



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN EDUCATION NETWORK

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Update on LWV Voter ID Lawsuit **Amended 1/19/12, 12:58am**

MADISON: The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is proud to have launched a legal challenge to the constitutionality of Wisconsin's voter ID law, which erects barriers to citizen participation in government. This morning Dane County Judge Richard Neiss ordered the case to proceed on the constitutional issue but reserved a ruling on the standing issue.

Founded in 1920 following a decades-long struggle to win voting rights for women, the League believes voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.

"When people say you need an ID to board an airplane or cash a check, they are talking about a privilege, not a constitutionally protected right," said Melanie G. Ramey, president of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin.

"Our country has been transformed from a nation in which only white, male, Protestant property owners could vote in federal elections to one in which all citizens have the right to participate in their government, regardless of gender, race, creed or economic status. For a stronger union, we should continue to make voting more accessible to more citizens. This voter ID law does the opposite," Ramey said.

Studies show that certain population groups are less likely to have a government-issued photo ID, including the elderly, the disabled, the poor, the homeless and students. (http://www.brennancenter.org/content/section/category/voter_id) By suppressing the vote, this law magnifies the influence of those who do have ID.

"The voter ID law was a solution in search of a problem. Its proponents still cannot point to a single case of voter impersonation, which is the only kind of illegal voting the law could possibly address. It is costing millions of tax dollars to implement, and it is disenfranchising eligible citizens. Unneeded, unfair and expensive – that is a net loss for democracy," said Andrea Kaminski, executive director.

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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