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### **Supreme Court's Indecision Is Latest Chapter in Fight for Fair Maps**

On June 18, the long awaited Supreme Court case *Gill v. Whitford* reached its next stage, a decision that few saw coming. The case, dealing with Wisconsin's partisan-drawn legislative maps, was expected to be either affirmed by the court, therefore striking down the partisan maps, or overturned, which would keep the partisan maps in place. Instead, the court sent the case back to the lower courts, saying that the plaintiffs did not show that they had the standing to bring the case in the first place, and they would have to prove that in the lower court first before the Supreme Court could rule on the merits.

The case is far from over, but it signals that in the meantime Wisconsin is stuck with extremely partisan legislative maps. These maps were built with the explicit purpose of keeping the majority party in power. When legislators are more concerned with creating maps that keep them in power than with creating maps that accurately reflect and represent the makeup of Wisconsin residents, something must change.

After redistricting occurred in 2011, we were left with only a handful of competitive legislative seats. Democrats were packed into a small number of (noncompetitive) districts, so that even if they were to win all of the competitive seats they would still likely be in the minority. The majority party is spread out into more districts that have closer elections, but ones they can still win with comfortable enough margins that they need not truly worry about the outcomes.

This is not a phenomenon that is strictly one sided. Democratic majorities in states like Illinois and Maryland have engaged in partisan gerrymandering as well. Non-partisan district drawing will ensure fair representation throughout the country. It remains clear that Wisconsin must institute non-partisan redistricting. With an approach that is uninfluenced by political agendas, we can ensure that elections are fair and that legislators represent their constituencies.

Despite a setback in the Supreme Court, the case is still very much alive. I remain hopeful that, despite the Supreme Court punting the case back down to the lower courts, in the end the case will succeed and we will see a new era of fair maps in Wisconsin, and fair representation for everyone throughout the country.

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