



# DAVE MURPHY

State Representative • 56th Assembly District

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## **For Immediate Release**

**January 22, 2015**

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## **Rep. Murphy Supports Constitutional Amendment to Elect Chief Justice**

(Madison)...State Representative Dave Murphy (R-Greenville) voted today to pass a proposed Constitutional Amendment allowing the Wisconsin Supreme Court members to elect their own Chief Justice.

The Chief Justice is currently chosen solely on seniority and all justices serve ten year terms. “It is far more democratic to allow the justices to elect their own Chief Justice to lead the court, and it ensures that other criteria such as merit and leadership skills are considered, too,” stated Murphy.

“Only four other states use seniority to choose the Chief Justice, while 23 states allow the selection of the Chief Justice by an election of their peers. It is clear that in practice, across the country, election is the favored choice,” Murphy said.

A 2011 poll by 20/20 Insight Polling found that 62% of respondents favor allowing the Chief Justice to be elected by peers rather than seniority.

Amendments to the Wisconsin State Constitution must pass both houses of two consecutive legislatures and then be ratified by the citizens through a referendum.

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**The 56<sup>th</sup> district includes parts of the City of Appleton, the Village of Winneconne, and the Towns of Dale, Grand Chute, Greenville, Poygan, Vinland, Winchester, Winneconne, and Wolf River.**