
HB 1389: Elections – Proof of Identity

SPONSORED BY: DELEGATE NEIL PARROTT

THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

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Question for the Committee

If a night club never checks IDs at the door,
does no one under 21 get in?

Follow Up Question....

- If an individual votes 5 times in the same election, and no one notices, did it actually happen?
- How could anyone notice?
 - There's no way to catch something that you're not checking for.

Why Elections Are Important

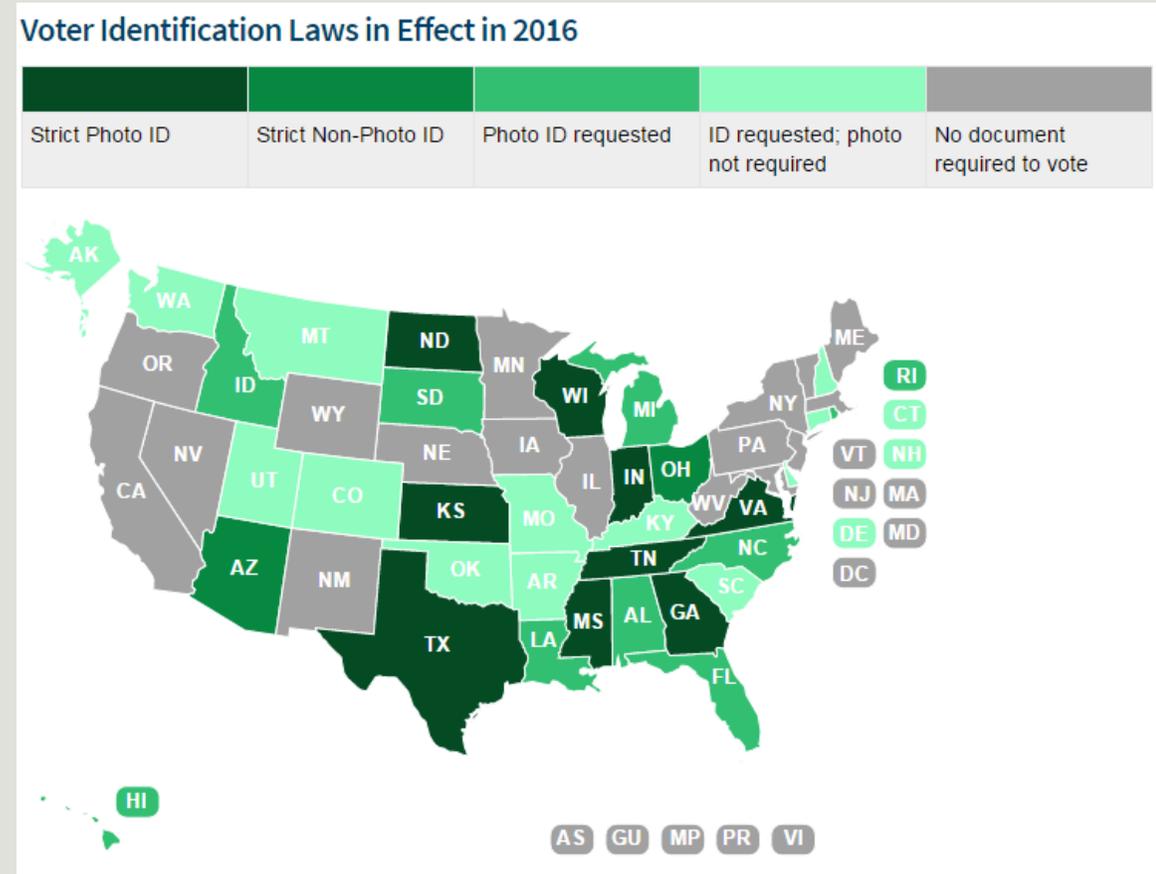
- Elections have serious consequences, and we need to make sure that each Maryland citizen gets one, and only one, vote.
- Every fraudulent vote counteracts one honest vote and restricts your voice in your government.

Voter ID Laws Across the Country

- Voter Identification Requirements

- Several state legislatures have adopted laws requiring voters to show identification at the polls. The requirements vary from:

- Strict photo ID
- Strict non-photo ID
- Photo ID requested
- ID requested, not required
- No document required to vote



HB1389 – What it does

- Requires voters to provide a current, government-issued photo ID when they vote at the polls.
- If a voter does not have a photo ID, the bill provides that individuals can obtain one from the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), free of charge, if the ID card is for voting purposes.

Actions that Require a Photo ID

- Driving
- Boarding an airplane
- Getting a library card
- Getting into an R-rated movie
- Renting a car or carpet steamer from Home Depot
- College applications

Actions that Require a Photo ID

- Receiving social security services
- Buying alcohol or cigarettes
- Applying for food stamps/welfare
- Applying for a job
- Buying Sudafed
- Opening a bank account
- Going to the doctor

This bill helps people get a photo-ID that
they can use to vote and for other
purposes.

