voice is important and this rule would hurt that as well as transparency of the process. The last thing we need to be doing is politicizing our courts.

William Bloss
1440 Waterview Way
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

Wisconsin Supreme Court should not take jurisdiction over any future redistricting legislation as it would limit review of maps and rush the process. We need a truly non-partisan process for redistricting which prevents gerrymandering!

Marcie Pfeifer-Soderbloom
1301 Roby Road
Stoughton, WI 53589

The WI Supreme Court should not take jurisdiction of future redistricting litigation. The proposed rule that lays out a non-representative process, and also allows that process to not be implemented, does not provide enough groups with participation options and lacks transparency. Wisconsin needs a fair, transparent set of rules for everyone to play by and an inclusive legal process. Nonpartisan groups and membership organizations should be included and represented in the process. The process should not be optional. The gerrymandered shape of a district should not preclude one party or the other from being able to win an election in that district.

Jack Kennedy
2907 Black bridge Rd.
Janesville, Wi 53545

We need Fair, Non Gerrymandered districts. Where I live, we have a representative who lives in our town, but only cares for the people on the other side of the state.

Joan Rufenacht
913 4th St

Monroe, Wi 53566

Please do not let the conservative Republican party have all the rights to maps and gerrymandering control. If you let this happen again Wisconsin is very unfair and you will be losing a lot of citizens including me. The government needs to be fair and the people need to have a say.

C K
N3367 Juniper Rd
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

Court Shopping is not legitimate way to change the law, or voting districts. Do not allow yourself to be used this way, please.

Norma Gay Davidson-Zielske
1011 E. Gorham St
Madison, WI 53703

To Whom it May Concern:

Today I learned of a proposal backed by WILL and Rep. Scott Jensen to eliminate the necessary steps of hearings and judgements submitted to lower courts in the State of WI concerning FAIR MAPS and being sent instead to the WI Supreme Court because they believe that that courts likely to rule in their favor, whereas the actual citizens who are affected by this serious gerrymandering will be effectively denied their voice.

As a senior citizen with severe underlying illnesses, I am practically a prisoner in my home now due to Covid. It is a fact that the pandemic has been driven by allowing selfish (mostly young) people to drink in public while spreading the virus back to more vulnerable people who happen to live in a rental neighborhood. This is a deadly domino effect. I feel I am writing for my life and the life of an elderly sister in a nursing home and my younger son who himself works in a front-line environment. I soundly oppose this leap-frogging illegal ignoring of due process in service of grabbing and keeping power

Let the maps be drawn according to the census which was difficult to do properly DURING a pandemic and may take more time. We want accuracy, not speed. I think citizens like me understand that among certain Republicans that are benefitting from the present unfair maps that (as they boldly stated) —if we allow the actual citizens to have fair representation, they are afraid no Republican will ever be elected again in these districts and they will lose the majority rep they have had a stranglehold on for years. The remedy is rather for Republicans to act in the interests of all their constituents instead of in interest of powerful lobbies and partisanship.

I believe only when we have FAIR MAPS as determined by the census in WI will we again be allowed to represent the wishes of every citizen. Vote NO on Jensen's proposition.

Sincerely,

Gay Davidson-Zielske
1011 E. Gorham St.
Madison, Wi. 53703

Peggy Wireman
4001 Monona Drive
Monona, Wisconsin 53716

Wisconsin needs a redistricting plan that is non-partisan and IS PERCEIVED AS NON-PARTISAN. Therefore, it is important that a process be used that is not controlled by the present Wisconsin Supreme Court.

The judges may actually be non-partisan but they are widely believed to favor the Republicans. They have sided with the Republican legislators in restricting the powers of the incoming Democratic Governor and preventing him from taking measures used by governors of other states to protect people from the spread of the virus. These decisions may be non-partisan but they are widely perceived to be simply rubber-stamping the wishes of the Republican Party. Any redistricting plan they develop will result in lawsuits, further distrust of government and widen the already too wide divisions within our state.

William Rieder
5113 Tuggle Lane
Waunakee, WI 53597

We need a redistricting structure like the one in Iowa. This proposed measure is not a good idea.

