



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Special Session Needed on Election Reform

Constitutional Amendment to eliminate Supreme Court elections in Wisconsin deserves vote

MADISON – State Representative Frederick P. Kessler (D-Milwaukee) is calling on Governor Doyle to include in any future Special Session call a constitutional amendment that gives the governor appointment authority for Justices of the Supreme Court.

“I was extremely disappointed with the result of the election of the Supreme Court yesterday. It appears that special interests again were able to determine the outcome and focus the campaign on issues that had been distorted. Political campaigns for the Supreme Court appear now to not be run on the merits but instead at the behest of special interests with hidden agendas.”

For the Supreme Court to be respected justices must have decisional independence. The Constitutional Amendment provides that the Governor would appoint Supreme Court Justices, subject to a 10-year term with confirmation by the State Senate and automatic reappointment unless 21 Senators vote not to confirm. This allows decisional independence but still provides a method of removal for those involved in scandal or for judges who fail to perform their work.

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