The Wisconsin Credit Union League

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NEWS RELEASE

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Credit unions urge caution in use of account statements for identification

Pewaukee, Wis. -- To avoid exposure to identity theft when registering to vote, use something other than your credit union account statement as proof of identification.

That's the advice of the Wisconsin Credit Union League, the trade association in Pewaukee that represents 260 not-for-profit, member-owned financial institutions in the state. The League says that while using a financial account statement is an accepted document to establish a voter's current voting address, it may be safer to simply avoid this practice.

"You're better off using a state I.D., utility bill or some other permitted document," says Brett Thompson, League President & CEO. "It's just safer to limit your exposure with sensitive information."

While voters may be tempted to use their account statement as a substitute if their current address is not on their driver's license, The League feels this practice is not advisable.

"It's just an unnecessary risk to allow anyone to see your account number," Thompson says.

He urges consumers to be cautious, whether registering with a municipal clerk or as part of local voter registration drives.

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Credit unions are cooperative financial institutions that are owned by their members and do not have stockholders. Because they are not-for-profit, they return earnings to members in the form of more competitive rates of return on accounts, lower interest on loans, lower fees and improved services.Two million Wisconsin residents belong to credit unions, of which nearly half are open to the local community. People can find a credit union to join by looking in the phone book or by visiting www.creditunion.coop.