Walker's DMV Drags Feet on Voter IDs, Judge Orders Investigation

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http://newiprogressive.com/images/stories/S5/voting-right-s5.jpg



Data provided by VoteRiders suggests the DMV is spreading misinformation to people applying for Voter IDs in Madison and 10 other offices in violation of court order.

MADISON - According to a <u>report</u> in the Wisconsin State Journal, a federal judge says the state must investigate reports that Division of Motor Vehicles employees gave false information to a person who applied for an ID to vote in the upcoming election — in possible violation of a court order.

Judge James Peterson issued the order Friday, shortly after <u>a report earlier in the week by The</u> <u>Nation</u> whether Gov. Scott Walker's administration is complying with instructions Peterson gave earlier this year, as part of a court challenge to Wisconsin's voter ID law.

Peterson, who is presiding over a legal challenge to Wisconsin's voter ID law, ruled in July that the state must promptly provide voter ID credentials, valid in the November election, to people who request them — even if they lack some of the underlying documents needed to obtain an ID.

The Nation report focused on audio recordings of exchanges with employees at a Madison DMV office in which they appear to rebuff efforts by a Madison man, Zack Moore, to obtain an ID to vote in November. DMV employees can be heard telling Moore if he enters the petition process, it's possible he might not get voting credentials in time for the election.

The comments by DMV staffers in the audio recording, taken by the group VoteRiders, contradict what state Attorney General Brad Schimel told Peterson in a report to the court on Sept. 22 — the same day the recording was made, according to VoteRiders spokeswoman Molly McGrath.

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"DMV is carefully administering the process to ensure that anyone who is eligible for the IDPP will have a valid ID for the November general election," Schimel wrote.

McGrath said information collected by VoteRiders suggests DMV misinformation about the process is not limited to one office in Madison. She said VoteRiders representatives traveled to 10 other DMVs across the state and were given contradicting — and at times, inaccurate — information.

The court challenge over which Peterson presides was brought by the liberal group One Wisconsin Institute. Another legal challenge to the law, brought by the American Civil Liberties Union, is pending in federal court in Wisconsin's Eastern District.