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News from the Michigan Association for Justice

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MAJ Endorses “Voters Not Politicians” Ballot Proposal
Blasts Bill Schuette for trying to stop voters from having their say

LANSING—The Michigan Association for Justice (MAJ) today announced its support for the “Voters Not Politicians” redistricting reform initiative set to appear on the November 6th ballot. The MAJ Executive Board voted last week to endorse the proposed constitutional amendment that would create an independent commission to draw state legislative and congressional districts.

“For too long, politicians and corporate lobbyists have controlled the redistricting process in Michigan so they could draw their own election maps and hand-pick their own voters,” said MAJ President Debra A. Freid. “On November 6, Michigan voters will have an opportunity to end this blatantly undemocratic practice. MAJ is proud to endorse the ‘Voters Not Politicians’ redistricting reform ballot proposal.”

The Michigan Supreme Court last month ruled 4-3 that the redistricting reform proposal would be decided by the voters after Attorney General/Republican gubernatorial candidate Bill Schuette, the Michigan Chamber, and others fought to keep it off the ballot.

“It’s no surprise that Bill Schuette tried to prevent this fair ballot proposal from going before the voters,” Freid said. “Back when he was a state Senator, he chaired the Senate Reapportionment Committee that redrew electoral maps to benefit Republicans. As Attorney General, he has fought against marriage equality and turned his back on thousands of workers wrongly accused of unemployment insurance fraud. Bill Schuette has a long and shameful history of siding with powerful special interests and trampling the rights of Michigan citizens.”

“Trial lawyers support the voters’ right to be heard on the redistricting initiative—it is central to our democracy,” Freid said.

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*The **Michigan Association for Justice**, formerly the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA), is a trade association of over 1,500 plaintiff’s attorneys and staff, with offices in Lansing, Michigan.*