

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 3, 2016

The Honorable Scott Walker
Governor of Wisconsin
115 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker:

I write to express concerns regarding eligible Wisconsinites' ability to obtain identification for voting at Division of Motor Vehicle (DMV) stations. Recent press reports indicate that individuals seeking to obtain voting identification have received conflicting, incomplete and, in some cases, inaccurate information from the DMV. As a result, a federal judge has ordered an investigation of the implementation of the state's plan to issue identification to certain eligible voters. With the general election a little over a month away, and early voting well underway across Wisconsin, I would request that your administration take immediate action to ensure every eligible voter has access to the ID required to exercise his or her constitutional right to vote.

Reports of the DMV providing conflicting guidance about obtaining voter identification is the latest example of your administration limiting access to appropriate voter IDs. In July, U.S. District Judge James Peterson ruled that a number of provisions of Wisconsin election law are unconstitutional. Judge Peterson's injunction required that the state promptly issue temporary voting credentials to anyone who has entered the DMV's ID Petition Process. On September 22, Attorney General Schimel filed court documents stating that DMV staff had been trained to ensure that individuals would receive voter IDs within six days, even if they did not have birth certificates.

Unfortunately, as reported by the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, numerous individuals seeking IDs at DMV stations across the state have received inaccurate information about if and when they could obtain credentials in order to vote. This inconsistency is very concerning, particularly when it impacts the ability of our citizens to exercise their right to vote.

In response to these alarming reports, Judge Peterson has ordered the DMV to investigate these reports and ensure that the state is in compliance with his injunction. I ask you to direct the Attorney General and the Division of Motor Vehicles to work immediately to ensure that all DMV employees have the correct information and are providing the appropriate IDs to all eligible individuals in a timely manner.

As Judge Peterson wrote in his decision this summer about the State of Wisconsin's restrictive voting laws, "[t]he Wisconsin experience ... leads to real incidents of disenfranchisement, which undermine rather than enhance confidence in elections, particularly in minority communities." The unfortunate experiences of Wisconsinites reported at DMV stations across the state only

further undermine confidence in our state's elections and I urge you to take every step to ensure that every eligible Wisconsin voter can cast his or her vote this November.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tammy Baldwin". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "T" and a cursive "Baldwin".

Tammy Baldwin

United States Senator

CC:

Brad Schimel, Attorney General of Wisconsin

Kristina Boardman, Administrator, Division of Motor Vehicles