URGENT! ACT IMMEDIATELY. THE COMMITTEE IS MEETING TODAY AT 10:00 AM!

Pennsylvania's legislative leaders are working to extend gerrymandering to the judiciary!

The proposed constitutional amendment would empower our state legislature to create judicial districts for PA higher courts. Candidates for Supreme Court and other appeals courts would be elected by voters in these newly created districts rather than running statewide.

A committee vote is scheduled for today at 10:00 AM.
Act by 9:00 AM!

We cannot allow this bill (HB 38) to pass in the upcoming legislative session. If it passes, we will have to fight it at the ballot box, a much heavier lift and harder fight. Take action to stop this bill from moving forward.

Click here to send an email to a Pennsylvania legislator!

The proposed judicial district amendment would undermine constitutional checks and balances among our branches of state government and open the door to a new, unprecedented version of gerrymandering. No other state allows legislators as much power in drawing judicial districts.

The bill was pushed through with just minutes spent in discussion in both House and Senate committees. No public hearings. No expert testimony. No hint of due diligence.

It is not lost on us that one constitutional amendment with no public support is rushed through while the one to end legislative and congressional gerrymandering (which had lots of public & municipal government support) was ignored.

PA voters have been very clear:
Gerrymandering by our legislature must end.

It undermines judicial independence

Constitutional checks and balances are only possible if judges can carry out their work without fear of retribution from legislators.

It mis-states the relationship between judges and PA public

The summary of the bill states "It organizes the Judiciary into representative districts and further provides for residency requirements." Judges, unlike legislators, are NOT expected to represent constituents. Their role is to interpret the law.

It values location over expertise

PA has hundreds of local judicial races. Judges in PA’s highest courts should be chosen for their high level of experience and competence, not based on where they live.

What's Wrong with Judicial Districts?
Why Fair Districts PA OPPOSES House Bill 38

This bill is exactly the opposite of what PA voters asked for

PA voters have demonstrated significant support for an independent citizens redistricting commission. Bills to amend the constitution to accomplish that never got a vote. This bill has no documented public support yet moved quickly through the PA legislature. PA voters want to know WHY.

The bill was passed with no public deliberation

This amendment to the PA constitution passed in both chambers without public hearings, without expert testimony, without any hint of due diligence or transparent response to concerns or objections.

It opens the door to judicial gerrymandering

Judicial districts would be drawn with the same secretive, partisan process that has yielded some of the nation’s most gerrymandered districts. PA voters want less gerrymandering, not more.

Only nine states continue to elect appellate judges in partisan elections. Only two states (Illinois & Louisiana) elect Supreme Court judges in partisan district elections. Even those do not allow legislators a free hand in regularly redrawing those districts.

Pennsylvania's judicial district bill would pioneer new lows in partisan gerrymandering

Say "NO" to judicial gerrymandering!