



BUILDING DEMOCRACY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

## EVERYDAY DEMOCRACY

AN E-NEWSLETTER FROM THE CITIZEN ADVOCACY CENTER

# A U.S. Supreme Court Case: Checks & Balances, Federal Elections & Democracy

## CAC Speaks at LWV Vigil

### Day of Action for Moore v. Harper: Protect Democracy



Left: Donna Limper, Chapter Leader RepresentsUs DuPage County; Becky Simon, LWV Naperville; Jackson Paller, CAC Community Lawyer; Sania Irwin, V.P. LWV U.S.; Jay Young, E.D. Common Cause IL; Dave Evans, LWV Glen Ellyn



Citizen Advocacy Center, Community Lawyer Jackson Paller

CAC Community Lawyer, Jackson Paller, participated in a nonpartisan vigil sponsored by our LWV friends regarding a case before the United State Supreme Court (SCOTUS): Moore v. Harper.

**THE ISSUE:** The case deals with the intersection of how the North Carolina Legislature drew voting districts for federal elections, gerrymandering, and the North Carolina Legislature asking SCOTUS to buy into “the Independent State Legislature theory.”

**THE DEMOCRACY THREAT:** The Independent State Legislature theory advances the idea that when a state legislature drafts rules and laws that have to do with federal elections, they should have unbridled, unchecked authority. In other words: the checks and balances of the other branches of government do not apply.

**PRESERVE CHECKS & BALANCES:** The CAC disagrees that the Independent State Legislature theory aligns with democratic values, along with the LWV and dozens of other organizations that have filed Amicus Briefs with SCOTUS.

Democracy is most effective when there is a strong system of checks and balances. A civics 101 lesson on this issue: state legislatures make laws regulating and administering federal elections, subject to both the State and Federal Constitution. The Executive Branch either signs them into law or vetos them. If challenged. The Judicial Branch determines if any of those laws are valid.

Maintaining checks and balances in our system is crucial to our democracy and fostering trust in government.

Check out CAC's [Letter to the Editor](#) published in the [Chicago Tribune](#). To learn more about the Moore v. Harper Case, check out resources from [The Brennan Center for Justice](#).

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Our mission is to build democracy for the 21st Century by strengthening the citizenry's capacities, resources, and institutions for self-governance.

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