

121077

No. 121077

07/28/2016

Supreme Court Clerk

**IN THE  
SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**

\*\*\*\*\*

JOHN HOOKER, et al.,	)	
	)	
Plaintiffs-Appellees,	)	On Direct Appeal from the
	)	Circuit Court of Cook County,
vs.	)	County Department, Chancery Division
	)	
ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF	)	
ELECTIONS, et al.,	)	
	)	No. 16 CH 06539
Defendants-Appellees,	)	
	)	Hon. Diane J. Larsen,
and	)	<i>Judge Presiding.</i>
	)	
SUPPORT INDEPENDENT MAPS,	)	
	)	
Intervenor-Defendant-	)	
Appellant.	)	

**MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE  
BRIEF AS AMICI CURIAE**

Proposed *Amici* the League of Women Voters of Illinois, the Small Business Advocacy Council Illinois, the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, CHANGE Illinois, the McCormick Foundation, the Rockford Chamber of Commerce, the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce, Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, the Latino Policy Forum, the Illinois Public Interest Research Group, the West Rogers Park Community Organization, the Metropolitan Planning Council, the Better Government Association, the Chicago Southside Branch NAACP, the Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization, the Union League Club of Chicago, the Illinois Farm Bureau, the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, Common Cause, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the Citizen Advocacy Center,

The Civic Federation, the Commercial Club of Chicago, the Chicago Embassy Church, and the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 345, respectfully move this Court for leave to file the attached brief as *amici curiae* in support of Intervenor-Defendant/Appellant Support Independent Maps. In support of their motion, Proposed *Amici* state as follows:

1. This case presents a question of critical and fundamental importance to all citizens of the State of Illinois—specifically, whether proposed changes to the legislative redistricting procedures established in Article IV of the 1970 Illinois Constitution can be placed on the November 2016 ballot pursuant to the citizen initiative process created by Article XIV, § 3 of the 1970 Illinois Constitution. The question goes to the core of the democratic process in Illinois, and its answer will determine whether the people of Illinois can look forward to a future of progress and prosperity or continued political gridlock, cronyism, and corruption.

2. The Proposed *Amici* comprise a diverse group of business, consumer, and public interest organizations that represent a broad range of constituents, all with a profound interest in the welfare of this State. With respect to many of the issues that come before this Court in other cases, many of the Proposed *Amici* would likely vehemently disagree with one another and present the Court with widely divergent views. In this case, however, the members of this diverse group speak with a single voice. All of the Proposed *Amici* believe that the welfare of Illinois hinges on fair elections that produce legislators who represent and are responsive to the citizens they purport to represent. That, in turn, depends on a redistricting process that is not under the control and direction of legislators driven by a desire to ensure their own re-election rather than by the public interest.

3. The Proposed *Amici* are:
- a. The League of Women Voters of Illinois is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and elections, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy.
  - b. The Small Business Advocacy Council Illinois (SBAC Illinois) is a non-partisan member-driven organization that promotes the success of small business in Illinois through political advocacy, support services, and educational programs. SBAC Illinois believes that the success of small business is critical to the economic well-being of Illinois and the nation as a whole.
  - c. CHANGE Illinois is a statewide non-profit organization working to help make Illinois a national model for fair, open, and effective government. CHANGE (the Coalition for Honest and New Government Ethics) includes a diverse network of civic, business, labor, professional, non-profit, and philanthropic organizations committed to strengthening our democracy and promoting a vibrant culture of civic participation. The coalition addresses issues that are essential to our democracy, including ballot access, competitive elections, government transparency, and fair and impartial redistricting.
  - d. The Illinois Campaign for Political Reform (ICPR) is a non-profit and non-partisan public interest organization that conducts research and advocates reforms to promote public participation and to encourage integrity, accountability, and transparency in both Illinois government and election

processes. ICPR facilitates bipartisan dialogue around a range of reform issues in order to advance honest, open, and accountable government and reinvigorate public confidence and civic involvement. ICPR has been supportive of several efforts to reform the redistricting process in Illinois.

