



**Tom Barrett**  
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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Last Friday, a three-judge panel ruled the redistricting lawsuit filed by two former democratic lawmakers and others can go forward. The panel based its decision on a 1983 federal court decision which found Wisconsin had disenfranchised 173,976 voters by postponing their ability to vote. The current lawsuit claims the rights of 300,000 voters would be compromised by the redistricting.

Late yesterday, Republican legislators suggested Wisconsin conduct the recall elections in the newly-drawn districts, essentially starting a race with the Federal Court and ignoring it's decision of just last week.

***In response, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett released the following statement:***

“Yesterday’s comments by Republican legislators fly in the face of the Federal Court and suggest rushing ahead with elections in districts that could potentially be deemed unconstitutional.

“The three-judge panel ruled the governor and the legislature ignored the existence of the United States Constitution Supremacy Clause and clearly the court is concerned with the disenfranchisement of 300,000 voters.

“Those in power are trying to exploit their authority for their own self interest. And the problem is that it comes at the expense of the interests of the citizens of the state.

“More than a year ago, when it was still unclear which party would have the majority, I called for an independent commission to take the lead in drawing up the new districts.

“It was a good idea then and remains the fairest solution to our redistricting obligations.

“Legislators manipulating the boundaries of their legislative districts in a power grab is the kind of behavior that prompts people to lose faith in our elected institutions. There is every reason to think that elected officials are acting in their own selfish interests rather than representing the people’s interest.”