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CAVALIER JOHNSON
ALDERMAN, 2ND DISTRICT

Purge of voter rolls halted by Appeals Court

Statement of Alderman Cavalier Johnson February 28, 2020

More than 200,000 people in Wisconsin will not lose their voter registrations – at least for now – thanks to a state appeals court. This is great news in general and even better news for a huge chunk of those 200,000 voters who are from Milwaukee (more than 37,000).

An appeals court ordered the state to keep more than 200,000 people on its voter rolls Tuesday, a day after an Ozaukee County judge found state election commission officials in contempt of court for not following his December decision to suspend voter registrations. In a separate order, one of the judges on the appeals court blocked the contempt finding, relieving the commission and three of its members of \$800 a day fines.

Tuesday's rulings are not final and are in place while the appeals court considers whether anyone should be taken off the rolls.

The lawsuit to purge the voter rolls is spearheaded by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty. The lawsuit hinges on a state law that says voters should come off the rolls if they have not responded within 30 days to notifications that there is "reliable information" that they have moved.

This is a classic voter suppression operation that has no place in our democracy, and it's just plain shameful to try to throw up obstacles to voting.

I know this will bring some relief for those voters who were affected, and I applaud the appeals court for its decision.

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