e. The Rockford Chamber of Commerce has been a leader in the Rockford community for more than 100 years. Over that time, it has helped thousands of businesses grow and expand and has been a constant advocate for investment in Rockford's quality of life. Its mission is to be a forceful working unit for the good of Rockford and the State of Illinois as a whole.

f. The McCormick Foundation was established in 1955, pursuant to instructions in the will of Robert R. McCormick, to promote religious, charitable, scientific, literary, and educational endeavors. In particular, it was Colonel McCormick's wish, and has been the Foundation's goal, to encourage and promote the education of the people of the State of Illinois in the principles of the Constitution of the United States. To that end, the Foundation's Democracy program focuses on three pillars essential to a strong democratic society: civic education and engagement; high-quality journalism that informs and engages the public; and government institutions and practices accountable to the people.

g. The Champaign County Chamber of Commerce is a member-focused business association that works to facilitate business growth and the quality of life in Champaign County and the surrounding region through advocacy, available resources, and workforce development. The Chamber represents more than 1,100

members that employ more than 60,000 people in this State. Its mission is to use its influence, solutions, and networks to be a catalyst for economic growth to enable its members to compete in the global community.

h. Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI) has been an independent public interest law and policy center for nearly 50 years. BPI is dedicated to advancing innovative solutions to pressing issues of social justice and quality of life in the Chicago region. Today, BPI's work is focused on housing and community development, public education, and political reform—specifically, promoting open, honest, and accountable government in Illinois.

i. The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law provides national leadership in advancing laws and policies that secure justice to improve the lives and opportunities of people living in poverty. The Center works to ensure that laws and policies provide low-income people with access to adequate health care, decent housing, a safety net, and opportunities to achieve their full potential. One of the Shriver Center's core goals is to ensure that people living in poverty have a voice in determining the laws and policies that affect their lives and communities.

j. The Latino Policy Forum is the only organization in the Chicago area that facilitates the involvement of Latinos at all levels of public decision-making. The Latino Policy Forum conducts analysis to inform, influence, and lead. Its goals are to improve education outcomes, advocate for affordable housing, promote just immigration policies, and engage diverse sectors of the community, with an understanding that advancing Latinos advances a shared future.

k. The Illinois Public Interest Research Group is dedicated to protecting the interests of the public, including securing the right to participate fully in a democratic society. The mission of the Illinois Public Interest Research Group is to deliver persistent, result-oriented public interest activism that protects consumers, encourages a fair, sustainable economy, and fosters responsive, democratic government.

l. The West Rogers Park Community Organization (WRPCO) is an all-volunteer, non-partisan, tax-exempt organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Chicago's West Rogers Park/West Ridge neighborhood. WRPCO seeks to provide a community voice in planning and development issues; to preserve, update, and augment recreational spaces; and to promote high-quality educational opportunities by eliminating public school overcrowding, advocating for innovative public school curricular and outreach efforts, and encouraging greater cooperation between public and private schools.

m. The Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) has worked for more than 80 years to make the Chicago region a better place to live and work by partnering with businesses, communities, and governments to address the area's most difficult planning and development challenges. MPC works to bridge gaps between government, community, and business leaders, enabling them to join forces and collectively improve the Chicago region. As an important part of that effort, MPC is dedicated to promoting policies that make government more efficient and responsive to the needs of the citizens.

n. The Better Government Association (BGA) is a non-partisan 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that accepts no government funding or donations from political organizations. The BGA's mission is to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in government by exposing waste, fraud and corruption, advocating effective public policy, informing and engaging the community, and holding public officials accountable. The BGA seeks to do so both by exposing problems to public view and proposing solutions, including good government reforms.

o. The Chicago Southside Branch NAACP is devoted to ensuring the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. The NAACP seeks to remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes, to seek enactment and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights, to inform the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and to seek its elimination, to educate persons as to their constitutional rights, and to take all lawful action to secure the exercise of those rights.

