



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN EDUCATION NETWORK

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Statement on LWV Voter ID Lawsuit

MADISON: The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is delighted by today's strong ruling by Dane County Circuit Court Judge Richard Niess that Wisconsin's strict Voter ID law is unconstitutional. We are proud to have launched a legal challenge to Wisconsin's voter ID law, which erected barriers to citizen participation in government.

The League is a nonpartisan organization founded in 1920 by women suffragists who worked for decades to win the right to vote for women. Our voting rights position goes back long before the current partisan polarization. We have consistently opposed voter photo ID proposals over the past decade because we believe such laws unnecessarily restrict voting rights and place a heavier burden on certain population groups including the elderly, the poor, the disabled, and the youngest citizens of voting age.

The judge found that the suffrage provision of the Wisconsin Constitution, Article III, does not give the legislature the power to enact a voter identification provision that has the effect of disenfranchising otherwise qualified voter merely because they lack one of the limited forms of acceptable identification. As the ruling declares, "as a matter of law under the Wisconsin Constitution, sacrificing a qualified elector's right to vote is not a reasonable exercise of the government's prerogative to regulate elections."

"Voting is not like cashing a check or getting on an airplane. Those activities are not protected by the constitution. Voting is one way in which all citizens are equal, and that is worth fighting for. Proponents of voter ID still can't point to one case of voter impersonation in our state, and that is the only kind of illegal voting an ID law could prevent. The real fraud is the way they have convinced people that voter ID could actually solve a real problem," said Melanie G. Ramey, state president.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Network is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that promotes informed and active participation in government. There are 16 local Leagues in Wisconsin. [Find the League on Facebook.](#)

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