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Michigan League of Women Voters and Michigan voters file federal lawsuit to end gerrymandering in Michigan

Lawsuit seeks to end unfair, partisan gerrymandering of Michigan legislative and Congressional districts

LANSING – The **League of Women Voters of Michigan** and 11 individual voters today filed a lawsuit against the State of Michigan in federal court in Detroit to end unfair, partisan gerrymandering of Michigan’s Congressional, state senate and state house districts.

“The Michigan League of Women Voters today filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of voters throughout Michigan to end the practice of unfair, partisan gerrymandering,” said **Judy Karandjeff**, president of the **Michigan League of Women Voters**. “Michigan’s State House, Senate and Congressional districts are among the worst in the nation when it comes to partisan gerrymandering, and today’s lawsuit aims to fix the problem and restore voters’ rights to choose who best represents them.”

The lawsuit was filed against Secretary of State **Ruth Johnson** in federal court today, and clearly lays out the problem with partisan gerrymandering in Michigan:

- ✓ Michigan’s current electoral maps were drawn in a secretive partisan process with little discussion or debate before being quickly passed through the Legislature.
- ✓ Despite Democrats’ regularly winning a majority of the votes in State House, State Senate and Congressional elections, they hold a minority – sometimes a super-minority – of the seats, a direct result of partisan gerrymandering.
- ✓ Objective analysis demonstrates that the current, gerrymandered Michigan districting plans systematically crack and pack Democratic voters.

“Ending partisan gerrymandering is critical to preserve our democracy and ensure every vote counts,” said **Sue Smith**, director of the League’s Redistricting Program. “For too long, Michigan voters’ rights have been harmed as a result of partisan gerrymandering.”

The lawsuit asks the federal court to declare the current districts to be unconstitutional partisan gerrymanders and to ensure that the districts are redrawn in a fair fashion.

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