



PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

League of Women Voters Duluth

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Democracy for All? The Barriers of Voter ID

Duluth, MN — The Duluth Voting Rights Coalition will host a forum focused on educating voters about the proposed constitutional amendment which would change the way voters are identified at the polls and eliminate same-day voter registration. The forum will be held Wednesday, April 25 ~ 7:30-9:00, at The College of Saint Scholastica ~ Burns Wellness Center Auditorium. Keynote speaker, Kathy Bonnifield, Director of Citizens for Election Integrity Minnesota (CEIMN) will present facts about the possible cost to taxpayers as well as its potential impact to voter access. St. Louis County Auditor, Donald Dicklich, will be on hand to answer questions on potential impacts at the local level. This program is free and open to the public.

The program will be moderated by the League of Women Voters Duluth. League member, Elizabeth Olson noted that, "It's important that voters get the facts about the proposed amendment so they can answer the question, 'What's the big deal?'"

Important decisions regarding the implementation of the amendment are being left for the 2013 legislature to decide. When asked if she would cover which kind of photo IDs would be valid under the proposed amendment, Ms. Bonnifield stated, "The proposed amendment does not specify exactly what IDs would work and what IDs would not work. But, I will discuss valid IDs in other states as well as the photo ID bill that was voted in 2011." The proposed language states that, 'all voters voting in person must present valid government-issued photographic identification before receiving a ballot' but does not specify which government-issued IDs would be valid.

About Duluth Voting Rights Coalition: The coalition is comprised of several organizations throughout Duluth representing seniors, homeless, people with disabilities, students, non-profits, labor and many other interests. The coalition meets monthly to plan events to educate the community on the impact of proposed voter photo id mandates. Sponsors of the event include: The League of Women Voters Duluth, Arc Northland, Center for Just Living at the College of St. Scholastica, CHUM, the Citizens Federation, Community Action Duluth, Minnesota Council of NonProfits- Northeast, Minnesota Disability Law Center, MPIRG Duluth, and the Northeast Area Labor Council.

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