



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

Strength in Numbers 95,000

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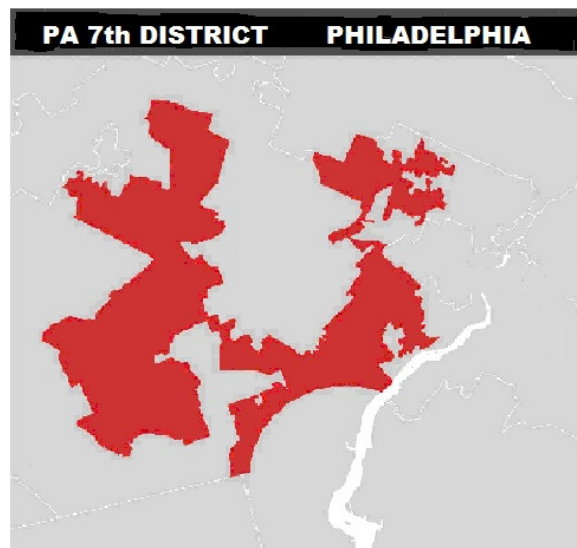
LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

Since gerrymandering could affect 2018 PA elections, gerrymandering suit can proceed, Pa. high court rules

Pennsylvania's electoral map has been described as one of the most egregious cases of gerrymandering in the United States

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to hear expedited argument in a case challenging the state's congressional map, setting the stage for a potential decision on the constitutionality of the map ahead of the 2018 midterm elections. The state Supreme Court has ordered an expedited of a lawsuit alleging that Pennsylvania's map of Congressional Districts has been gerrymandered to a point where it violates voter's constitutional rights.

The League of Women Voters and approximately 20 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania voters filed suit against the state in Commonwealth Court in June. They claim the state's Republican-drawn congressional map violates the state constitution's protections on freedom of expression and equal protection, because it deliberately dilutes the influence of Democratic voters in the political process.



PA Supreme Court Oder attached

Respondents :
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ORDER

PER CURIAM

AND NOW, this 9th day of November, 2017, this Honorable Court, having determined that the present case involves issues of immediate public importance requiring this Court's assumption of plenary jurisdiction, it is hereby ordered that Petitioners' Application for Extraordinary Relief is **GRANTED**.

On October 16, 2017, the Commonwealth Court granted an Application for Stay filed by Respondents Joseph B. Scarnati, President Pro Tempore of the Pennsylvania Senate, Michael C. Turzai, Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and the General Assembly of Pennsylvania. This stay is hereby vacated and the case will proceed expeditiously forthwith.

Under the continuing supervision of this Court, the case is hereby remanded to the Commonwealth Court and directed to President Judge Mary Hannah Leavitt for assignment to a commissioned judge of the Commonwealth Court with instructions to conduct all necessary and appropriate discovery, pre-trial and trial proceedings so as to create an evidentiary record on which Petitioners' claims may be decided. The Commonwealth Court shall file with the Prothonotary of this Court its findings of fact and conclusions of law no later than **December 31, 2017**.

Petitioners' Application for Leave to File a Reply in Support of Petitioner's Application for Extraordinary Relief, Application for Leave to Supplement the Application

for Extraordinary Relief, and Praecipe to Provide Supplemental Authority in Support of Petitioners' Application for Extraordinary Relief, treated as an application for leave to supplement the Application for Extraordinary Relief, are hereby **GRANTED**. The Legislative Respondents' Motion for Oral Argument is hereby **DENIED**.

Jurisdiction retained.

Chief Justice Saylor, Justice Baer and Justice Mundy note their dissent.