

STATE OF INDIANA        )  
                                  )ss:  
COUNTY OF MARION     )

IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
  
CAUSE NO:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS        )  
OF INDIANA, INC.,                )  
                                  )  
                  Plaintiff,         )  
                                  )  
                  -vs-                )  
                                  )  
TODD ROKITA, in his official capacity )  
as Indiana Secretary of State,        )  
                                  )  
                  Defendant.         )

**COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT**

Comes now Plaintiff, the League of Women Voters of Indiana, Inc. (hereinafter "LWVIN"), and for its Complaint for Declaratory Relief against Defendant, Todd Rokita, states as follows:

**PARTIES**

1. The LWVIN is a nonpartisan community-based organization, formed in 1920 immediately after the enactment of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution granting women's suffrage. The LWVIN is dedicated to encouraging its members and fellow Hoosiers to exercise their right to vote as protected by the Indiana Constitution. The mission of the LWVIN is to impact public policies, promote citizen education, and make democracy work by, among other things, removing unnecessary and unconstitutional barriers to full participation in the electoral process. Currently, LWVIN has 18 local leagues and over

- 1,100 members, each of whom, on information and belief, is a registered voter in Indiana. LWVIN is affiliated with the League of Women Voters of the United States, which was also founded in 1920 as an outgrowth of the 72-year struggle to obtain voting rights for women. The LWVIN has evolved from an organization focused upon the needs of women and the voter training of women to an organization concerned with the voter training of all Hoosiers.
2. Defendant, Todd Rokita, is the Indiana Secretary of State, and in that capacity is the chief election officer of the State of Indiana. He is the highest State official responsible for implementing and instructing precinct officials and election administrators throughout Indiana concerning the Indiana Photo ID Law, also known as Senate Enrolled Act 483. In that regard Rokita, along with the Indiana Election Division, publishes the Election Administrator's Manual, which is intended, among other things, to instruct election administrators and precinct officials how to interpret and enforce the Indiana Photo ID Law.

### **STANDING**

3. LWVIN has associational standing to bring this constitutional challenge to the Indiana Photo ID Law because (a) its members would otherwise have standing to bring this challenge in their own right; (b) the interests it seeks to vindicate are germane to LWVIN's organizational purposes

and mission; and (c) neither the claim asserted herein nor the relief requested requires the participation in this lawsuit of any of its individual members.

4. In addition, the Indiana Photo ID Law will cause the LWVIN to expend resources educating voters regarding the Indiana Photo ID Law, and assist voters with obtaining the necessary documents needed to obtain the required form of photographic identification from the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles ("BMV").
5. Further, many members of the LWVIN, though they possess a driver's license, have philosophical objections, grounded in the Indiana Constitution, to being compelled to produce at the polls the restrictive form of identification the Indiana Photo ID Law now requires.

#### **THE INDIANA PHOTO ID LAW**

6. The Indiana Photo ID Law applies to in-person voting at both primary and general elections, but not to absentee ballots submitted by mail. It also contains an exception for persons living and voting in a state-licensed facility such as a nursing home. Ind. Code §3-11-8-25.1.
7. A voter who is "indigent" or who has a religious objection to being photographed may cast a provisional ballot that will be counted only if

- he or she executes an appropriate affidavit before the circuit court clerk within 10 days following the election. Ind. Code §§3-11.7-5-1, 3-11.7-5-2.5(c).
8. A voter who has photographic identification but who is unable or unwilling to present that identification on election day at the polls may file a provisional ballot that will be counted only if she brings the specified form of photographic identification to the circuit court clerk's office within 10 days following the election. Ind. Code §3-11.7-5-2.5(b).
  9. The State offers "free" identification to qualified voters but only to those who are also able to establish their residence and identity by presenting the original or a certified copy of their birth certificate, a certificate of naturalization, a U.S. veterans photo identification, a U.S. military photo identification, or a U.S. passport. Ind. Admin. Code tit. 140, §7-4-3 (2008).
  10. Indiana counties charge between \$3 to \$12 for a birth certificate, and in some other States the cost is much higher. The total fees for a U.S. passport are approximately \$100.

