

Court Upholds Halt to Purge of Wisconsin Voter Rolls

Written by League of Women Voters WI, Debra Cronmiller
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<http://newiprogressive.com/images/stories/S5/univ-student-vote-s5.jpg>



Wisconsin's highest court has shut down WEC's attempt to unlawfully purge voters from the rolls, finding the relevant statute is directed at municipal clerks, not them. Victory for voters.

MADISON - In a complete victory for voters' rights, the Supreme Court of Wisconsin today ruled in a 5-2 decision that a purge of the state's voter rolls cannot proceed. The ruling prevents hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin voters from being removed. Writing for the majority, Justice Brian Hagedorn explained that the relevant purge statute "does not apply to the

[Wisconsin Elections] Commission; there is no credible argument that it does."

Notably, the Court rejected the argument that the Commission's previous removal of voters in the 2017-2018 period showed it had the power to remove voters under Wisconsin law: "[T]he remedy for alleged executive overreach is not a court order to continue acting unlawfully. Simply because an agency took action in the past does not mean its actions were legal, nor would it provide authority for this court to mandate agency action that the law itself does not sanction."

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