Bill Kispert
205 W. Mission Rd
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301

Honorable Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Court. I am a private citizen who cares deeply about how we elect our representatives. There should be no question that voting must be as fair as possible. The only advantage one party would have over another should be based on who the candidate is or what policies they have to offer, not map manipulation.

I know you'll soon be ruling on a redistricting matter that has enormous implications for our state's future and the state of our Democracy. And because it is a critically important matter, I beseech you to please take enough time to give it a full and complete review for best understanding. Please do not rush through this process that affects literally all Wisconsinites.

Further, and finally, it is my fervent hope that your judgment is wise and non-partisan. As the third branch of government, Wisconsinites are counting on you to provide a fair and non-partisan review, and decision. Here in Brown County over 70% of voters chose redistricting over what we have now. This is essentially true in every Wisconsin county that has voted on it. Redistricting is simply the will of the people, because every vote must count in a free and fair Democracy.

Sincerely,

Bill Kispert
205 W. Mission Rd
Green Bay WI 54301
920-569-4111

William Rackow
4533 N Windingbrook Dr
Appleton, WI 54913

If we are going to have a Democracy we need none gerrymandered maps. Democracy has been attacked for a few years now and we need some good men to step forward. Thank you- Bill Rackow
Appleton

Wendy Lucka
N132W18297 Rockfield Rd
Germantown, WI 53022

WILL' is only thinking of themselves and not the majority of voters in this state.
This new ruling would highly politicize the courts, something that would be detrimental to our state!
Should one party have control over the other? No! No! And, No!
Leave the courts to do what they're supposed to do.

William Van Haren
550 linden ct
Verona, Wi 53593

Please deny the petition by the Wisconsin institute of law and liberty seeking to narrow the public opportunity for input into the redistricting process in Wisconsin. Thank you

A Woodson Hagge
6869 Sylvan Shore Drive
Hazelhurst, WI 54531

Please allow fair and representative elections, where gerrymandering does not allow one party to win a majority of seats through manipulation of district shapes.

Carolyn Miller
10852 N Traynor Ct
Milton, Wisconsin 53563

I oppose any action that would limit the rights of citizens to either participate in the redistricting process or to observe the redistricting process.

William Dixon
4533 Winnequah Rd.
Monona, WI 53716

Regarding proposed Rule 20-03 I write in opposition to the proposal on the grounds that it encourages the abandonment of long held principles by the court of openness, transparency, and public disclosure followed by the court(s) for decades before I become admitted to the court bar in 1970, and expanded upon by the court in the decades I remained a member. To adopt the proposed rule would not only represent a harsh departure from the court's past and present well-established practices, but it would also so no apparent purpose in the court's administration of justice and pursuit of transparency. My opposition is further rooted in the appearance the adoption of the rule would give to the general public--not to mention to well-informed attorneys and jurists--that the court is politicizing its procedures when it blocks amici and informed testimony by those most affected by any substantive decision relating to drawing of legislative boundaries, i.e., the voters. Based on the precedend redistricting litigation for the past 50 years there is no demonstrated need for the court to adopt such a sweeping rule in this narrow

area and if the court feels it must then this rule is not a wise one to adopt for the reasons expressed above. It is not apparent that the adoption of any such rule in this area is necessary

Wes Davis
4210 Castlemoor Dr.
Janesville, WI 53546

I support full transparency in democratic government and a fair system of checks and balances. Thus, I believe that nonpartisan interests should not be left out of any rule making or redistricting litigation decisions and that all members of the general public have a right to voice their concerns publicly and to their immediate governmental representatives.

Pammela Wright
400018 Bay Road
Swlavan, Wisconsin 53115

The rule only allowing officials and parties to comment on redistricting is undemocratic. All citizens should be able to comment.

Wanda Spraggon
2518 s 13th PL
La Crosse, WI 54601

This rule will harmfully politicize the Court, exclude nonpartisan groups from full participation, and has insufficient transparency measures. This is another way of disregarding the will of the voters. We (the voters) should be choosing our representatives. Many counties/cities have voted in favor of maps that are not gerrymandered. We (the voters) want fair maps.

