



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN EDUCATION FUND

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STATEMENT ON COURT DECISION ON VOTER DATABASE LAWSUIT

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund applauds today's court decision, which upholds voters' rights to equal access to the polls. We urge all eligible citizens to become informed, register to vote, and exercise this most important constitutional right to be active participants in our local, state and national government.

Judge Sumi's decision affirms that neither federal nor state law requires that Wisconsin's voter registration lists be matched with other state databases as a condition on the right to vote. She also affirmed the authority of the nonpartisan Government Accountability Board (GAB) to oversee compliance with election law. She noted that the Attorney General did not follow the required administrative procedure to appeal a GAB decision.

The League is particularly pleased that Judge Sumi's decision affirms protections that were written into the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965. "For more than 40 years, it has been against the law for someone acting under cover of state law to deny someone the right to vote due to an error in a voting list. We've been down this road before, and the VRA banned this practice along with others designed to disenfranchise eligible voters," said Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director.

We encourage voters to check their registration status online at <http://vpa.wi.gov> or by calling their municipal clerk. If you have time before Election Day, you may wish to register and even cast your ballot at your clerk's office. Otherwise, you may register and vote at your polling place on Election Day, November 4.

You can save some time by going to the poll mid-morning or mid-afternoon, when the lines will be shorter. Be prepared to register or provide more information for your registration at the poll, just in case. This will require providing a Wisconsin driver's license or Wisconsin ID number, if you have one, or the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you have never been issued a Wisconsin ID or Social Security number, you will be assigned a unique voter number. For more information, contact your municipal clerk.

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The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund is a nonpartisan political organization that promotes informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. LWVWI Education Fund is a proud member of Community Shares of Wisconsin. Call the state League at (608) 256-0827 for more information.