

Democracy Campaign: Foresight of Justice Stevens

Written by Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, Matt Rothschild
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MADISON - I was sad when I heard the news that Justice John Paul Stevens had died.

I was sad for personal reasons, since Justice Stevens and my father practiced law together in Chicago for many years and were very close.

And I was sad for political reasons, since Justice Stevens, when he was on the Court and afterwards, used his calm and logical and brilliant voice to advocate for a pro-democracy jurisprudence.

Nowhere was this more obvious than in his scorching dissent in the *Citizens United* case, and I excerpted some of his most powerful passages here:

[Justice Stevens's Dissent in Citizens United Lives On!](#)

He warned that corporate special interests would have a field day, and so they have, here in Wisconsin, as we pointed out the record spending by corporations and PACs last season:

[PAC, Corporate Contributions Hit Record \\$27M](#)

And we also posted something this week on the record amount spent in the Wisconsin Supreme Court race earlier this year:

[2019 Supreme Court Race Cost Record \\$8.2 Million+](#)

This week, we also weighed in on the issue of the veto power of Wisconsin's governor, which we have consistently viewed as overbroad:

[Wisconsin Democracy Campaign on Gov's Veto Power](#)

And on Tuesday, there was a jam-packed press conference in the State Capitol in favor of legislation to ban gerrymandering in Wisconsin. Here's what I said at that press conference:

[A Democracy with Fair Play](#) (or watch [here](#))

Those companion bills, by the way, are **SB288** and **AB303**. Please [contact your legislators](#) to support those bills, and please contact the chairs of the relevant committees to demand they hold public hearings on them.

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Justice Stephen G. Brand (left) and Justice Anthony J. Bradley (right) on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Photo by Matt Rothschild for the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.