



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

Strength in Numbers 95,000

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

Why Labors Vote in Elections Is So Important

The first major blow to labor from the conservative U.S. Supreme Court was “Janus”, now the U. S. Supreme Court rejects limits to Partisan Gerrymandering. This will only help keep anti-labor politicians in power in many states. The 2020 Election will be a critical juncture for labor. Labor must vote their endorsed candidates or pay the ultimate price in loss of wages and benefits as unions are further eroded. The writing is on the wall, don't be conned again. Vote your endorsed candidates.

The U.S. Supreme Court rejects limits to partisan gerrymandering

According to an article from Reuters© by Lawrence Hurley, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected efforts to rein in the contentious practice of manipulating electoral district boundaries to entrench one party in power by turning away challenges to political maps in Maryland and North Carolina. The justices, in a 5-4 decision with the court's conservative in the majority and liberals in dissent, ruled in a decision with nationwide implications that judges do not have the ability to curb the practice known as partisan gerrymandering.

The ruling, authored by Chief justice John Roberts, delivered a huge setback to election reformers who had hoped the court would intervene over a growing trend in which parties that control state legislatures use the electoral district line-drawing process to cement their grip on power and dilute the voting power of people who support the rival party. The court ruled for the first time that federal courts have no authority to curb partisan gerrymandering - a decision that could give lawmakers who control state legislatures even more incentive to draw maps after the 2020 census that disadvantage voters who tend to back the rival party. "We conclude that partisan gerrymandering claims present political questions beyond the reach of the federal courts," Roberts wrote.

Justice Elena Kagan, one of the court's liberals, took the unusual step of reading her dissent from the bench. "For the first time ever, this court refuses to remedy a constitutional violation because it thinks the task beyond judicial capabilities," Kagan said.

The decision could have a major impact in states across the country. Critics have said gerrymandering is becoming more extreme and can better engineer election outcomes with the use of precise voter data and powerful computer software. The justices on May 24 blocked lower court rulings that had struck down Republican-drawn electoral maps in Michigan and Ohio and had ordered new ones to be drawn for the 2020 election.

Critics have said partisan gerrymandering, when taken to extremes, warps democracy by intentionally diluting the power of some voters and the electability candidates they support. Gerrymandering is a practice dating back two centuries in the United States. But critics have said it is becoming more extreme with the use of precision computer modeling to guide the creation of district boundaries that maximize the clout of one party's voters at the expense of other voters. See article at: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/us-supreme-court-rejects-limits-to-partisan-gerrymandering/ar-AADvMQ0?ocid=spartanntp>