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Representative Crowley Introduces Constitutional Amendment to Give the People Back their VOICE

MADISON, WI – State Representative David Crowley (D-Milwaukee) issued the following statement following his introduction of the Wisconsin Direct VOICE Constitutional Amendment:

“We saw last week how little the state legislature thinks of the voice of Wisconsin’s citizens. 81% of Wisconsinites want to see some form of common sense gun legislation – if you got 5 Wisconsinites in a room, 4 of them would say ‘Yes, there should be some kind of gun reform.’ And what did the legislature do? Nothing. The Governor called on the legislature to have, at a minimum, meaningful debate on gun reform – but the sound of the gavel striking twice in quick succession to signal both the beginning and end of the special session drowned out any debate that might have been.

“But it does not end there: 59% of Wisconsinites support marijuana legalization. 83% support medical marijuana. Wisconsinites largely support changes to healthcare, environmental issues, and campaign finance reform. The cornerstone of a representative democracy is the legislature acting as a deliberative body – debating the important issues about which the people they represent care. The legislative branch of the Wisconsin government has failed in their duty to lead debates on issues important to the people of Wisconsin.

“That is why I am introducing the Wisconsin Direct Voting on Initiatives for Citizen Empowerment (VOICE) constitutional amendment. The amendment gives the people a platform to make their voice heard on the issues that are important to them and a direct path to make those issues law. This amendment is not about abrogating the purpose of the legislature – it is to expand the legislative process to include the people.

“This amendment allows the people to put forth legislation legalizing marijuana, or instituting universal background checks, or curbing carbon emission to combat climate change. Since the legislature will not listen, it is time to give Wisconsin citizens their Direct VOICE back.”

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