League of Women Voters
Lawsuits Review

Gerrymandering and Extraordinary Session

Status of Gerrymandering suits

• Awaiting a ruling from SCOTUS
  • North Carolina – LWVNC v Rucho
  • Maryland – Benisek v Lamone

Status of Gerrymandering suits

• Wisconsin Case (Whitford v Gill)
  • Currently in 7th Circuit
  • Recent developments

Gerrymandering → Next steps

Can't count on the courts to resolve the problem of gerrymandering
  • People need to pressure legislators to pass state legislation to fix problem of gerrymandering
  • Watch for stand alone bill being introduced in the next week or two

Gerrymandering → Next steps

• Continue education and awareness campaigns:
  • 72% of people support fair maps
  • 46 counties passed resolutions supporting fair maps
Status of Extraordinary Session lawsuit

• Dane County Circuit court ruled in favor of plaintiffs
• While in Appeals Court, all parties agreed to have case go to WI Supreme Court without an Appeals Court ruling to expedite process. Supreme Court agrees.
• This morning, Supreme Court heard arguments.

Status of Extraordinary Session lawsuit

Arguments of the case

• WI Constitution does not authorize Legislature to call itself in extraordinary session.
• This is not how it’s always been done.
• To rule against December 2018 extraordinary session will NOT nullify every bill passed in prior extraordinary sessions.
• Chaos will not break out.
• All agree, the Legislature is a co-equal branch of the government (but shouldn’t be in session all the time and shouldn’t give and take powers because of election outcomes).

Status of Extraordinary Session lawsuit

What’s at stake?
• Upholding the Constitution
• Check on power
• Governing with fairness and integrity
• Restoring public trust

Ruling expected anytime between next week and the end of June.

Watch for updates online. Connect with LWVWI:

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