James Black
11317 Beach Rd
Sister Bay, WI 54234

Wisconsin Supreme Court

Regarding Rule petition 20-10 relating to legal challenges to redistricting

To whom it may concern:

My name is James F. Black. I represent the Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist State Action Network. I live in Sister Bay, Wisconsin. I am writing in opposition to "Rule petition 20-10 relating to legal challenges to redistricting". I believe the substance of the proposals in the petition will lead to a poorly developed judicial record, a tainting of the public view of the independence of the Wisconsin judiciary, and potentially deprive Wisconsin citizens of their right to seek redress in the Wisconsin courts.

Redistricting, for an entire decade, affects the political maps of Wisconsin and has a profound impact on the democracy in the state. Justice Kavanaugh, during oral arguments, expressed that gerrymandering does serious damage to our democracy. The way to avoid gerrymandering and damage to our democracy is to fully develop the judicial record. Evidence can be fully admitted, expert testimony taken, maps and past elections studied in depth, and lower court judges can offer their legal opinion when the judicial record is fully developed. The petition proposes to exclude the lower courts from the equation. The lower courts, and not the Wisconsin Supreme Court, are the venues to develop the record for such a significant and lasting decision.

If the Wisconsin Supreme Court were to adopt a rule, which excludes the lower courts from developing the record, the citizens of Wisconsin will not see the Wisconsin Supreme Court as an independent judiciary. It will appear that the Court sought to favor one party over another. Our country has always rested on the confidence of an independent judiciary. Adopting a rule which undermines this confidence will move our country away from its origins.

The petition proposes which parties have standing to challenge redistricting maps by expressly identifying two parties to the exclusion of all others. This could be used to deny citizens of Wisconsin as individuals, or members of groups, the right to voice their opinions in court. This silencing of Wisconsin citizens further undermines the sense of an independent judiciary, a judiciary where an aggrieved citizen can seek redress.

For the above reasons I urge the Wisconsin Supreme Court to not adopt the proposed rule.

Thank you,
James F. Black, president Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist State Action Network (WUUSAN)
Sister Bay, WI 54234

Michael S Goodman
21 Maple Wood Ln, #205
Madison, WI 53704-3974

The GOP "Justices" on the WI Supreme Court are setting WI back hundreds of years!

Cheryl Yeko
W274N895 Jacquelyn Dr.
Waukesha, WI 53188

Wisconsin voters deserve a fair map so our voices are heard and our votes count.

Yvonne Hagen
1626 Kings Mill Way, 104
Madison, WI 53718

the court shouldn't allow itself to be used this way. That will only further politicize our court system and further undermine public confidence in the state Supreme Court.

Andrew Weiland
763 Ridge View Lane
Oregon, WI 53575

Keep the process as open as possible. All interested parties should have access to share their thoughts and information. Do not close the process to just one court.

Yolan Mistele
11355 Marchese Rd
Arbor Vitae, WI 54568

There is currently a petition asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to claim jurisdiction on any litigation regarding redistricting plans developed after the census 2020 results are available.

This rule change would undermine the judicial process and is harmful to the public interest. For example, it requires that political parties be heard by the Court in a dispute about new
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Ethan Young
316 6th street north
Hudson, WI 54016

No more gerrymandering. Fair maps. Fair votes. This GOP bill will hurt true democracy.

Susan Zach
415 oak road
Custer, WI 54423

We sincerely hope that our state Supreme Court will decide that the courts are not the proper jurisdiction for deciding on drawing fair maps based on the 2020 census. The Governor has set forth a process and call for establishing a Elections Commission to draw up these new maps in a fair and non-partisan way, based to a great extent on the Iowa Model.

Jeanette Kelty
2921 13th street
Monroe, WI 53566-2245

To the Wisconsin Supreme Court,

Fair voting maps, prepared in nonpartisan fashion is a must for our Democracy. Anything else is death to our Democracy. Please act now!

LaDonna Lokey
150 Highridge Ave #105
Denmark, WI 54208

The people of Wisconsin deserve fair maps and a transparent process. Nonpartisan groups deserve to be heard, not just political parties. We deserve a process that is not politicized, and that is guided by rules and accountability, the court should not take jurisdiction on all future redistricting legislation. The process of developing fair maps should not be rushed.

