



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CALL

September 17, 2018

Ald. Cavalier Johnson
(414) 286-3777

Voter participation package moves forward

A comprehensive, legislative package designed to increase participation in voting has been recommended for approval by the Judiciary and Legislation Committee. Lead sponsor **Alderman Cavalier “Chevy” Johnson** said this proposed approach puts in place a system that allows for opting out of voter registration rather than the current barriers of opting in.

“The **most important office in this country is that of citizen, and we need people to be engaged and active in that,**” said Ald. Johnson.

The first measure (file#180474) directs Milwaukee’s Department of Administration – Intergovernmental Relations Division to seek introduction and passage of State legislation to provide for voting pre-registration of 16-and 17-year-olds; for the acceptance of a mobile-compatible electronic voter identification system, so voters can present their mobile device in lieu of a physical identification card; and for universal voter registration.

There are already 13 states including the District of Columbia that have some type of pre-registration in place. Evidence collected from these states suggests **pre-registration has limited to no fiscal impact** but has a direct impact on voter registration rates and participation when implemented effectively

“It (an automatic voter registration system) would streamline everything. It would be a much more efficient and cost effective process for the City,” testified Neil Albrecht, executive director of the Milwaukee Election Commission.

-more-

The second measure (file#180485) urges the Mayor to include voter registration information in the Friday enrichment portion of the Mayor's Earn and Learn Program, the City's youth summer job program; requires all City employees who are points of contact with the public to inquire about the residents' voter registration status and to provide information regarding registration; and directs the Community Development Block Grant Office to insert a requirement that all community-based organizations make voter registration information available to their customers.

The third measure (file#180709) urges Milwaukee Public Schools to pre-register all students 18 years of age and older to vote while the students are still in school and prior to graduation.

The legislation will now go before the full Common Council when it meets at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, September 25 in the third floor Common Council Chamber at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

-30-