



League of Women Voters of Wisconsin
Education Network

League of Women Voters Challenges Wisconsin Voter ID Law

October 2011

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Network has filed a challenge to Wisconsin's new Voter ID law based on the state constitution. As a nonpartisan organization that encourages participation in government, the League is concerned about the many eligible citizens who will be disenfranchised by the new law. Represented by attorneys Lester Pines and Susan Crawford of Cullen Weston Pines & Bach, LLP, the League is challenging the legislature's authority to enact the law.

This challenge is different from lawsuits brought in other states against voter ID laws because it is based on the Wisconsin state constitution. The suffrage, or voting, portion of the state constitution defines who may vote, based (U.S. citizens, at least 18 years old, residents of Wisconsin). It specifically limits what kind of laws the legislature may enact affecting suffrage to the following: laws defining residency; providing for voter registration; providing for absentee voting; and excluding felons and persons adjudicated incompetent from suffrage. It allows for amendments that *extend* the right of suffrage to additional persons, such as when the age for voting was lowered from 21 to 18.

While the constitution allows only the two named classes to be excluded, the new law creates a third class of citizens who may not vote - those who do not have ID. The new law places an unfair burden on people who do not need a driver's license, in particular the elderly, people with disabilities, low-income citizens and students. It excludes *anyone* who does not have an acceptable ID for any reason.

You can be part of the challenge! Find ways to support the lawsuit at www.lwvwi.org. Or, if you would like, our staff or board will be happy to sit down with you to discuss this issue in detail.

Sign up to receive our e-news on the LWVWI website or by emailing lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org. Our e-news is free, and you may unsubscribe at any time.

Contact Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director, (608) 256-0827 or kaminski@lwvwi.org, for information.

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The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Network is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. LWVWI Education Network (formerly LWVWI Education Fund) is tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. There are 16 local Leagues in Wisconsin.