Helen Zealy
2460 Tru Lane
Brookfield, WI 53005

As Wisconsin moves forward with the effort to evaluate and re-cast our current electoral maps, I feel strongly that care is needed so that we reduce the politicization of the new maps. I am deeply concerned about our democracy and how divided we are as a country. Now more than ever, we need representative government and processes to assure that all people are heard. And, that our elections fairly represent the will of the people.

Please make sure that the process used to assure Wisconsin fair mapping is not rushed, is evidence based and open to input from all factions, not to mention people like me who are not in the political process. To me, this is how we assure a democracy and, is what has made this country great.

What is going on right now with the questioning of our democratic institutions and challenging of our presidential voting infrastructure is frightening to me. It seems to be driven by political factions, not the will of the majority of the people. Wisconsin needs to do better than this to assure a true democracy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Helen Zealy

Connie Zemlicka
1527 Stark St, Kewaskum WI 53040
Kewaskum, WI 53040

To the justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court: I am writing to oppose Rule Petition 20-03 because the people should be able to see proposals to changes in redistricting. Proposals should not begin at the Supreme Court but rather follow normal legal channels so that the people of Wisconsin can see and react to what is being proposed. Jumping directly to the Supreme Court makes changes a "rush job" and would appear to attempt to keep most citizens from knowing what is happening in time to react. Redistricting rule changes must work their way up from the lower courts as is the tradition in Wisconsin's open government.

Zoe Hazenson
761 Woodcrest Drive North
Hudson, WI 54016

I do not support this rule change! This does not provide a fair set of rules for everyone to play by, or an inclusive legal process that will ensure the Court has the necessary facts and viewpoints it needs to conduct an appropriate legal review.

PHYLISS ZIEGLER
2311 13TH ST
MONROE, WI 53566

I urge the members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court to allow public input on the new maps, not let a select group of Republicans or Democrats. Politicians should not get to choose their voters, we elect people to REPRESENT US not a party! This process should be transparent, open to public input, and NOT a partisan effort. We have had enough division in our state and country. I urge you not to accept the proposals being brought forward in the case by WILL.

Chris Zindorf
709 Western Avenue
Elroy, WI 53929

I am a County Supervisor and can see any reason for the crazy Maps here in Wisconsin. The Federal Courts say it is your responsibility, so step up and do the right thing for the citizens of Wisconsin. Partisan Politics have done done enough to not to follow the will of the people. Lets make far Maps something that Wisconsin can be proud of.

Suzanne Zipperer
8023 County Road Q

Manitowoc, WI 54220

I am opposed to the petition from the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court take jurisdiction over legislation regarding redistricting. As an active Wisconsin citizen who would like to participate in the political process by asking my representatives to listen to my voice, my voice has been silenced. Districts are now so gerrymandered that legislators have their seats secured and don't need to pay attention to voters. My state senator told me outright that I am "partisan" so he does not need to respond to me, yet he represents me.

No matter what party takes office, the same gerrymandering will take place. The court is not the place to correct this, nor should the process be questioned on and on in court battles. Districts should be set by a neutral task force, not members of either party (hire consultants from out of state if you have to), using clear population data, not voting data. Citizens should have a chance to help set the process and review the results. If the Supreme Court should do anything, it should direct the legislation to set up a fair, transparent, non-partisan system of setting districts. If you put this directly to voters, they would agree with me.

Wisconsin is a failed democracy. As the high court of the land, please don't take more rights away from us.

ZOE STOWERS
6292 BLACK WOLF POINT RD.
OSHKOSH, WI. 54902

I strongly oppose the Scott Jansen proposed rule sending redistricting disputes directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court rather than the Federal Courts.

I believe it's time to join many other states by establishing a nonpartisan or bipartisan redistricting Commission and take this job away from the Legislature.

Governor Evers established the Peoples Maps Commission to listen to voters and redraw district lines. This is a good first step, but I expect this Commissions maps will be ignored by the Republican Wisconsin Legislature.

Zoe Stowers
Retired Asst. District Attorney Racine County

These comments were submitted via webform. For further information, please contact Holly Bland, Fair Elections Project, at holly@fairelectionsproject.org.