



League of Women Voters®
Of Indiana, Inc.

FOR RELEASE AFTER 2:00 P.M.
June 20, 2008

Contact: Joanne Evers
mobile: 765-491-7212
jevers@lwvin.org

League of Women Voters Challenges Constitutionality of Indiana Voter ID Law

“Voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.”

Indianapolis, IN - The League of Women Voters of Indiana today filed a complaint in the Marion County Superior Court to request that the Indiana Photo ID Law be declared unconstitutional under the Indiana Constitution.

The League’s lawsuit is in furtherance of its purpose “... to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.” The League of Women Voters of the United States has adopted the Citizen’s Right to Vote which states “that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.”

The League’s challenge is based upon Art. 2, Sec. 2 of the Indiana Constitution which sets forth the only qualifications for voting eligibility that can legally be imposed upon voters without further amendment of the Indiana Constitution. For example, the Indiana Constitution was amended in 1882 to grant the legislature power to enact a voter registration program.

As the Indiana Photo ID Law imposes an additional voting qualification on the citizens of Indiana that is not provided for in the Indiana Constitution, the League has filed its complaint challenging the law.

President of the LWVIN, Joanne Evers, said, “In crafting this law, the legislature failed to acknowledge that not all Indiana citizens have a printed birth certificate or the transportation to travel to various government agencies to gather documents or, the funds to purchase the documents required to get the necessary documentation.” Evers said, “The populations most affected by this law include the aged, disabled, homeless, lower income, minorities, rural residents and women who have hyphenated names or whose names have changed as the result of marriage, divorce or remarriage.” Evers concluded that the Indiana Photo ID Law is a disenfranchisement of Indiana voters.

The League of Women Voters of Indiana contends that the Indiana Photo ID Law imposes a qualification upon voters not provided for in the Indiana Constitution. “The law hinders and discourages Indiana voters from participating in our representative government of checks and balances,” said Evers. “Casting a vote on Election Day and having it count is the process by which ‘... of the people, for the people and by the people ...’ is realized,” concluded Evers.

Representing the LWVIN in the lawsuit are Indianapolis attorneys Karen Celestino-Horseman and William R. Groth. Ms. Celestino-Horseman was lead counsel on behalf of the LWVIN and the League of Women Voters of the United States in the recent challenge to the Indiana Photo ID law before the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Celestino-Horseman can be contacted at 317/632-5633 or 317/201-0391. Mr. Groth can be contacted at 317/353-9363 or 317/502-4803.

The League of Women Voters, Inc. is a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to women and men of all ages.