

Renee Fortin
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LD 34

Dear Committee members,

I am writing in concern for LD 34, and I believe you should vote ought to pass! Here's why, Voter ID increases the public's confidence in election results, an essential element in a stable democracy. ALL STATES SHOULD require photo ID both to vote in person and to vote by absentee ballot, by providing a copy of the ID. This is a basic requirement to help ensure the integrity of elections. All Americans who are eligible should have the opportunity to vote, but their ballots should not be stolen or diluted by fraudulent votes. The vast majority of Americans of all racial and ethnic backgrounds support such common-sense election reform. Voter ID can significantly defeat and deter impersonation fraud at the polls, voting under fictitious names or in the names of dead voters, double-voting by individuals registered in more than one state, and voting by individuals who are in the United States illegally. Every illegal vote steals or dilutes the vote of a legitimate voter, The Supreme Court has upheld voter ID since examples of voter fraud, have been documented throughout this nation's history.

Opponents of voter ID claim that it can only prevent impersonation fraud at the polls, which rarely happens. That assertion is incorrect. Voter ID can prevent and deter:

- Impersonation fraud at the polls;
- Voting under fictitious voter registrations;
- Double voting by individuals registered in more than one state or locality; and
- Voting by illegal aliens, or even legal aliens who are still not entitled to vote since state and federal elections are restricted to U.S. citizens.

Voter ID laws don't "suppress" anyone's vote. Researchers for the National Bureau of Economic Research found that between 2008 and 2016, voter ID laws had "no negative effect on registration or turnout, overall or for any specific group defined by race, gender, age or party affiliation."

According to many studies, I believe it is proven that there is no suppression of voting, in spite of what is being claimed by those who oppose voter ID.

I also do not believe that it is burdensome for people to have to use a voter ID. Our right to vote is so important! Is it really so hard to ask someone to present an ID to vote, when they are needed everywhere in our State and Nation. People in this country need a photo ID for everyday activities — from filling a prescription to cashing checks. You need to present ID to buy a beer or cigarettes; check into a hospital or hotel; apply for public assistance; get a marriage license; buy a gun; hop an airplane, or even just to enter the building that houses the U.S. Department of Justice.

Please use common sense on this decision and vote ought to pass on LD 34~An Act to Require a Person to Show Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting

With all due respect,
Renee Fortin