



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Rep. Kessler Statement on Redistricting Decision

(MADISON) - State Representative Frederick Kessler (D-Milwaukee) issued the following statement today in response to the federal district court ruling requiring the state to redraw legislative district boundaries:

“Today’s decision by the federal court is in keeping with what those of us who brought this case forward knew all along – Wisconsin’s legislative boundaries were deliberately drawn by the Republican majority to disenfranchise as many Democratic voters as possible while allowing Republicans to maintain their majority status for at least a decade.”

“It was a blatantly partisan gerrymander. The court heard evidence, and was convinced, that it was one of the worst such maps in the entire country. Further damning the Republican efforts to draw such a map and have it pass constitutional muster was the ample evidence brought forth in trial that showed they had drafted far less partisan maps...but decided to go as far as they could in their final version.”

“Nearly two years ago, I brought together a small group of people who felt the same way I did about these maps. We began working on ideas to bring to light the incredibly partisan efforts by Republicans to leave Democrats without a voice in the Legislature. We were able to attract the attention of some very prominent lawyers and law professors who volunteered their time to help our efforts.”

“I am incredibly grateful for the help of everyone involved in this lawsuit, including Sachin Chheda, Attorneys Peter Earle, Richard Saks, James Hall, and Ruth Greenwood, University of Chicago Law Professor Nicholas Stephanopoulos, and former University of Wisconsin Law Professor William Whitford, for not only bringing this case forward, but providing the federal court with evidence of what this incredibly offensive partisan gerrymander has done and would continue to do for fair representation.”

“This decision is likely to be a landmark case, with the federal court accepting a bench-line formula for determining unconstitutional partisan gerrymanders.”

“I am proud of my work on this case and thankful for the help of so many others. I am even more grateful for the court’s understanding of the importance of this issue and reasoned awareness in reaching its decision.”

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