



ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATS

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

October 6, 2016

The Honorable Loretta Lynch
Attorney General – U.S. Dept. of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 205030

Dear Attorney General Lynch:


We are writing to raise concerns related to the Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) dispersing inaccurate and inconsistent information to voters attempting to obtain a valid, state-issued identification card prior to the November 8 election. As you know, Wisconsin has a voter ID law and all eligible electors wishing to cast their ballot will need a state-issued ID card to present to poll workers before voting. DMV workers have given incorrect and misleading information to individuals attempting to obtain the required voter ID.


With less than 35 days until the election, we are requesting that your department immediately investigate these claims and, if merited, take appropriate legal action to ensure Wisconsin electors hoping to vote in the upcoming election are able to do so. Members of the Assembly Democratic caucus have made a request of the state's DMV for an immediate action plan to correct the distribution of inaccurate and inconsistent information to voters hoping to obtain an ID. We do not feel that online training of employees will suffice, given the volume of DMV employees across the state who told potential electors there was "no guarantee" they would be able to vote in the upcoming election. Because eligible voters may have been turned away, we feel that federal oversight may be warranted and urge you to consider our request.


Our strong opposition to voter ID laws is only strengthened by reports highlighting the ineptitude and failure of our state's Department of Motor Vehicles, the agency tasked with issuing valid identification cards to electors. We already believe the often onerous and time-consuming process of obtaining an ID will likely be reason for some to abandon the voting process. The likelihood of this happening is only amplified when electors are receiving grossly inaccurate information about how to obtain an ID prior to the election.

Thank you for taking our request into consideration. Should you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,


Katrina Shankland
State Representative
71st Assembly District


Chris Taylor
State Representative
76th Assembly District


Dana Wachs
State Representative
91st Assembly District



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Peter Barca
State Representative
64th Assembly District

Amanda Stuck
State Representative
57th Assembly District

Christine Sinicki
State Representative
20th Assembly District

Debra Kolste
State Representative
44th Assembly District

Sondy Pope
State Representative
80th Assembly District

Cory Mason
State Representative
80th Assembly District

Jill Billings
State Representative
95th Assembly District

Andy Jorgensen
State Representative
43rd Assembly District

Beth Meyers
State Representative
74th Assembly District

David Bowen
State Representative
10th Assembly District

Mark Spreitzer
State Representative
45th Assembly District

JoCasta Zamarripa
State Representative
8th Assembly District

Nick Milroy
State Representative
73rd Assembly District

Jonathan Brostoff
State Representative
19th Assembly District

Terese Berceau
State Representative
77th Assembly District

Tod Ohnstad
State Representative
65th Assembly District

LaTonya Johnson
State Representative
17th Assembly District

Josh Zepnick
State Representative
9th Assembly District

Mandela Barnes
State Representative
11th Assembly District

Fred Kessler
State Representative
12th Assembly District

Lisa Stubeck
State Representative
78th Assembly District



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Leon Young
State Representative
16th Assembly District

Diane Hesselbein
State Representative
79th Assembly District

Daniel Riemer
State Representative
7th Assembly District

Gary Hebl
State Representative
46th Assembly District