



KARL VAN ROY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

For Immediate Release
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Van Roy Supports Proposal to Ensure Ballot Box Integrity

Disappointed by Assembly Democrats Delay of the Vote on Photo ID

MADISON - State Representative Karl Van Roy (R-Howard) expressed his disappointment today that Assembly Democrats used a procedural motion to block a final vote on a proposal to restore the integrity of our election process. Van Roy is a staunch supporter of Assembly Joint Resolution 17 which would amend the state constitution and require voters to present a photo ID when casting a ballot or registering to vote at the polls on election day.

"This is a simple, common-sense requirement that will ensure that valid votes in Green Bay aren't cancelled out by fraudulent votes elsewhere in the state," stated Van Roy. "Folks already have to show a photo ID to cash a check, get on an airplane, or buy beer. Something as important as voting should not be any different."

Investigations into alleged voter fraud in Milwaukee County during the 2004 election revealed many irregularities. For example, 7,000 more votes were counted than the number of people listed as having voted; 1,800 address verifications cards were returned as undeliverable with no such person or address existing; and six dead people voted.

"These findings are deeply disconcerting to me. It clearly shows that our current voting process is undermining the integrity of the ballot box. Requiring a photo ID to cast a vote is a much needed and long-overdue reform that will help restore voter confidence in election results," said Van Roy.

In the previous two sessions, the legislature tried to work with Governor Doyle to pass a photo ID bill, only to have Doyle veto it three times. The legislature is now seeking to amend the Wisconsin Constitution to require it. Amending the constitution requires proposals to be adopted in two successive legislative sessions by both the Senate and the Assembly and then ratified by the voters in a statewide referendum. Last session, the legislature passed the measure on first consideration. Today's delay means the Assembly vote on second consideration won't be held until March 13, after which time it would need final approval in the Senate before it could be submitted to the public for approval on the November 2008 general election ballot.

In a 2005 survey, Van Roy found that 79% of respondents from his district supported requiring a photo ID at the polls. In 2006, that number rose to 84%. Statewide surveys have consistently yielded overwhelming public support.

"By the numbers alone it's clear that this is not a partisan issue, yet the Democrats in the legislature consistently ignore the voters and stand in the way of what seems to everyone else to be a common-sense solution," stated Van Roy. "Good government reform should not die because of partisan politics. The voters deserve to have their voices heard on this issue, just as they deserve honest and fair elections."

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