p. The Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization (IVI-IPO) has been in existence since 1944. Its mission is to achieve social justice through good government by increasing voter participation and knowledge, by providing a framework for candidate evaluation, and by electing responsive government officials. IVI-IPO seeks to achieve these goals through voter registration, voter information, and candidate endorsement. IVI-IPO also

lobbies for governmental reforms designed to open the system and better inform the public on the political process.

q. The Union League Club of Chicago has, for nearly 140 years, actively supported and promoted honesty and efficiency in government. Through its Public Affairs Committee, the Club addresses a wide range of public policy issues through coalition building, supporting public information campaigns, sponsoring debates and forums, and testifying before legislative bodies.

r. The Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) is a non-profit organization comprised of Illinois farmers and others involved in the agriculture industry in Illinois. It is dedicated to providing improved agricultural education, better information for farmers, and more effective farming practices. IFB is regularly involved in seeking to pass legislation and lobbying lawmakers about agricultural issues, all in pursuit of its mission to improve the economic well-being of agriculture and enrich the quality of farm family life in this State.

s. The Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit association dedicated to creating and maintaining a strong and vibrant business climate in the Naperville area. The Chamber has more than 1,300 members and works closely with the City of Naperville and its elected and appointed officials to promote and advocate for the local, state, and federal legislative interests of its members and the regional business community.

t. The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce is a 113-year-old non-partisan, civic and business organization that advocates on behalf of its members and the



broader business community to ensure a thriving and competitive economic climate in Chicagoland and Illinois. As the largest business organization in the State, the Chicagoland Chamber's more than 1,000 members, and their more than 400,000 employees and over \$24 billion in revenue, represent the breadth and depth of the business community.

u. Common Cause is an independent, non-partisan organization founded in 1970 to advocate on behalf of all Americans. It works to create open, honest, and accountable government that serves the public interest; to promote equal rights, opportunity, and representation for all; and to empower all people to make their voices heard in the political process. Common Cause serves as an independent voice for change and a watchdog against corruption and abuse of power.

v. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business and the strongest network of business leaders in Illinois. The Chamber's members represent the diversity of Illinois in business and industry sectors, geography, and company size. The Chamber's mission is to lead and serve its members, as well as the entire Illinois business community, and to serve as the unifying voice of the Illinois business community.

w. The Citizen Advocacy Center (CAC) is a non-profit, non-partisan, free community legal organization. Founded in 1994, CAC's mission is to build democracy for the 21st Century by strengthening the citizenry's capacities, resources, and institutions for self-governance.

x. The Civic Federation, founded in 1894, is an independent, non-partisan government research organization based in Chicago. The mission of The Civic Federation is to provide objective research, analysis, and recommendations that champion efficient delivery of high-quality government services, promote sustainable tax policies and responsible long-term financial planning, improve government transparency and accountability, and educate and serve as a resource for policymakers, opinion leaders, and the broader public. The Federation's membership includes business and professional leaders from a wide range of Chicago area corporations, professional service firms, and institutions.

y. The Commercial Club of Chicago was founded in 1877 and is the oldest civic organization in the city, representing approximately 325 senior business, professional, educational, and cultural leaders of Chicago. The mission of the Commercial Club is to improve the social and economic well-being of the Chicago region. Through the Club's Civic Committee, a group of senior executives of major Chicago area companies, the Club works to address issues of major concern to the region and State. Some of its initiatives are: O'Hare Airport expansion, Chicago school reform, improvement of local government operation through the donation of private sector resources, and, most recently, working to address Illinois's fiscal crisis.

z. The Chicago Embassy Church has been serving the Englewood community in the City of Chicago since 1985. This community has been marginalized by district maps that combine it with far more affluent communities to the north, and farmland to the south, making it impossible for its

representatives to champion any cause effectively for this community's unique needs. Equitable mapping will be tremendously empowering to this community.

aa. The Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce helps entrepreneurs start, manage, and grow their companies, and is one of the largest, most active, and most innovative groups promoting Hispanic entrepreneurship in the country.

