OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Abele Urges Seniors to Get Informed on New Voter ID Laws

MILWAUKEE – Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele, along with District Attorney John Chisholm and others, stressed the importance of becoming educated on the new voter ID law to a crowd of over 250 seniors this morning at a Voter ID Educational Event held at the Italian Community Center.

Abele said that while it's important to prevent voter fraud, it's also important to ensure that eligible residents are able to vote. "Because of the new law, even residents who've voted at the same place for decades will be turned away if they don't have a valid photo ID," Abele said. "We're committed to educating seniors so that they can exercise their right to vote."

The event, which was sponsored by the Milwaukee County Department on Aging, kicked off with remarks from the county executive, district attorney, Congresswomen Gwen Moore, Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Chair Frank Gonzales, and Milwaukee County Aging Director Stephanie Sue Stein. Also included in the program was a presentation from a panel with representatives from the Government Accountability Board (GAB), Milwaukee County Election Commission, City of Milwaukee Election Commission, Department of Transportation (DOT), Disability Rights Wisconsin, and AARP.

"I fear if no one takes charge of familiarizing older adults with the new photo ID voting requirements, some will be confused and frustrated and when election day comes, quite possibility unable to cast their vote," said Stein. "At this event we were able to help people know what the changes are and what they need to do to be prepared to vote. Additionally, seniors were able to learn how to obtain a free Wisconsin State ID for the purpose of voting, which is extremely important information."

For information on voter photo ID law information, contact Wisconsin Government Accountability Board, at (608) 261-2028 or at http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/photo-id. Voter ID Checklist Envelopes can be obtained by contacting the Department on Aging at (414)289-5950 or at agingevents@milwaukeecounty.com. For a free photo ID card for voting, contact the Wisconsin Department of Transportation at (608) 266-2353 or http://dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/apply/idcard.htm.

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