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MILELE A. COGGS

6th District Alderwoman

**Judge grants permanent injunction
blocking Voter ID law**

**Statement of Alderwoman Milele A. Cogg
March 12, 2012**

Today's decision by Dane County Circuit Judge Richard Niess to issue a permanent injunction that strikes down the Voter ID law is another step in the right direction for our state and for the tens of thousands of voters who would have been disenfranchised during elections this year.

In his decision, the judge rightly called the Voter ID law unconstitutional because its requirements abridge the right to vote. Judge Niess' ruling says that lawmakers did not have constitutional authority to add another qualification to vote. Also, Judge Niess is the second judge to block the Voter ID law, on two separate legal issues, as last week another Dane County judge granted a temporary injunction in response to a lawsuit brought by the Milwaukee Chapter of the NAACP and Voces de la Frontera.

In that Voter ID law case, information generated by Common Council legislation I sponsored along with co-sponsors Alderman Ashanti Hamilton and Alderman Terry Witkowski (requiring the city Election Commission to track data on persons turned away from or not able to register at the polls for voter identification reasons) and provided to the plaintiffs was entered as evidence in the case and was part of a body of material that was considered prior the judge's decision.

Again, I am pleased with the judge's decision, and I applaud the League of Women Voters for filing the lawsuit that helped strike down this misguided "solution in search of a problem."

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