



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN
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To: Assembly Committee of Judiciary and Ethics

Re: Support for Assembly Bill 101

The League of Women Voters supports passage of AB101 which would require all municipal judges to be attorneys licensed to practice in the state. Currently, the state requirement to serve as municipal judge allows for any qualified elector, age 18 or over and who has fulfilled the legal residency rule.

A municipal judge has jurisdiction over municipal ordinance violations which may result in fines, forfeitures and/or community service. Where there is conformity with state drunk driving laws, a judge may revoke licenses. Because of unpaid forfeitures or restitutions jail time can also be imposed. Additionally, municipal courts have the authority to rule on the constitutionality of ordinances.

No municipality would employ untrained law enforcement officers to enforce the law. It is equally important that citizens be assured they have a municipal court judge who has full knowledge of the law and its application. AB101 will provide that standard.

We urge your support for this commonsense legislation.