

STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN SUPREME COURT

A21-0546



Frank Sachs, Dagny Heimisdottir, Michael
Arulfo, Tanwi Prigge, Jennifer Guertin,
Garrison O'Keith McMurtrey, Mara Lee
Glubka, Jeffrey Strand, Danielle Main,
and Wayne Grimmer,

Petitioners,

vs.

Steve Simon, in his official capacity as
Minnesota Secretary of State,

Respondent.

**RESPONSE TO
PETITION**

Respondent Steve Simon, in his official capacity as Minnesota Secretary of State, concurs with Petitioners' request that the Court assume jurisdiction over this matter and consolidate it with *Wattson v. Simon*, No. A21-0243, for adjudication before a special redistricting panel to be appointed at the appropriate time by this Court. Moreover, for the same reasons explained by this Court in its March 22, 2021 order in *Wattson*, the Secretary requests that further proceedings on this petition, as well as Petitioners' parallel district court action, *Sachs v. Simon*, No. 62-CV-21-2213, be stayed until further order of this Court. *See Wattson*, Order at 3 (Minn. Mar. 22, 2021) (staying all *Wattson* proceedings in this Court and in district court).

Finally, to properly complete all the tasks necessary for a complete and orderly redistricting in preparation for the primary and general elections, the Secretary notes that

his office and its election-administration partners in municipal and county governments will need to receive final and binding district maps no later than February 15, 2022, which is 25 weeks before the August 9, 2021 state primary. This deadline appears in state statute, *see* Minn. Stat. § 204B.14, subd. 1a—but even if it did not, the pragmatic realities of election administration necessitate that state and local election officials, as well as other participants in the electoral process, be given that amount of time to carry out their duties so that the 2022 statewide elections can be conducted properly under state and federal laws. The Secretary also requests that the Court reserve time for community input in the process leading to the issuance of any plan.

At this time, however, staying the proceedings is appropriate because the Secretary agrees that “it is important that the primacy of the legislative role in the redistricting process be respected that the judiciary not be drawn prematurely into that process.” *Watson* Order 2-3.

Dated: May 10, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

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/s/**Angela Behrens**

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