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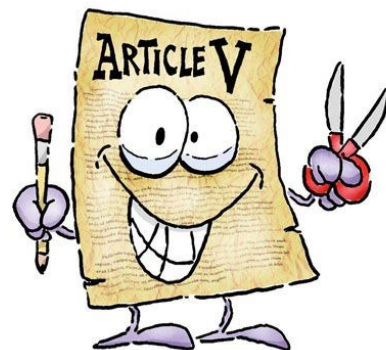
Oppose New "Article V" Scheme

Dear Friend,

One of the parts of my job I enjoy the most is testifying at the State Capitol.

And that's where I was on the afternoon of October 3 to testify against the latest far-right scheme to amend the U.S. Constitution via an "Article V" Convention of the States.

This particular scheme is foolishly aimed at tying the federal government's fiscal hands, imposing term limits on all federal officials (including judges), and limiting "the power and jurisdiction of the federal government." While we oppose all three of those pushes, it's the latter one that is most concerning because it's so broad and so vague. It invites a total rewrite of our Constitution because just about everything in the Constitution deals with the power and jurisdiction of the federal government.



As Sen. Lena Taylor eloquently pointed out when she questioned the authors, Sen. Tom Tiffany and Rep. Dan Knodl, it was the power and jurisdiction of the federal government that abolished slavery and, through the Civil Rights Acts, protected the rights of African Americans. She warned that there's nothing to stop delegates at a Convention of the States from trying to take our fundamental rights away.

This latest effort is the brainchild of none other than Eric O'Keefe, who was embroiled in the John Doe II scandal with Scott Walker. And it's backed by some of the leaders of the far right, including Pete Coors, James Dobson, Mark Levin, and Sarah Palin.

Please contact your legislators and urge them to vote no on this effort—Senate Joint Resolution 57 and Assembly Joint Resolution 77. Call the toll-free legislative hotline at 800-362-9472 (266-9960 in Madison).

Thanks for taking action on this reckless resolution!

Matt

Koch Targets Schachtner

In September, the Koch-backed Americans for Prosperity announced that it was going door-to-door in the district of freshman Democratic State Sen. Patty Schachtner, who is up for reelection next year in a traditionally Republican district. The group is passing out leaflets portraying Schachtner as an opponent of tax cuts.

Last year, Americans for Prosperity spent \$87,500 to attack Schachtner and to support her Republican opponent. Schachtner managed to pull off a surprising victory in a tight race to replace longtime

Republican State Sen. Sheila Harsdorf.

Americans for Prosperity is one of the biggest spenders in Wisconsin's elections. It has spent more than \$14 million on electioneering for Republicans over the last 10 years. By the way, the group also announced that it would be going door-to-door to talk to the constituents of GOP Sen. Dan Feyen, of Fond du Lac, and Republican Rep. Shannon Zimmerman, of River Falls, and to shower praise upon them. In 2016, Americans for Prosperity spent about \$85,000 to help elect Feyen to an open seat, and about \$11,000 in the 2018 fall elections to support Zimmerman's close reelection.

Good News on Gerrymandering!

In September, Sheboygan County became the 48th county to pass a board resolution urging the state legislature to adopt nonpartisan redistricting. That means that two-thirds of counties in Wisconsin are now in favor of banning gerrymandering in Wisconsin and adopting the so-called Iowa Model.

We're playing a key role in the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition, including writing up a handy toolkit for activists. Here's an excerpt:

Ten Talking Points to End Gerrymandering in Wisconsin

- 1. The Founders of our country fought the War of Independence over fair representation.** Gerrymandering deprives Wisconsinites of fair representation.
- 2. The health of our democracy depends on the integrity and fairness of our election system.** The more rigged the system is, the more cynical and apathetic the citizenry will become.
- 3. Wisconsinites believe in fair play.** Wisconsinites, across the political spectrum, want to ban gerrymandering. A Marquette Law School poll showed that 72 percent of Wisconsinites want fair, nonpartisan redistricting – and that includes 63 percent of Republicans and 76 percent of Independents.
- 4. If you're sick of the hyper-partisanship in Madison, you should be in favor of banning gerrymandering.** By creating "safe" districts, gerrymandering increases partisanship. The elected official needs to only appeal to the base and can ignore a huge chunk of his or her district. And if the official dares to compromise, the party leaders can "primary" that elected official for being insufficiently partisan. Wouldn't it be better to incentivize decent compromise and civility instead of bullying and rudeness?
- 5. Yes, the Democrats had a chance to fix this back in 2009 and they didn't do it.** Democrats did hold a hearing on banning gerrymandering, but their leaders

wouldn't bring it to a vote. They thought they'd win in 2010 and could rig the map in their own favor. And that's the point: No party – not the Democrats, not the Republicans—should be able to rig the maps!

6. The partisan legal challenges cost the Wisconsin taxpayers a lot of money! When one party engages in gerrymandering, and the other party sues, it's the Wisconsin taxpayer who foots the bill. The legal wrangling over the 2011 gerrymander cost the Wisconsin taxpayer upwards of \$4 million.

7. No, the career civil servants at the Legislative Reference Bureau, who would be drawing the maps under the Iowa Model, couldn't rig them. The redistricting bills specifically forbid them from using political demographic data in drawing the maps or in showing other kinds of favoritism. If they tried to do this, they'd be prosecuted.