By giving out free photo-IDs, this bill will
help people register to vote who would
not vote otherwise.

HB1389 – What it does

- An individual can vote by provisional ballot, only as long as no other person with that name/voter record voted across the state in that election.
- If they cannot provide a photo ID, they can vote by provisional ballot and confirm their identity within a reasonable time frame determined by the BOE.

Why it matters.

Is this really a problem?

- In 2012, an undercover journalist recorded himself at a Washington DC polling location, asking for Eric Holder's voter ballot.
 - The Poll Worker offered US Attorney General Eric H. Holder's ballot to a complete stranger.
 - Eric Holder has said multiple times there exists no evidence of voter fraud.



Voter ID Fraud is a Problem

We need to improve our voting system so that we can effectively deter and detect voter fraud

“A good registration list will ensure that citizens are only registered in one place, but elections officials still need to make sure that the person arriving at a polling site is the same one that is named on the registration list...

...There is no evidence of extensive fraud in U.S. elections or of multiple voting, but both occur, and it could affect the outcome of a close election. **The electoral system cannot inspire public confidence if no safeguards exist to deter or detect fraud or to confirm the identity of voters.**”

-Jimmy Carter

Ellen Sauerbrey

- In the 1994 Gubernatorial Election, Ellen Sauerbrey lost by only 5,993 votes.
 - 1.4 million ballots were cast in that election
 - 11,000 ballots were brought into serious question
 - 4,774 ballots were cast in the name of people who were in prison on election day.
 - 37 ballots were cast by deceased voters
 - 84 people voted twice = 168 ballots

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/1994/12/29/us/loser-for-maryland-governor-files-suit-to-overturn-election.html>

National Voter Registration Act of 1993

Passed by the 103rd Congress

Majority - Democrat

Addresses the concerns of national voter registration

National Voter Registration Act of 1993

Findings:

The Congress finds that—

- (1) the right of citizens of the United States to vote is a fundamental right;
- (2) it is the duty of the Federal, State, and local governments to promote the exercise of that right; and
- (3) discriminatory and unfair registration laws and procedures can have a direct and damaging effect on voter participation in elections for Federal office and disproportionately harm voter participation by various groups, including racial minorities.

What about Voter Disenfranchisement?

- Many opponents of photo voter ID say that it will disenfranchise minority or low-income individuals from voting.
 - However, after the strict voter ID law was implemented in Georgia, the Atlanta Journal reported that voter turnout actually went up in these categories.
- The Supreme Court ruled in October of 2014 to allow Texas to use their strict voter ID law in the general election.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/news/news/despote-voter-id-law-minority-turnout-up-in-georgi/nR2bx/>

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/19/us/supreme-court-upholds-texas-voter-id-law.html?_r=0

Voter Turn Out – Georgia

- *“If you look at the numbers, they clearly show that critics of this [voter ID] law were wrong,”* said Hans von Spakovsky, a former legal counsel to the Justice Department’s civil rights division.
- He also stated, *“Their argument has always been it would depress turnout, but it didn’t happen — **quite the opposite.**”*

Voter Turn Out – Georgia

TABLE 3

Georgia Voter Turnout, by Racial Group, 2006 and 2010

Voter Demographic	2006 Total Votes Cast	2010 Total Votes Cast	Percentage Increase
Hispanic/Latino	11,600	19,000	66.5%
Black	513,700	741,000	44.2%
White	1.6 million	1.7 million	11.7%

Source: Brian P. Kemp, Georgia Secretary of State, "Voting with Photo Identification," PowerPoint presentation made at the Conservative Leadership Conference of the Civitas Institute, March 2, 2012.

IB 3541  heritage.org

Note: Both the 2006 and 2010 elections are non-presidential election years.

But It Is NOT Just Georgia!

The 2014 midterm election had the highest number of votes cast and the highest number of registered voters during any midterm election, the secretary of state's office said in Kansas.

Kansas Voter Turnout - 2010/2014

2010

50% of registered voters voted

856,831 votes in total

2014

51% of registered voters voted

889,881 votes in total

HB1389 – Why this bill?

- **It protects** the integrity of our voting system.
 - If you have to provide a valid ID to receive food stamps, to write a check, or to get a library card, why would we treat our elections with less respect?
- **It communicates** to voters that when they vote, it's fair, and their vote counts.
- **It counteracts** the disenfranchisement argument because:
 - It allows those without photo ID to still vote, but have their votes verified individually.
 - It provides a free state ID from the MVA to those that want one for voting

Please vote favorably on HB1389 to:

Tell our voters that we:

- Want to protect their right to vote
- Value their participation
- Will make sure that their, and only their, voices will be heard

Questions???