



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN

612 W. Main Street, #200  
Madison, WI 53703

Phone: (608) 256-0827  
<http://www.lwwwi.org>



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**Contact:** Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director  
608-256-0827; [kaminski@lwwwi.org](mailto:kaminski@lwwwi.org)

## **WISCONSIN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SUBMITS AMICUS BRIEF IN FEDERAL VOTER ID CASE**

**MADISON** – The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin this week submitted an *amicus* brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in support of groups challenging the Wisconsin voter ID law. The brief urges the nation’s highest court to accept the case because it raises important issues that will affect voters not only in Wisconsin but in other states that have passed or may consider passing strict voter-ID laws. Further, the brief asks the Court to hold the case until it can be heard with a similar case from Texas which is likely headed to the Supreme Court.

The brief was filed by the League of Women Voters of the United States, along with the Wisconsin and Texas state Leagues. The League has devoted significant amounts of paid and volunteer time, as well as financial resources, at the national, state and local levels to assist voters in states where strict ID laws have been enacted. This has diverted the League’s focus from its usual pre-election activities, including voter registration, candidate forums and other voter education.

“Strict voter ID laws do nothing to improve elections, and they cause confusion and other problems for many voters. In some cases, they make it impossible for a qualified citizen to cast a ballot and have it counted, and that is unacceptable,” said Melanie G. Ramey, president of League of Women Voters of Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin voter ID law has been blocked in every election since March 2012, when the League won a challenge based on the state constitution. In April 2014 federal Judge Lynn Adelman ruled the law unconstitutional and issued a federal injunction. An Appeals Court panel from the Seventh District reversed Judge Adelman’s ruling in September 2014 and allowed the law to go into effect just seven weeks before the November election. Plaintiffs appealed the stay on the injunction to the U.S. Supreme Court, which in October issued an emergency ruling blocking the law through the election. In January 2015, the plaintiffs appealed the case on its merits to the Supreme Court, and the injunction was extended as a result.

“Voters will not be required to show photo ID to receive a ballot and have it counted in the February 17 primary election. We are delighted that, because of the injunctions in state and federal courts, no citizen has been disenfranchised by the unneeded and unfair Wisconsin voter ID law,” Ramey said.

The brief can be found here:

<http://www.lwwwi.org/Portals/0/News%20and%20Events/PDFS/VRA.WI.TX.US.amicus.cert.pdf>

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*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that advocates for informed and active participation in government. Membership is open to women and men of all ages. With 17 local Leagues in Wisconsin and 800 affiliates across the country, the League is one of the nation’s most trusted grassroots organizations.*