



For Immediate Release
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SEIU Wisconsin State Council Reacts to the Passage of the Voter ID Bill

Milwaukee – The state Senate passed AB7, the voter ID bill, today 19 to 5. The bill requires all voters to present a photo ID at the polls. Despite failed attempts to prove that the state suffers from widespread or substantial voter fraud, Republicans were eager to push this bill through the legislature.

“This anti-democratic bill is an attempt to silence minority voters in Wisconsin- women, people of color, students, seniors, people with disabilities, the economically disenfranchised and immigrants,” said SEIU Wisconsin State Council President Mike Thomas. “It is unconstitutional and irresponsible to limit the voting rights of our citizens. SEIU will work with our community allies to educate citizens of their voting rights and get them the resources they need to register to vote under this new, extreme law.”

As the most restrictive bill of its kind in the nation, the voter ID bill will cost taxpayers more than \$6 million over the next two years. Among those who will need to obtain new identification to vote are over 177,000 elderly Wisconsinites, 17 per cent of white men and women, 55 per cent of African American men, 49 per cent of African American women, 46 per cent of Hispanic men, and 59 per cent of Hispanic women.

Effective immediately after the law is published, voters must live in their ward for 28 consecutive days before an election. If they do not fulfill this requirement, they must vote in their previous ward. Although voters will be asked to present a photo ID at the polls in 2011, they will *not* be required to present one. This part of the law will go into effect in 2012.

Gov. Walker, who strongly supports this discriminatory, unconstitutional bill, plans to sign it into law on Wednesday, May 25.

SEIU Wisconsin State Council coordinates the legislative and political agenda of Wisconsin’s seven SEIU locals. SEIU is the nation’s largest and fastest growing union with 2.1 million members nationwide and 17,000 members in Wisconsin. For more information visit www.seiuwi.org.

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