Sent via the Mayor’s Office website contact form

September 18, 2017

Dear Mayor Soglin,

As you know, the League of Women Voters is committed to assuring the rights of all eligible citizens to vote, and to obtain an ID suitable for voting, if necessary. We are concerned that the relocation of the Madison West DMV’s customer services center to 8417 Excelsior Drive will adversely affect voters’ ability to obtain such an ID. We are writing to request your help in making changes to Madison Metro bus routes and schedules to improve access to the new DMV location.

The DMV relocation should not be a problem for voters who can drive. But for citizens who must use public transportation, current bus routes and schedules will likely cause hardships for those needing to get to the DMV at the Excelsior Drive location. While several bus routes with convenient scheduling serve the current Hill Farms DMV office, the bus options to the planned Excelsior Drive office are fewer and less convenient. The Madison Metro trip planner indicates that the Excelsior Drive location is served by the #15 bus, but only during peak hours. At other times of the day, riders would have a 22- to 23-minute walk from the closest route #15 stop. Other bus routes serving the new DMV location require multiple transfers and a walk of 9 to 23 minutes to the destination.

Because the DMV customer service center is scheduled to move on December 1, 2017, we request that you consider changes to these bus routes and schedules and make the requisite adjustments to the 2018 budget for Madison Metro to minimize the negative impact of the new location on citizens needing to obtain a photo ID for voting.

Sincerely,

Brook Soltvedt
President, LWV Dane County