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League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County Statement on Deployment of Federal Law Enforcement Officers to Milwaukee

Milwaukee – The League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County joins the League of Women Voters of the United States and local Leagues throughout the country in condemning the arbitrary deployment of uninvited federal officers to various cities, including Milwaukee.

The League of Women Voters of the United States issued this statement:

"The increasing number of attacks on our democracy by some elected leaders and appointed members of our government are violating the First Amendment rights of people in this country and requires our organization to speak out against the actions of this administration.

"On July 21, 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection division confirmed that it deployed officers from three paramilitary-style units to act against protesters in Portland, Oregon. Dressed in unidentifiable military gear, in unmarked vehicles, our government unleashed a wave of fear and intimidation against people exercising their Constitutional right of free speech.

"This administration's tactics all too closely resemble authoritarianism. We have seen out-of-control leaders, past and present, who have used their power to intimidate, attack, or arrest their opponents in the name of 'law and order.' These actions are unpatriotic and un-American.

"The League of Women Voters is calling on the President and his administration to put an end to these unconstitutional acts. We also call on Congress to exercise its power to hold the administration accountable, immediately investigate the Department of Homeland Security and any other government agency involved in these heinous acts, and stand up for American democracy."

The League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County supports the prerogative of local elected officials in these matters. Governor Evers has stated "this type of unilateral intervention has not been requested by either the City of Milwaukee or the State and is not welcome in Wisconsin."

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The League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. Our mission is "empowering voters - defending democracy." The League influences public policy through education and advocacy, but does not endorse or oppose candidates or political parties. The national League of Women Voters was formed in 1920 after the ratification of the 19th Amendment ensuring women the right to vote.

For more information, visit: www.lwvmilwaukee.org

