STATE OF WISCONSIN

IN SUPREME COURT

Case No. 2025AP0996-OA

ELIZABETH BOTHFELD, JO ELLEN BURKE, MARY COLLINS, CHARLENE GAEBLER-UHING, PAUL HAYES, SALLY HUCK, TOM KLOOSTERBOER, ELIZABETH LUDEMAN, and LINDA WEAVER,

Petitioners,

v.

WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION; DON MILLIS, ROBERT F. SPINDELL, JR., MARGE BOSTELMANN, ANN S. JACOBS, MARK L. THOMSEN, and CARRIE RIEPL, in their official capacities as members of the Wisconsin Elections Commission; and MEAGAN WOLFE, in her official capacity as the administrator of the Wisconsin Elections Commission,

Respondents.

RESPONSE OF WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION AND ITS COMMISSIONERS AND ADMINISTRATOR TO PETITION FOR LEAVE TO COMMENCE AN ORGINAL ACTION

Respondents respond to the petition for leave to commence an original action as follows:

The Commission is responsible for administering elections. *See generally* Wis. Stat. ch. 5–10, 12. In fulfilling that duty, the Commission has no role or interest in determining where congressional district boundaries are located. Accordingly, the Commission takes no position on the merits of the claims in the petition for leave to commence an original action.

The Commission's primary concern is to ensure that any litigation involving congressional district boundaries is conducted in a way that accommodates relevant administrative limitations and statutory deadlines, so that

the litigation does not disrupt or impair the proper, efficient, and effective administration of the 2026 election calendar. The Commission, therefore, does not oppose this Court's exercising its original jurisdiction, if it determines that will best facilitate that goal.

In the recent redistricting case before this Court, *Clarke v. Wisconsin Elections Commission*, 2023AP1399-OA, the Commission explained, that for staff to be able to timely and effectively administer the November general election, maps needed to be in place no later than March of that year.

If this Court takes jurisdiction, the Commission intends to again advocate for timely and expeditious resolution of all litigation so as not to adversely impact the 2026 election calendar. The Commission is prepared to provide more specific calendar information and additional explanation at an appropriate time and to respond to any requests by the Court.

Dated this 5th day of June 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

ERIC J. WILSON
Deputy Attorney General of
Wisconsin

Electronically signed by:

Charlotte Gibson
CHARLOTTE GIBSON
Assistant Attorney General
State Bar #1038845

KARLA Z. KECKHAVER
Assistant Attorney General
State Bar #1028242

Attorneys for Wisconsin Elections Commission, Ann S. Jacobs, Mark L. Thomsen, Carrie Riepl, Don M. Millis, Robert F. Spindell, Jr., Marge Bostelmann, and Meagan Wolfe

Wisconsin Department of Justice
Post Office Box 7857
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7857
(608) 957-5218 (CG)
(608) 264-6365 (KZK)
(608) 294-2907 (Fax)
gibsoncj@doj.state.wi.us
keckhaverkz@doj.state.wi.us

CERTIFICATE OF EFILE/SERVICE

I certify that in compliance with Wis. Stat. § 801.18(6), I electronically filed this *Response of Wisconsin Elections Commission and Its Commissioners and Administrator to Petition for Leave to Commence an Original Action* with the clerk of court using the Wisconsin Appellate Court Electronic Filing System, which will accomplish electronic notice and service for all participants who are registered users.

Dated this 5th day of June 2025.

Electronically signed by:

Charlotte Gibson
CHARLOTTE GIBSON
Assistant Attorney General