



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN

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TO: Legislative Council Special Committee on Election Law Review

RE: Statement About Election Reform Measures

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin commends the Legislative Council Special Committee on Election Law Review for investigating ways to improve the election process. Based on our long-standing principle that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote, we support measures that promote secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible voting.

The League's support of free and fair elections goes back to our founding in 1920. We supported the 1977-78 legislature's enactment of major election law reform, including the establishment of registration at the polls and the definition of identification needs for registration. We are proud of our state's successful election procedures, and we will continue to fight to protect citizens' rights to participate in government and to oppose major threats to our basic constitutional rights, including the right to vote.

The League has opposed the efforts of several legislative sessions to require all citizens to show a government-issued photo identification card in order to vote. Proponents of the voter ID bill base their position on the possibility that it would reduce fraud. The League of Women Voters, of course, supports elimination of fraud, but believes a photo ID card would do little to prevent fraudulent voting. Further, it would place an unfair burden on certain groups of people – including the elderly, low-income, minority, homeless, or handicapped – for whom it is most inconvenient to take off work, get transportation, stand in line, and apply for the documentation. Further, the statewide registration list that will be implemented will be a more effective and more fair tool for minimizing fraud.

To improve our election process, the League has long believed we should focus on positive reform measures, rather than enact legislation that inhibits voting and places an unfair burden on certain groups of voters. We support specific measures currently before the Legislature that improve accessibility and ease of voting for all eligible citizens. We particularly want to protect absentee voting. We heartily support measures to put more poll workers at the polls on Election Day and to provide better training for poll workers and election officials.

*Submitted by:*

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