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**ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION (EAC) REJECTS KANSAS, ARIZONA
REQUEST TO CHANGE NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM**

League Applauds EAC Decision: "This Ruling Protects Voters and Voting Rights"

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters of the U.S., Arizona and Kansas applauded yesterday’s decision by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to reject requests from the states of Arizona and Kansas to modify the national mail-in voter registration form to require voters to provide documentary proof of citizenship with that form.

“This is the correct decision by the EAC, plain and simple,” said Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. “This ruling is consistent with the U.S. Constitution and one that reinforces critical protections for voters and voting rights.”

“The Arizona and Kansas requests are at odds with the very purpose and goals of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA),” added MacNamara. “The NVRA was enacted in order to provide for a simple voter registration form, promote national uniformity in the voter registration process, increase voter registration and participation, and facilitate large-scale voter registration drives by groups like the League.”

Earlier this month, the [League of Women Voters of the United States](#) joined with the [League of Women Voters of Arizona](#) and the [League of Women Voters of Kansas](#) to [file comments with the EAC](#) regarding these requests made by the Secretaries of State of Arizona and Kansas. Previously the League [filed a motion](#) and was [allowed to intervene](#) in *Kobach, et al v. U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC)*. The League is represented in this case by the [Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law](#), as well as pro bono counsel Kirkland & Ellis LLP and David G. Seely of the law firm Fleeson, Goong, Coulson & Kitch, LLC.

Last year, the Supreme Court held in [Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.](#), that Arizona’s requirement that voter registrants provide documentary proof-of-citizenship was preempted by the NVRA with respect to applicants using the Federal Form. Kansas and Arizona seek to overturn that court decision.

“We are very pleased with the EAC’s decision because the assertions by our Secretary of State regarding registration and voting by ineligible persons in Arizona do not stand up to scrutiny and do not support the changes they are trying to make to the form,” said Robyn Prud’homme-Bauer, President of the League of Women Voters of Arizona (LWVAZ).

“The Kansas League is delighted with this ruling,” said Dolores Furtado, President of the League of Women Voters of Kansas (LWVKS). “We have experienced first-hand the harmful effects that documentary proof of citizenship requirements have had on voters and voter service organizations like ours in Kansas. This decision protects Kansas voters.”

“The League has worked tirelessly to remove barriers from voting and advocate on behalf of the voting rights of all Americans,” MacNamara concluded. “This decision is another important win for voters and voting rights.”

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

LINKS

Here is the link to the League release on our US website:

<http://www.lwv.org/press-releases/election-assistance-commission-eac-rejects-kansas-arizona-request-change-national>

This AP story was published late last night. I sent our release directly to this reporter so I am hopeful that she will update her story with quotes today.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2014/01/17/4760262/feds-reject-voter-registration.html>.