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Court's Decision Allows for Early Voting in Wisconsin

Last session, Republicans passed a number of controversial bills focusing on the current election system. Though each piece of legislation was signed into law, the organization One Wisconsin Institute immediately sued, stating the new laws were unconstitutional and restricted voters.

U.S. District Judge James D. Peterson made the decision in July to bar Wisconsin from enforcing the new laws, prompting Attorney General Brad Schimel to appeal the court’s decision. On Monday, August 22nd, the ongoing court battle finally came to ahead when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit Court ruled the new laws will not go into effect during the 2016 election cycle.

The recent refusal to stay will throw out legislation including a limit on early voting, prohibition on providing voters with absentee ballots by mail or fax, requiring cities to only have on polling location for early voting, and requiring University dorms to provide citizen information to polling locations. Though parts of the Voter ID law were thrown out as well, this November voter’s will be required to show an ID at their polling locations.

The new ruling not only halted legislation but changed current voting laws as well. Early voting will now begin on Monday, September 26th, earlier than ever before. One Wisconsin Institute celebrated the early voting change as a large win for the state. “We hope municipalities across the state will quickly move forward in offering expanded in
person absentee voting hours to ensure all Wisconsinites are able to exercise their right to vote,” said Director Scot Ross.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice has yet to comment saying they are reviewing the court’s decision. The court’s ruling will hold steady during the 2016 election cycle, but the battle is far from over. There is a chance the laws could still go into effect in the future.

click here to see the story on the Hoven Consulting website.

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Gov. Walker Promotes College Affordability

Last week, Governor Walker toured technical colleges across the state in an effort to shine a light on student debt issues in Wisconsin. The Governor touted his recent actions, including legislation that created a student loan debt specialist position, need based grants for college students, and froze tuition for UW System students.

During his tour, he continued to promote the need for further legislation to continue to make college more affordable. “If a student and a family has to take out less debt to begin with because they don’t have as much to pay for, that’s the best way to deal with student loan debt,” said Walker.

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Trump Recruits Wisconsin Women

In a new effort to increase his poll numbers, Republican Presidential nominee Donald Trump announced the Wisconsin Women for Trump
Coalition. Though the group includes a few big names in Wisconsin, including Joint Finance Co-Chair Sen. Alberta Darling, Senate President Sen. Mary Lazich, and former Lt Gov. Margaret Farrow, there were many prominent republican women missing.

Most notably missing from the nominees list was Lt Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch. The Lt Gov. was reportedly asked to join but declined because of her increasingly busy schedule. Charles Nichols, a spokesman from Kleefisch’s office, stated the Lt Gov. “has been and will continue to be supportive of Donald Trump. We fully expect we’ll be partaking in many of the Trump-Pence events going forward.”

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**This Week in Madison**

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<th><strong>Joint Committees</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Tuesday at 9:30am:</strong> Joint Study Committee on Volunteer Firefighter and EMT Shortages</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday at 10:00am:</strong> Joint Study Committee on Government Documents and Legal Notices</td>
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**Wisconsin State Assembly** **Wisconsin State Senate**
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