



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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REP. GARY HEBL'S STATEMENT ON REDISTRICTING LAWSUIT

(MADISON) –State Rep. Gary Hebl (D-Sun Prairie) today celebrated yesterday's decision by a panel of federal judges to block the partisan district lines that Republicans drew up in secret several years ago.

"Today's decision is a clear victory for voters and voting rights," Hebl said. "The Republicans in the legislature drew these partisan lines in secret and without any outside input with one goal in mind; to protect their majority. At the end of the day, they decided it was better to let legislators choose their voters instead of the other way around."

The judges came to the conclusion that the lines that were drawn have the effect of disenfranchising voters. Because Republicans drew such heavily partisan districts, it effectively nullifies votes from opposing parties. For example, in 2012 Democrats received 1.4 million votes in State Assembly races compared to 1.2 million votes for Republicans. Yet, despite receiving about 200,000 fewer votes, Republicans came away with a 60-39 majority of Assembly seats.

"I'm encouraged that the federal court has blocked this partisan gerrymander," Hebl continued. "Though I'm certain the Walker administration will appeal, I am hopeful that the higher courts will uphold this decision and we can return Wisconsin to a fair system of voting for our representatives."

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