

August 10, 2021

Contact: Barbara Beckert, Barbara.beckert@drwi.org, 414-292-2724

DRW Commends Action to Protect Voting Rights

Today Governor Evers took action to protect our freedom to vote by vetoing voting bills that would have created new barriers for many Wisconsinites with disabilities.

“Many people with disabilities experience barriers to voting including lack of transportation, mobility restrictions, inaccessible polling places, limited access to the internet, and difficulty obtaining a state photo ID for voting”, stated Barbara Beckert, DRW Milwaukee Office Director. “The bills would have created new barriers that could disenfranchise many voters with disabilities and criminalize some forms of assistance. We want to work with policy makers to protect the rights of voters with disabilities and improve accessibility.”

Our concerns about these bills are grounded in our work supporting voters with disabilities, who have shared with us the many barriers they experience. As the federally mandated protection and advocacy agency for Wisconsin, DRW provides education and assistance to people with disabilities to promote their full participation in the electoral process. During the 2020 elections, DRW provided assistance to hundreds of Wisconsinites with disabilities and older adults who were struggling to safely and lawfully cast a ballot during the pandemic. Our new publication [Voting Rights Are Human Rights: In Our Own Voices](#) shares the concerns of voters with disabilities and their allies about the voting bills that were vetoed today.

As policymakers and election officials consider changes to Wisconsin law, it is vital that they safeguard the rights of voters with disabilities, including upholding the protections already enshrined in federal and state law. The goal should be to ensure our elections are secure as well as accessible and inclusive of all voters.

We thank Governor Evers for taking action today to protect voting rights, ensuring that every eligible voter can cast a ballot, and that every ballot is counted.

Disability Rights Wisconsin is the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy system for the State of Wisconsin, charged with protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and keeping them free from abuse and neglect.