



Law Forward Inc.
P.O. Box 326
Madison, WI 53703-0326

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Patrick Guarasci, (608) 692-0195

**LAW FORWARD REPRESENTS MEMBERS OF THE WISCONSIN VOTING RIGHTS COALITION
IN LAST-MINUTE STATE SUPREME COURT CHALLENGE TO ABSENTEE VOTING**

MADISON, WI. APRIL 1, 2021 – Today members of the Wisconsin Voting Rights Coalition, represented by Law Forward, asked the State Supreme Court to reject a petition to change absentee voting requirements days before the April 6th Spring election. The Petition for an Original Action in *Fabick v. Wisconsin Elections Commission* requests the Court take emergency action, bypassing trial and intermediate appellate courts.

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Souls to the Polls Alliance, Disability Rights Wisconsin, Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, and Wisconsin Conservation Voices, Law Forward argues that with absentee voting well underway, any action by the Court this close to the election would undermine voting rights. Fabick's delay in raising these issues (several of which were already litigated after the November election) is inexcusable. His challenge asks the Court to ban the use of drop boxes, stop local clerks from curing missing witness address information on returned ballot envelopes, and prevent neighbors or others from assisting a voter by returning their sealed absentee ballot to the clerk.

The spring election is already underway. Election officials have mailed nearly 400,000 absentee ballots to voters with instructions on how to return them by mail or through other means, and approximately 154,000 have already been returned. **Changing the rules now risks disenfranchising these voters who have already returned their ballots.**

As Law Forward explains in its brief, if Fabick wished to challenge existing absentee voting laws,

he should have brought this challenge long ago. Indeed, many of the issues Fabick raises were aired before this Court last fall; if Fabick was disappointed that the Court did not reach the merits of those issues, he could have promptly raised them in a circuit court filing, and he would likely have resolution by now. A prompt filing to adjudicate these issues under regular order would have allowed the judiciary time to properly evaluate the relevant facts and the law. And it would not have pressed this Court to change Wisconsin's voting rules—or even entertain this issue at all—in the middle of a statewide election.

This last-minute legal challenge to established election procedures is part of a pattern to undermine voting rights in the State of Wisconsin. Law Forward will continue to fight for a functioning democracy where all can make their voices heard.

See the brief filed by the six organizations [here](#). Stafford Rosenbaum LLP served as co-counsel in this case.

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Law Forward is a non-profit law firm focused on protecting and advancing democracy in Wisconsin. We use impact litigation, the administrative process, and public education to protect Wisconsin's fundamental democratic principles, and revive Wisconsin's traditional commitment to clean and open government. Learn more about our work at LawForward.org.