

DIANE SYKES ON VOTING RIGHTS

Highlights:

- Diane Sykes ruled to limit voting rights.
 - Sykes voted to reinstate a law that had been found to restrict voting rights “on account of race or color.”

Sykes Ruled To Limit Voting Rights

SYKES VOTED TO REINSTATE A LAW THAT HAD BEEN FOUND TO RESTRICT VOTING RIGHTS “ON ACCOUNT OF RACE OR COLOR”

April 2014: The United States District Court In Wisconsin Found That Wisconsin’s Voter ID Law Resulted In “The Denial Or Abridgment Of The Right To Vote On Account Of Race Or Color.” According to the majority decision for Frank, et al v. Scott Walker et al v Deininger, et al, “To summarize my findings of fact and conclusions of law regarding the plaintiffs' Section 2 claim: Act 23 has a disproportionate impact on Black and Latino voters because it is more likely to burden those voters with the costs of obtaining a photo ID that they would not otherwise obtain. This burden is significant not only because it is likely to deter Blacks and Latinos from voting even if they could obtain IDs without much difficulty, but also because Blacks and Latinos are more likely than whites to have difficulty obtaining IDs.” [Majority Decision for Frank, et al v. Scott Walker et al v Deininger, et al, [4/29/14](#)]

August 2016: Despite A Trial Court’s Previous Ruling That The Voter ID Law Resulted In Denial Of The Right To Vote On Account Of Color, Sykes Voted For It To Be Reinstated. According to Think Progress, “In a boost to Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, an especially conservative panel of three Republican-appointed judges stayed a trial judge’s decision weakening Wisconsin’s voter ID law. [...] Wednesday’s order in Frank v. Walker is the Wisconsin voter ID law’s second trip before a conservative panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Although a federal trial court struck the law down prior to the 2014 election, a panel of three Republican judges reinstated the law just hours after hearing oral arguments. After some additional proceedings in the Seventh Circuit, the case returned to the trial court. Last month, Judge Lynn Adelman handed down another decision that significantly weakened the law’s ability to disenfranchise voters. Under Adelman’s decision, voters who lack ID may fill out an affidavit at the polls and then exercise their right to the franchise. [...] The most recent Seventh Circuit panel consisted of Judges Frank Easterbrook and Michael Kanne, both Reagan appointees, and Diane Sykes, a George W. Bush appointee.” [Think Progress, [8/10/16](#)]

The Seventh Circuit Denied An En Banc Hearing

August 2016: The Seventh Circuit Denied A En Banc Hearing. According to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Frank v. Walker (2016), “The Western District has the authority to monitor compliance with its injunction, and we trust that it will do so conscientiously between now and the November 2016 election. On these understandings, the petitions for initial hearing en banc are DENIED.” [Frank v. Walker (2016), 16-3003 & 16-3052, [8/29/16](#)]