



March 24, 2022

*Via Email & Hand Delivery*

Sheila T. Reiff  
Clerk of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals  
110 East Main Street, Suite 215  
Madison, WI 53703

**RE: *Johnson v. Wisconsin Elections Commission*, No. 2021AP1450-OA –  
Letter from Intervenor-Petitioners Black Leaders Organizing for  
Communities, et al., in Response to the March 23, 2022 Order of the United  
States Supreme Court Reversing and Remanding State Legislative Maps**

Dear Ms. Reiff:

The undersigned counsel represent Black Leaders Organizing for Communities, Voces de la Frontera, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Cindy Fallona, Lauren Stephenson, and Rebecca Alwin, Intervenor-Petitioners (collectively the “BLOC Petitioners”) in the referenced action. On March 23, 2022, the United States Supreme Court issued an order reversing this Court’s March 3, 2022 opinion and order with respect to the legislative maps portion of this Court’s decision in *Johnson v. Wis. Elections Comm’n*, 2022 WI 14, \_\_ Wis. 2d \_\_, \_\_ N.W. 2d \_\_, and remanding for further proceedings. *Wis. Legislature, et al. v. Wis. Elections Comm’n, et al.*, 595 U.S. \_\_ at 2 (2022). BLOC Petitioners write to respectfully propose procedures for further action by the Court on remand.

Given the imminent nature of Wisconsin’s elections and the relevant statutory deadlines for their administration,<sup>1</sup> it is critical that this Court act quickly to remedy the

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<sup>1</sup> See Letter Briefs of Wisconsin Elections Commission dated March 9, 2022 and March 14, 2022 in this case, reiterating WEC’s position that maps need to be in place by “March 1, 2022, in order to enable staff of the Wisconsin Elections Commission to timely and effectively administer Wisconsin’s next scheduled

(once-again) unconstitutionally malapportioned state legislative districts. BLOC Petitioners have reviewed the proposed procedure for remand suggested by the Governor in a submission earlier today, and believe that it is appropriate in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's order. While the record before this Court contains a wealth of evidence supporting the need for seven Black opportunity Assembly districts in order to comply with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, the parties should be permitted to supplement the record with additional evidence demonstrating that the maps selected by this Court, the Governor's state Assembly and Senate plans, comply with the Voting Rights Act in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling.

If this Court concludes that changes to the seven Voting Rights Act district configuration proposed by the Governor may be required, BLOC Petitioners suggest that the Court use the Governor's proposed Assembly plan, which this Court already held most closely adhere to the "least-change" approach under Wisconsin law, as a base map. The Court could then invite the parties to submit proposed alterations to the Milwaukee-area Voting Rights Act districts only in this base map. This procedure would keep with remedial principles as well as minimize the impact on election officials and candidates who have *already begun preparations* under the plans imposed by this Court earlier this month. The U.S. Supreme Court's order addresses and identifies *only* this Court's analysis of the Voting Rights Act as its basis for reversing this Court's March 3 opinion and order, and leaves untouched this Court's application of the "least-change" approach under Wisconsin law, which controls the vast majority of the Assembly districts across the state.

Sincerely,



Mel Barnes, SBN 1096012  
LAW FORWARD, INC.  
P.O. Box 326

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congressional and state legislative election" and noting that the WEC has already begun to implement the maps adopted by this Court.

Madison, WI 53703-0326  
mbarnes@lawforward.org  
608.535.9808

Douglas M. Poland, SBN 1055189  
Jeffrey A. Mandell, SBN 1100406  
Colin T. Roth, SBN 1103985  
Rachel E. Snyder, SBN 1090427  
Richard A. Manthe, SBN 1099199  
Carly Gerads, SBN 1106808  
STAFFORD ROSENBAUM LLP  
222 West Washington Avenue, Suite 900  
P.O. Box 1784  
Madison, WI 53701-1784  
dpoland@staffordlaw.com  
jmandell@staffordlaw.com  
croth@staffordlaw.com  
rsnyder@staffordlaw.com  
rmanthe@staffordlaw.com  
608.256.0226

Mark P. Gaber\*  
Christopher Lamar\*  
Simone T. Leeper\*  
CAMPAIGN LEGAL CENTER  
1101 14th St. NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20005  
mgaber@campaignlegalcenter.org  
clamar@campaignlegalcenter.org  
sleeper@campaignlegalcenter.org  
202.736.2200

Annabelle Harless\*  
CAMPAIGN LEGAL CENTER  
55 W. Monroe St., Ste. 1925  
Chicago, IL 60603  
aharless@campaignlegalcenter.org  
202.736.2200

*\*Admitted pro hac vice*

*Attorneys for Intervenor-Petitioners, Black Leaders Organizing for Communities, Voces de la Frontera, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Cindy Fallona, Lauren Stephenson, and Rebecca Alwin*

**Cc:**

***By Email***

*All counsel of record*