



Arnold & Porter



For Immediate Release
February 19, 2024

Contact: Stephanie Miller
Media@lawforward.org

VICTORY: Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers Signs Fair, Constitutional State Legislative Maps Into Law Before 2024 Election

Madison, WI – Today, in a historic victory for Wisconsin voters, Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers signed into law Wisconsin’s first non-gerrymandered maps in over a decade. They ensure that Wisconsinites will vote in constitutional state legislative districts in time for the 2024 election. According to the analysis of the Court’s neutral consultants, respected leaders in their field, these maps meet constitutional requirements and are politically neutral. This means, for the first time since 2011, Wisconsin voters will have a meaningful say in who controls the statehouse.

Today’s development follows the Wisconsin Supreme Court’s [momentous decision](#) last December striking down Wisconsin’s non-contiguous state legislative maps as unconstitutional.

That decision stemmed from a [lawsuit](#) brought in August 2023 by the nonpartisan Campaign Legal Center (CLC) alongside Law Forward, the Election Law Clinic at Harvard Law School, Stafford Rosenbaum LLP, and Arnold & Porter on behalf of individual Wisconsin voters who were harmed by the unconstitutional state legislative maps.

“For thirteen years, Wisconsinites suffered under unfair and unconstitutional maps – but today, that changes,” said **Mark Gaber, senior director of redistricting at Campaign Legal Center and a native Wisconsinite**. “The adopted maps represent a massive win for democracy, respect communities, and give a voice to Wisconsinites who have been silenced for far too long by gerrymandered maps deliberately designed to drown them out. These maps give *all* Wisconsinites – no matter where they live in the state or which party they support – a fair shot to make their voice heard in 2024.”

After the December 22, 2023 decision striking down the state legislative maps, parties were given a deadline of January 12, 2024 to submit map proposals. On February 13, the Wisconsin State Legislature voted to adopt the maps proposed to the Court by Governor Tony Evers without any changes and, today, he signed them into law.



Arnold & Porter



Rebecca Clarke, an environmental educator and Sheboygan County Supervisor, works to protect our state’s natural resources despite consistent decreases in state funding. Twice a candidate for State Assembly, Rebecca knows the frustration of running for office in a gerrymandered district. **Ruben Anthony**, the President and CEO of the Greater Madison Urban League, is an advocate and champion for civil rights and BIPOC empowerment, which have been under constant attack by our state legislature. **Ann Groves-Lloyd**, City of Lodi Mayor, educator, and long-time progressive activist, understands the positive role functioning government can have on people’s everyday lives. Ann is frustrated by the legislature’s refusal to take federal Medicaid expansion money, lack of support for childcare providers, inaction on marijuana legalization and stripping local control. **Tia Johnson**, Beloit School Board member and small business owner, has been outraged by the real cuts to public school funding and the onslaught of misinformation about curriculum. **Nathaniel Slack**, organic farm inspector and educator, resents the legislature’s unwillingness to overturn Wisconsin’s 1849 abortion ban that endangered his wife’s life when she miscarried and was refused medical treatment.

From Superior to Racine and Viroqua to Appleton, the petitioners in the *Clarke v. Wisconsin Election Commission* redistricting lawsuit represent the diversity of our state - Black, Brown, Native, white; parents, students, educators, local elected officials, business people, non-profit leaders, and even a riverboat captain. They brought this suit because they share one fundamental value – elections should reflect the will of the people, not of politicians who rig maps to their advantage.

“Wisconsin is indebted to the 19 voters who bravely took a stand and acted, breaking the gerrymander that has stifled voters’ voices for the past 13 years,” said Dan Lenz, Staff Counsel for Law Forward. “Our clients now have a real chance to enact the change they have been working towards. For democracy to work for us all it must include us all, and this important effort ensures our elected representatives represent us instead of trying to rule over us. Today’s win builds on the decade of litigation and organizing work for fair maps in Wisconsin and is a credit to the team including the Campaign Legal Center, the Election Law Clinic at Harvard Law School, Stafford Rosenbaum, Arnold and Porter and Law Forward.”

Thirteen years ago, Wisconsin lawmakers, behind closed doors and in defiance of the state constitution, drew new district lines that essentially guaranteed one-party GOP control of the legislature. In 2021 the Legislature’s proposed districts, which were ultimately adopted, increased the partisan skew of the 2011 maps and perpetuated blatantly noncontiguous legislative districts. December’s decision struck those down – and today’s development ensures Wisconsin voters will have the opportunity to vote under fair maps in 2024.



Arnold & Porter



More details about the case can be found [here](#).

###

[Law Forward](#) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that uses impact litigation to protect and advance democracy. Law Forward stands for a commitment to fair, transparent and representative government; where Wisconsinites can participate in free, fair elections where their vote counts.

[Stafford Rosenbaum LLP](#) is a full-service law firm with two convenient office locations in Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Over 140 years of dedication to businesses, governments, nonprofits, and individuals has proven that effective client communication continues to be the heart of our practice.

The nonpartisan [Campaign Legal Center](#) advances democracy through law at the federal, state and local levels, fighting for every American's rights to responsive government and a fair opportunity to participate in and affect the democratic process.

The [Election Law Clinic at Harvard Law School \(ELC\)](#) is a nonpartisan law firm that works to train the next generation of election lawyers through litigation and advocacy that bring novel academic ideas to the practice of election law. It aims to build power for voters, not politicians, and recognizes that the struggle for voting rights is a struggle for racial justice. ELC is led by an experienced team of voting rights attorneys and includes around 30 students each year.

[Arnold & Porter](#) combines sophisticated regulatory, litigation, and transactional capabilities to resolve clients' most complex issues. With over 1,000 lawyers practicing in 14 offices worldwide, we offer deep industry experience and an integrated approach that spans more than 40 practice areas. Through multidisciplinary collaboration and focused industry experience, we provide innovative and effective solutions to mitigate risks, address challenges, and achieve successful outcomes.