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

Public Comment to the WI Supreme Court

clerk@wicourts.gov

I oppose this upcoming Rule 20-03 relating to legal challenges to redistricting. The 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. The proposed 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.

Please do not rush through this very important part of democracy. I expect you will not take partisan sides. Please keep your independence and transparency as a third branch of government.

Please oppose this rule.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark M Giese