8. Nonpartisan redistricting is transparent and inclusive. The Iowa Model and the current reform bills require public hearings about the maps in every Congressional district in the state. It won't be a secretive, behind-locked-doors process in Madison.

9. Critics would have you believe that Democrats are underrepresented in the Legislature because they pack themselves into Dane and Milwaukee Counties, not because of gerrymandering. There are two persuasive rebuttals to this: First, in 2011, Republican leaders went way out of their way to rig district lines far away from Madison and Milwaukee. And second, Republican voters also pack themselves in the WOW Counties (Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Washington) and many rural counties. The problem isn't with where you live. It's with the manipulative ways that political leaders draw lines around where you live.

10. Wisconsin is falling behind other states. And not just Iowa. In the last year, Colorado, Michigan, Missouri, and Utah have adopted a fair maps process. Do we really want to be way behind Missouri and Utah?

Ships Ahoy!

A northern Wisconsin shipbuilder contributed \$15,000 to a group that helps elect Democratic governors shortly before Democratic Gov. Tony Evers announced a plan for \$31 million in state support to help the company expand.

Fincantieri Marinette Marine made the contribution on Jan. 2 to the Democratic Governors Association (DGA). This appears to be the company's only contribution to the DGA. About three weeks later, Evers said he would include \$31 million in state bonding in his proposed 2019-21 state budget to help the company expand its shipyard. Evers and the GOP-controlled legislature ultimately approved a state budget this summer that gives up to \$31 million in state grants to Marinette Marine. Last year, the DGA spent an estimated \$13,450,000 through a state group it created called A Stronger Wisconsin to support Evers, who defeated former GOP Gov. Scott Walker.

Watch Your Policy!

The insurance industry is backing bills that cut the number of days of advanced notice that insurers are required to give policy holders about premium increases. The measures, Senate Bill 289 and Assembly Bill 305, were introduced by Sen. Dave Craig (R-Big Bend), and Rep. Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma), who owns an insurance company – CIS Insurance Group.

Current law requires insurers to give 60 days prior notice to policyholders before offering to renew policies on less favorable terms or with a premium increase of at least 25 percent. The bills would reduce the 60-day time frame to 45 days for personal property and casualty policies. The bills have bipartisan support from co-sponsors Sens. Janet Bewley (D-Mason) and Patricia Schachtner (D-Somerset); and Rep. Steve Doyle (D-Onalaska).

American Family, State Farm, and Sentry, as well as industry trade and lobbying groups like the Wisconsin Insurance Alliance, are backing the bills. The insurance industry gave more than \$1.9 million in individual, corporate and political action committee contributions to current legislators between January 2011 and July 2018. More than \$1.5 million, or about 80 percent, of those contributions went to Republicans who control the Assembly and Senate. Top recipients were:

Republican Assembly Campaign Committee, \$267,525
Committee to Elect a Republican Senate, \$256,222
State Senate Democratic Committee, \$125,699
Assembly Democratic Campaign Committee, \$112,478
GOP Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, \$94,721

Felzkowski has received about \$29,900 in contributions from the insurance industry. Craig received \$11,060.

For his part, Evers received about \$8,000 in contributions from the industry between January 2011 and July 2018.

Influence Peddlers

The winner of our Influence Peddler of the Month Award for September goes to **Marsy's Law for Wisconsin**. In less than three years lobbying in Wisconsin, it has scored a rare legislative feat and put a proposed amendment to Wisconsin's Constitution to a vote by state residents.

The group is the state arm of Marsy's Law for All, a California-based organization that has pushed state constitutional amendments around the country to enshrine specific rights for crime victims in state constitutions.

Marsy's Law for Wisconsin ranked third in lobby spending for the first half of 2019 and third in lobby spending for the 2017-18 legislative session among about 800 lobbying groups, the Wisconsin Ethics Commission said. It has spent a total of about \$1.6 million on lobbying.

The national group, Marsy's Law for All, showed up in Wisconsin in late 2016. A year later, it formed a state chapter based in Madison called Marsy's Law for Wisconsin and hired five lobbyists and persuaded the legislature to pass the proposed constitutional amendment for the first time.

The state group went on to spend nearly \$1.2 million on lobbying in the entire 2017-18 legislative session, and another \$384,500 in the first six months of 2019. In May 2019, the measure was approved a second time and put on the April 2020 ballot.

The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign testified against Marsy's Law because it would shred the Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which states: "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right ... to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor..."

By contrast, Marsy's Law says that victims shall be entitled "to refuse an interview, deposition, or other discovery request made by the accused or any person acting on behalf of the accused."

Please vote *no* on this referendum in April.



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Fair Maps For Wisconsin Summit

Pick your politicians... don't let them pick you

November 9, 2019

Marshfield, WI

Come to the Fair Maps Summit!

On **Saturday, Nov. 9 in Marshfield**, there's going to be an exciting summit on banning gerrymandering in Wisconsin. Speakers include our own Matt Rothschild, along with other leading voices, statewide and national, on this issue. There will also be workshops on how to bird-dog and lobby your elected officials, how to recruit volunteers, how to educate and inspire voters, and how to use the media. We hope you can make it! It's at the Hotel Marshfield. For more information and to register, go to www.fairmaps4wisummit.com.

The Giving Season

As the giving season approaches, we hope you'll remember to give to the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign so we can keep pushing hard on pro-democracy reforms like banning gerrymandering. In fact, you can get a head start by sending in a tax-deductible donation in the envelope that's included in this newsletter.

Thanks for your support!