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SPORTS, 1B

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Judge blocks suit seeking Wisconsin voter data



A voter fills out his ballot on April 7, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Green Bay.

TORK MASON/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Molly Beck

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

MADISON - A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit from the U.S. Department of Justice that sought to gain access to confidential information of voters that state election officials argue is protected by Wisconsin law.

The federal lawsuit was one of more than two dozen the Trump administration has filed across the country against states with Democratic governors seeking those states' voter lists without personal information redacted.

Since it was filed, Federal Bureau of Investigation officials have questioned a top state election official about conspiracy theories about Wisconsin's 2020 election and sought interviews with Milwaukee election workers who helped administer the 2020 election.

The U.S. Department of Justice, in its lawsuit, demanded the state's unredacted list of voters, including the names, date of birth, residential address, drivers license numbers and the last four digits of Social Security numbers of every Wisconsin voter.

U.S. District Judge James Peterson, who is based in Madison, issued the de-

cision to dismiss the federal request on Thursday – the same day a federal judge in Maine dismissed a similar lawsuit there.

While the state's voter lists are available to purchase, state law bars the release of such confidential information, according to the Wisconsin Elections Commission. Trump officials could purchase a copy of the state's voter list that includes just names and addresses for \$12,500.

The lawsuit against Wisconsin officials was filed after five of the six

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Questions remain after federal PFAS standard rollback

Laura Schulte

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

MADISON – Newly announced plans to roll back regulations on cancer-causing “forever chemicals” in water have Wisconsin officials reviewing the potential impact on the state.

Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Lee Zeldin announced on April 18 that current federal standards would be rescinded and restarted for certain chemicals, while regulations for two of the most common compounds – PFOA and PFOS – would be delayed.

In a release, Zeldin pledged to take a longer look at PFAS to ensure that regulations are “across the full lifecycle and built to last.”

“That means rules grounded in gold-standard science and the Safe Drinking Water Act, support for water systems on the front lines, and action to stop PFAS pollution at the source before it ever reaches a tap,” Zeldin said in a release.

“The Biden administration cut corners and failed to follow the law. We are fixing that error with standards water systems can actually implement and that will hold up to scrutiny, while addressing PFOA and PFOS, two of the best-studied PFAS with well-documented health impacts.”

The changes are leading to questions for states like Wisconsin, which already have PFAS water regulations on the books. The Wisconsin standards align with those enacted at the federal level during the Biden administration.

Wisconsin's standards for PFAS in drinking water were put in place in January, with limits of 4 parts per trillion for PFOS and PFOA, and 10 ppt for PFHxS, PFNA and HFPO-DA (also known as GenX).

The new standards also suggest a health-based limit of 0 ppt for PFOA and PFOS, which can be used as a guideline for communities, but not enforced.

A spokesperson for the Department of Natural Resources said federal action is being looked at, but did not respond to further questions about how Wisconsin may be impacted by the

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New student loan caps will worsen nursing shortage, state argues

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USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

The health care workforce shortage will worsen under new federal student loan limits taking effect this summer, Wisconsin and 22 other states argued in a new lawsuit.

The Trump administration finalized new rules lowering the amount of money graduate students can borrow from the federal government. The borrowing caps vary based on program. Students enrolled in “professional” programs, such as medicine, dentistry and law,

The Education Department classified advanced degrees in nursing, physical therapy, social work and other fields as “graduate” programs instead of “professional” programs that come with the higher borrowing limits.

can borrow up to \$50,000 a year or a total of \$200,000. All other graduate students can borrow up to \$20,500 a year or a total of \$100,000.

The Education Department classified advanced degrees in nursing, physical

therapy, social work and other fields as “graduate” programs instead of “professional” programs that come with the higher borrowing limits.

The department's designations are at the heart of a lawsuit Wisconsin Attor-

ney General Josh Kaul and other attorneys general filed in federal court in Maryland on May 19. They argue the Trump administration arbitrarily narrowed the definition of a “professional” degree beyond what Congress envisioned.

“We should be supporting the development of the health-care workforce,” Kaul said in a statement. “But this rule would make it harder for some to be able to pay for certain degree programs, including those for nurse practitioners and physician assistants.”

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