Wisconsin deserves sensible redistricting Tuesday, July 09, 2013 2:16 PM -
Letter to the Editor:
Three judges — two of whom were appointed by Republican presidents — on a federal court panel hearing a challenge to Wisconsin's Republican-led redistricting harshly criticized the costly, secretive and "peculiarly furtive process" used by the GOP in drawing and defending the maps.
The court expressed concern over the rancor brought on by the GOP's secretive actions in this round of redistricting, stating, "Quite frankly, the Legislature and the actions of its counsel give every appearance of flailing wildly in a desperate attempt to hide from both the court and the public the true nature of exactly what transpired in the redistricting process."
lowa has earned praise for its redistricting process. Their nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency draws both congressional and state legislative lines using clear criteria, such as keeping county lines intact. The legislature then accepts or rejects the plan without amendment. This independent process does not use political data, protect incumbents or seek partisan gain.
Alternatives to lowa's redistricting process include forms of proportional voting in a "super district" that puts voters in control of their representation rather than those drawing winner-take-all election lines.
Contact Republican leaders Scott Fitzgerald, Mike Ellis, Robin Vos and Scott Suder to demand implementation of a nonpartisan, independent, transparent and less expensive redistricting process. As the federal court stated in its June 3 ruling, "We cannot help but conclude that the people of Wisconsin deserve better in the next round of redistricting after the 2020 census."
Jeanne Larson

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