4. Because of the diverse range of interests they represent, the Proposed *Amici* believe that they can assist the Court by presenting a perspective different than those presented by the parties. In doing so, the Proposed *Amici* will not rehash the legal issues that will be thoroughly addressed by the parties, but rather outline for the Court the real-world consequences of the current redistricting situation in Illinois and the importance of taking that process out of the hands of an entrenched political caste and thereby permitting redistricting to serve its constitutional function of ensuring a fairly elected and truly representative and responsive General Assembly for this State.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons as well as those set forth in the attached brief, the Proposed *Amici* respectfully request leave to file the attached brief.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Constantine L. Trela, Jr.

Constantine L. Trela, Jr.

Tacy F. Flint

Neil H. Conrad

SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP

1 S. Dearborn St.

Chicago, IL 60603

(312)853-7000

ctrela@sidley.com

tflint@sidley.com

nconrad@sidley.com

Counsel for League of Women Voters of Illinois, Small Business Advocacy Council Illinois, Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, CHANGE Illinois, McCormick Foundation, Rockford Chamber of Commerce, Champaign County Chamber of Commerce, Union League Club of Chicago, West Rogers Park Community Organization, Illinois Farm Bureau, Better Government Association, Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization, Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce, Metropolitan Planning Council, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, Latino Policy Forum, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, Chicago Southside Branch NAACP

Ruth Greenwood  
Annabelle Harless  
CAMPAIGN LEGAL CENTER  
73 W. Monroe St., Suite 322  
Chicago, IL 60603  
(312)561-5508  
rgreenwood@campaignlegalcenter.org  
aharless@campaignlegalcenter.org

Counsel for Illinois Public Interest Research Group, Common Cause, Citizen Advocacy Center, The Civic Federation, Commercial Club of Chicago, Chicago Embassy Church, Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

**CERTIFICATE OF FILING AND SERVICE**

I, Constantine L. Trela, Jr., an attorney, hereby certify that on July 28, 2016, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Motion for Leave to File Brief as *Amici Curiae* to be filed electronically with the Clerk of the Illinois Supreme Court, and copies to be served by electronic mail to each of the following:

Michael J. Kasper  
222 North LaSalle, Suite 300  
Chicago, IL 60601  
mjkasper60@mac.com

Robert T. Shannon  
Adam R. Vaught  
Hinshaw & Cullbertson LLP  
222 North LaSalle Street, Suite 300  
Chicago, IL 60601-1081  
rshannon@hinshawlaw.com  
avaught@hinshawlaw.com

James M. Scanlon  
James M. Scanlon & Associates  
27 North Wacker Dr. #502  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
james.scanlon@jmsalaw.com

Michele Odorizzi  
Mayer Brown LLP  
71 South Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60606-4637  
modorizzi@mayerbrown.com

Richard J. Prendergast  
Michael T. Layden  
Richard J. Prendergast, Ltd.  
111 West Washington, Suite 1100  
Chicago, IL 60602  
rprendergast@rjpltd.com  
mlayden@rjpltd.com

Marie D. Spicuzza  
Assistant State's Attorney Municipal  
Litigation  
500 Daley Center  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
marie.spicuzza@cookcountyil.gov

Thomas A. Ioppolo  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Illinois Attorney General  
100 W. Randolph Street, 13th Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
tioppolo@atg.state.il.us

\*\*\*\*\* Electronically Filed \*\*\*\*\*

121077

07/28/2016

Supreme Court Clerk

\*\*\*\*\*

/s/ Constantine L. Trela, Jr.

Constantine L. Trela, Jr.  
SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP  
1 S. Dearborn St.  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
(312) 853-7000  
ctrela@sidley.com