

Comment on Wisconsin Supreme Rule Petition 20-03
regarding legal challenges to redistricting in Wisconsin

November 22, 2020

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.

Submitted by:



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