



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN EDUCATION FUND

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Voter ID: Unneeded, Unfair, and a Waste of Tax Dollars

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Voter ID is Unneeded

There is no evidence of widespread or organized fraud in Wisconsin's elections, despite numerous investigations by federal and state District Attorneys in the past decade. The state Department of Justice has substantiated 18 cases (0.0006%) of illegal voting out of the almost 3 million votes cast in the November 2004 election. Most of these were felons who were unaware they were not allowed to vote. There were a few cases of double voting by individuals who had already voted absentee or who owned more than one home and apparently thought they could vote in more than one municipality. These are examples of illegal voting, but voter ID would do nothing to prevent them. They were identified and prosecuted under the current system. To date, there has been no evidence that anyone has tried to vote using someone else's identity—the only form of voter fraud that Voter ID would address.

Voter ID is Unfair

Voter ID legislation would place an unfair burden on people who do not need a driver's license or who move frequently. In particular, it would impact the elderly, people with disabilities, and students. According to a 2005 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee study:

- In Wisconsin 59% of Hispanic females, 55% of African American males, 49% of African American females, and 46% of Hispanic males, compared to 17% of white males and 17% of white females, do not have a valid Wisconsin Driver's License (WDL).
- For African Americans ages 18-24, 78% of males and 66% of females do not have a valid WDL.
- 82% of 18-20 year olds living in student-intensive neighborhoods in Eau Claire, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Platteville, River Falls, Stevens Point, Stout, and Whitewater - do not have a driver's license for those zip codes.
- An estimated 177,399 residents aged 65 and older, and 98,247 state residents ages 35-64, do not have a driver's license or state photo ID.

Proponents claim the bill provides for state-issued ID at no cost to the individual, yet it does so only if you know enough to specifically ask the DMV to waive the fee. Also, many people will have to apply at a personal cost to get copies of their birth certificate or other required documentation. Many will incur a cost to take time off work and/or arrange round-trip transportation to the DMV.

Voter ID is a Waste of Tax Dollars

1. The DMV estimated in 2005 it would need \$2.3 million per year to implement voter ID.
2. The Government Accountability Board will need to train local officials and educate citizens about the new law and procedures. In addition to staff time, funding will be needed for advertising and other direct expenses. In Georgia, the public education campaign cost was in the millions of dollars.
3. Local governments will need to train Election Day officials and educate voters in their communities. In particular, clerks will have to train poll workers on how to process provisional ballots. Most have never had any experience with this.
4. Local governments may also have to increase clerk time. Many clerks hold another job during the weekday. To process provisional ballots, many clerks may need to add supplementary hours and, in some cases, take additional time off their "day jobs."

Voter ID is unneeded, unfair and a waste of tax dollars. Voter ID has no place in Wisconsin!