



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN
EDUCATION FUND**

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To: Joint Committee on Finance

Re: Opposition to Assembly Bill 7

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin urges you to reject Assembly Bill 7. This legislation is unneeded, unfair and a waste of tax dollars. The bill requires eligible citizens to present specific state government-issued photo identification in order to exercise their constitutional right to vote. This is an expensive new government program that would create barriers to voting for thousands of citizens in an effort to “fix” a problem that does not exist.

AB 7 has been advanced under the guise of protection against voter impersonation, yet proponents still cannot point to even one case of that having happened. As the Joint Committee on Finance is looking to cut millions of dollars from programs needed by Wisconsin residents, there can be no justification for approving a new government program that would restrict citizens' rights and cost the state millions of dollars annually to implement. The legislation also would increase costs for local governments by requiring that local election officials process thousands of provisional ballots.

In modern society, it is easy to assume that everyone has appropriate ID. But the Brennan Center for Justice estimated this year that 11 percent of voting age citizens nationwide do not have photo ID. This bill impacts the very people for whom it is most difficult to take the time off work and get transportation to the DMV to obtain an ID – the elderly, young people, people of color, rural voters and low income individuals.

The issues revealed in the current Supreme Court election recount demonstrate that the best way to improve Wisconsin's elections would be to invest in better training and resources for local election officials. This would be *positive* election reform which would reduce human error and improve election administration around the state.

We urge you to reject AB 7 which would add costly restrictions and hassles that would negatively impact all voters in our state.