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Court Rules for People over Politicians

Miami - This morning Federal Judge Ursula Ungaro threw out a suit that attempted to hold FairDistricts Amendment 6 unconstitutional. The Florida House of Representatives and two members of Congress, Corinne Brown and Mario Diaz Balart brought the case in a blatant attempt to avoid having to follow the fairness standards for redistricting passed by 63% of Florida voters last November.

The Florida NAACP, the ACLU and Democracia, Inc. all joined the suit in defense of the amendments.

Howard Simon, Executive Director of the ACLU said: "I wish that every person in Florida could have been in the courtroom today. What they would have heard is a startling attempt by the leadership of the legislature and two members of Congress to eviscerate the power of the people to regulate their own legislature. The decision today upholds the clear will of the people; the fair districting process can now proceed."

Adora Obi Nweze, Florida NAACP President said, "We are truly gratified that the court ruled as it did and that the ruling came so expeditiously. The NAACP is pleased that redistricting will now proceed according to the new mandates in our Florida Constitution."

Deirdre Macnab, president of the Florida League of Women Voters said, "Today's decisive ruling makes it clear that this lawsuit was a waste of taxpayer money. The League of Women Voters of Florida urges lawmakers to stop fighting the will of the people. It is time to cease litigation and get to work on the implementation of Amendments 5 and 6."

Matthew McClellan, Chair of the Board of Directors, Democracia Inc. added, "We are very pleased that the court upheld the will of 63% of Florida's voters. We now urge the Florida Legislature to quickly move to draw districts that follow the new fairness standards so there is ample time for voters to understand changes to their districts prior to Election Day."

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