# **Battle over district lines resumes**

## Evers. lawmakers lobby justices after federal ruling **Associated Press**

## MADISON

Wisconsin's Democratic governor told the state Supreme Court on Thursday that it should allow him to submit additional evidence defending his legislative district boundary map that the U.S. Supreme Court rejected, arguing it is still better than the one submitted by the Republican Legislature.

The Legislature, meanwhile, responded by telling the court it should ignore Gov. Tony Evers and instead adopt the Republican-drawn map.

The court has yet to say how it will proceed after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling Wednesday left Wisconsin without new legislative boundary lines just three weeks before candidates were to start circulating nominating papers to get on the ballot.

Evers and the Legislature, in separate letters,

it considers what to do for a second time.

Evers also asked the Wisconsin Supreme Court, if it doesn't adopt his original map, to consider making a change to reduce the number of Black-majority Assembly districts from seven to six. The Legislature's map had five Black-majority districts in Milwaukee.

The U.S. Supreme Court said in its ruling Wednesday that the state Supreme Court failed to consider whether a "race-neutral alternative that did not add a seventh majority-black district would deny black voters equal political opportunity."

The nation's high court also said the state Supreme Court was free to take additional evidence if it reconsiders Evers' map, and that is what Evers asked the court to do Thursday. He wants the state court to allow for the submission of additional evidence until April 1.

'No other path is tenable, as the preexisting maps are indisputably unconstitutional statewide, and this Court already observed that urged the state Supreme the Legislature's proposal

Court to adopt their maps as posed problems under the (Voting Rights Act)," Assistant Wisconsin Attorney General Anthony Russomanno wrote on behalf of Evers.

Kevin St. John, the attorney for Republican lawmakers, said in his letter that Evers already had a chance to make an argument for his maps and he "should not get a second chance now."

The court was expected to act quickly, given that candidates for the Legislature can begin circulating nomination papers April 15 to be on the ballot this fall.

Until the court adopts new maps, there are no maps in place for the fall legislative elections, said Riley Vetterkind, spokesman for the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

That means a candidate runs the risk of gathering signatures for his candidacy from voters who might not end up living in the district they are running for, making them invalid.

Evers' attorney cautioned that the need for the court to act quickly should be balanced against the need to adopt legal maps without inviting more lawsuits.

# Study: Housing values up sharply

Rate of increase fastest in about 15 years, it says **Associated Press** 

#### MILWAUKEE

A new study shows Wisconsin's housing market is strong with the total value of homes and other property sold in 2021 increasing at the fastest rate in about 15 years.

The Wisconsin Policy Forum study said revenue from fees on real estate sales totaled more than \$132 million during the

nearly \$97 million in revyear.

The nonpartisan civic group's report said the 2021 real estate market increase came in 2020 was driven by historically low mortgage rates.

The Wisconsin Realtors Association said other factors include strong demand from millennials reaching ages in which people often buy homes, along with a limited supply of homes, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported.

30. That compares with properties transferred in Wisconsin increased enue for the prior fiscal from \$126,500 in 2016 to \$170,000 in 2021, an increase of about 34%.

> More than half the and 2021, with statewide increases of 7.7% and 7%, respectively, according to the forum.

"While these increases were broadly shared, they were particularly robust and sustained in many of the state's large urban counties," the report said.

That includes Milwaukee, Dane, Brown, Outag-The median value of amie, Winnebago, Kenofiscal year ending June single-family residential sha and Rock counties.

# Lawyer: Trying to decertify Biden win 'pointless'

#### **Associated Press**

MADISON

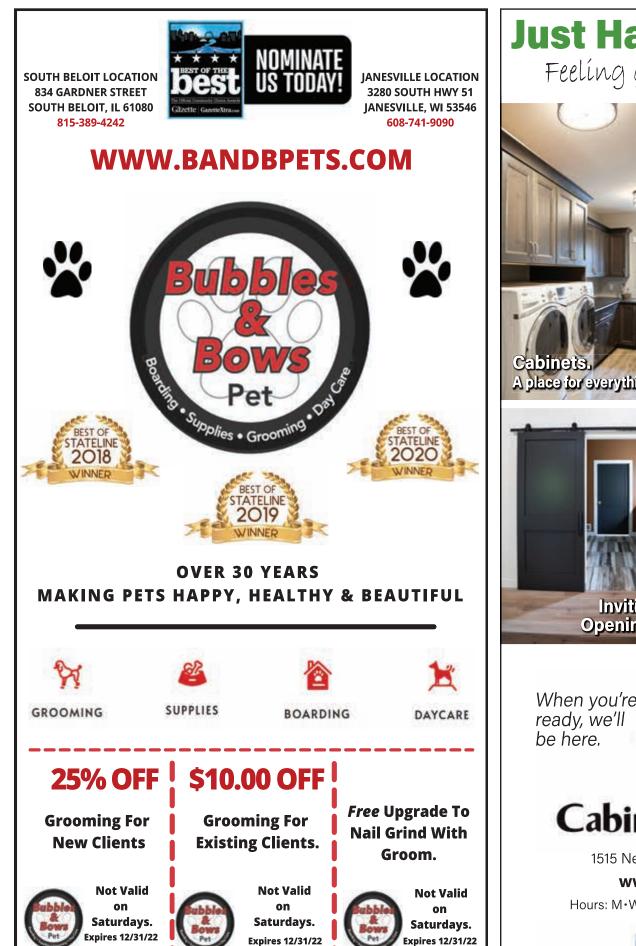
An attorney for the lead investigator hired by Wisconsin Republicans to look into the 2020 election told lawmakers Thursday that the election is "done and over" and attempting to decertify President Joe Biden's win is "pointless."

Attorney James Bopp's client, former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman, earlier this month strongly suggested the Legislature look at decertifying the 2020 election won

by Biden.

But Bopp on Thursday told the same Assembly elections committee where Gableman presented his report that decertification was impossible. That is the same thing that nonpartisan attorneys, the leader of the conservative law firm the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, GOP legislative leaders and others have all said.

"The only way to remove President Biden is by his death, resignation, impeachment or disability under the 25th Amendment," Bopp said.



# Just Hanging in tonight. Feeling good in my surroundings!





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