## LEGAL AND FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

11. The Indiana Constitution, Art. 2, § 2, states that an Indiana citizen need only meet the age, citizenship and residence requirements in order to cast a vote in a public election and have that vote count.
  
12. The Indiana Supreme Court has held that Art. 2, § 2 is mandatory and “precludes the Legislature from modifying its requirements or from imposing on persons therein designated any additional qualifications which shall be prerequisite to their exercise of the right of suffrage.” *Board of Election Commissioners of City of Indianapolis v. Knight*, 117 N.E. 565, 567 (Ind. 1917), citing *Morris v. Powell*, 125 Ind. 281, 25 N.E. 221 (Ind. 1890).
  
13. Although Art. 2, § 14 of the Indiana Constitution allows the General Assembly to impose registration requirements, “any effort on the part of the General Assembly to establish a public electorate which would differ from that defined in article 2, § 2, of the Constitution must necessarily be in conflict with the manifest purpose of that section to designate the voters entitled to participate in all elections ‘not otherwise provided for by the Constitution.’” *Board of Election Commissioners v. Knight*, 117 N.E. at 569.

14. “The principle is elementary that when the constitution defines the qualifications of voters, that qualification cannot be added to or changed by legislative enactment.” *Morris v. Powell*, 25 N.E. at 223. The right to vote “cannot be abridged or denied...through direct legislative enactment, except as such limitation upon the privilege is authorized by other provisions within the organic law of the state”. *State ex rel. McGonigle v. Madison Circuit Court*, 193 N.E.2d 242, 249 (Ind. 1963).
15. The Indiana Photo ID Law imposes a new substantive qualification on the right to vote, not authorized by the Indiana Constitution, which is the requirement that an otherwise registered and constitutionally qualified voter display at the polls on election day, or within 10 days of the election at the circuit court clerk’s office, a specific document—usually an Indiana driver’s license, a U.S. passport, or a photo ID card issued by the BMV--some of which are not possessed by all Indiana registered voters.
16. The Photo ID Law has prevented an indeterminate number of citizens in Marion County and throughout the State from casting a vote that counts.

17. For instance, in the 2007 municipal election in Marion County, at least 34 persons arrived at the polls and presented themselves for voting without the form of photographic identification required by Ind. Code §3-11.7-5-2.5. Each cast a provisional ballot, but of those 34 provisional ballots, 32 did not produce the required form of photographic identification and thus their votes were not counted. Most of those voters had voted for several years at the same location.

18. In the 2008 primary election, 12 nuns in St. Joseph County, Indiana, who were each retired and in their 80's and 90's, were not allowed to cast a regular or provisional ballot because the nuns did not have the required form of photographic identification required by the Indiana law.

19. An indeterminate number of Indiana citizens have been denied the right to vote because their driver's license or other form of compliant photographic identification were lost or stolen, or the voter forgot to bring the required form of identification to the polls on election day. A further indeterminate number of Indiana citizens have been discouraged or dissuaded from voting by the Photo ID Law's extra-constitutional requirements.

20. The Indiana Photo ID Law violates Art. 2, §2 of the Indiana Constitution.

WHEREFORE Plaintiff LWVIN prays for the following relief:

- a. That the Court order a speedy hearing and advance this case on its calendar pursuant to Indiana Trial Rule 57 so as to grant the relief sought by Plaintiff in time to be effective prior to the November 2008 general election;
- b. A declaration by this Court that the Indiana Photo ID Law violates Art. 2, §2 of the Indiana Constitution; and
- c. Judgment for its costs and any other or further relief which the Court may deem appropriate and just.

Respectfully submitted,

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*Attorneys for the Indiana League of Women Voters, Inc.*



**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing has been served this 20th day of June, 2008 by first class mail, postage prepaid, upon Stephen Carter, Indiana Attorney General, 219 Statehouse, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

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Hon. Todd Rokita  
Indiana Secretary of State  
201 State House  
Indianapolis, IN 46204