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Republicans Finally Facing Consequences of Election Law Overreach

Madison – Today State Senator Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) responded to recent legal decisions putting a check on election laws passed by Wisconsin’s Republican majority in the legislature, and Gov. Scott Walker.

“The Republican majority in this state passed laws that were crafted to erect as many barriers as possible to the right to vote, especially in communities that traditionally vote Democratic. The attempt to use such barriers to voting as a way for Republicans to maintain political power was obvious, and it is gratifying that the courts are putting a stop to it,” said Carpenter.

A Federal District court struck down laws restricting early voting, including eliminating weekend voting, cutting early voting by two weeks, and restricting early voting to only one location. The court also struck down an extension of residency requirements to 28 days, the prevention of municipal clerks from sending absentee ballots by fax or email, and excluding expired student ID cards from list of acceptable IDs to vote.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice appealed for an emergency stay of the order, an appellate panel of three Republican-appointed justices denied the DOJ appeal, and Wisconsin Attorney General has stated that he will not appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

“I’m glad to see that once again the courts are fulfilling their vital role in our society and reining in this Republican majority when it again overreaches,” said Carpenter.

Senator Carpenter’s press releases are available for review at
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/carpenter/PressReleases/>

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