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January 8, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections

Re: OPPOSE AJR 1

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin opposes moving the question of whether or not the Voter ID requirement in Wisconsin statute should be moved to the people to decide if this requirement should be codified in the Constitution.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. Participating in our democracy by voting should be a safe, accessible and positive experience for all eligible Wisconsin residents. Lawmakers should avoid measures that place undue burden on the voter or erect barriers to voter participation.

The League believes that good government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens, and that voting is a fundamental citizen right which must be guaranteed. Wisconsin election laws should provide citizens with maximum opportunity for registration, voting at the polls and absentee voting. Further, election administration should be adequately coordinated and funded to achieve statewide standards uniformly applied, verifiable results and local municipal effectiveness.

Since its founding in 1920 the League has supported the Constitutionally guaranteed right of eligible citizens to vote. This legislation would write into the state constitution the current requirement to present a voter photo ID in order to cast a regular ballot and have it counted. Such a requirement has been shown to place a heavier burden on certain groups of citizens, including those who are disabled, elderly or low-income.

At yesterday's Senate Hearing we heard a number of truths and a number of false

statements.

First, at the heart of this action is the false presumption that Voter ID solve a problem. There is no problem in Wisconsin having to do with voter impersonation. No fact support this assumption. But what we do know is forcing voters to produce an ID does disenfranchise those who don't already possess one. We heard that 30% of eligible voters in Wisconsin do not possess a drivers license. This is a chilling reality for any voter advocate.

We heard that "anyone" can access the state ID since it is free. This, too, is patently false. Accessing the DMV to secure a state ID is not equally available to all eligible voters. Some voters face barriers such as a lack of public transportation, long distances, shortened hours and ADA barriers that the DMV is aware of, but has failed to correct in all the years since the law was passed.

We heard that voters without an ID can be issued a provisional ballot. The League's statewide Election Observation program reports otherwise. First, 40% of eligible voters that would qualify to be issued a provisional ballot are not offered one. For those that are, clerks are not always consistent in uploading the provisional ballot voter information, so organizations like the League and Vote Riders can work to assist these provisional voters to cure their ballots by 4:00 pm on the Friday following the election.

The League also knows that for eligible voters in Wisconsin's jails, the ID Law is a huge obstacle. Justice involved individuals cannot just leave jail to go to the DMV as was asserted yesterday. Yet, these voters are often left disenfranchised because our system does not support their right to cast their ballot.

We ask that you all read our report, coauthored with All Voting is Local and the ACLU of Wisconsin:

[Getting There is Half the Battle: Wisconsin's Photo ID Law, Access to DMV Services, and the Fight for Our Freedom to Vote](#)

You can find this report linked at the bottom of the League in Action Webpage on our website.

Wisconsin's voters elected you to represent them. Wisconsin's voters expect you to uphold their voting rights and to defend their right to vote as it is currently defined in the Constitution. It is unimaginable to me in the face of so many real problems facing this

Legislature that this is your first priority. There is much to be done in Wisconsin - let's get to the work of governing.