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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NAACP and MTEA Applaud Decision Dismissing Attorney General's Lawsuit

Today, Judge Maryann Sumi of the Dane County Circuit Court issued an eloquent decision that dismissed partisan attempts to disenfranchise scores of thousands of Wisconsin voters. Her decision continues Wisconsin's progressive history of protecting the right to vote.

Judge Sumi's ruling upholds the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which protects the rights of African American citizens to vote without respect to technical errors in their registration.

The Milwaukee Branch NAACP and the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association (MTEA) applauds Judge Sumi for recognizing that the exercise of the right to vote is the cornerstone of democracy. Here in Wisconsin we don't let technical errors, like typos or computer mismatches, serve as a basis for disenfranchising voters.

Attorney General J. B. Van Hollen has a responsibility to protect the rights of the citizens of this state. It is unfortunate he has let his partisan loyalties cloud his judgment in this matter. The Wisconsin Attorney General has no standing to disenfranchise voters based on a HAVA mismatch.

If the Attorney General Van Hollen continues his reckless efforts and appeals to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, the NAACP and the MTEA are prepared to stand up for the protection of Wisconsin voters once again. We are confident that the Wisconsin Supreme Court will dismiss these Republican efforts just as the United States Supreme Court did to their Republican counterparts in Ohio.

"Judge Sumi has recognized and strengthened the right to vote in Wisconsin" says Jerry Ann Hamilton, NAACP President. "The MTEA and the NAACP now urge you to exercise your right to vote on November 4."

MTEA President Dennis Oulahan stated "The MTEA joined with the NAACP to intervene in this case because our union wants to make certain that our members, parents, and our 18-year-old students can do what all Americans should do on November 4 – vote!"

"The NAACP and the MTEA see today's ruling as a victory for democracy."

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