

HB 1390: Election Law – Voter Registration and Absentee Voting – Proof of Citizenship

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THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

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Registering to vote in Maryland

- People can register to vote online in Maryland
- Questions asked on the form regarding citizenship and eligibility
 - Are you at least 16 years old? Yes – No
 - Are you a U.S. citizen? Yes – No
 - (If you answer NO to either question, do not complete this form.)
- This is simply an honor system with no real check in place.

HB1390 – A Solution

- This bill would ensure that every person who registers to vote Maryland proves that they are eligible to vote, rather than just checking a box that says they are
 - We shouldn't have the same check left to children asked to only take one piece of candy from an unsupervised bowl on Halloween.
 - We need maintain the integrity of the voting process.

HB1390 – What it does

- Requires every individual to submit proof of citizenship to the Board of Election when they register to vote
- Requires the individual to submit their proof of citizenship
 - By mail
 - In person
 - By any other method requested by the BOE through regulation
- When?
 - In the time frame determined by the BOE through regulation

HB1390 – What it does

- What to submit to prove citizenship?
 - Copy of a driver's license
 - Copy of a birth certificate
 - Copy of a US passport
 - Copy of US naturalization documents
 - Other approved federal immigration documents
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs card number
 - Any other form of proof approved by the BOE through regulation

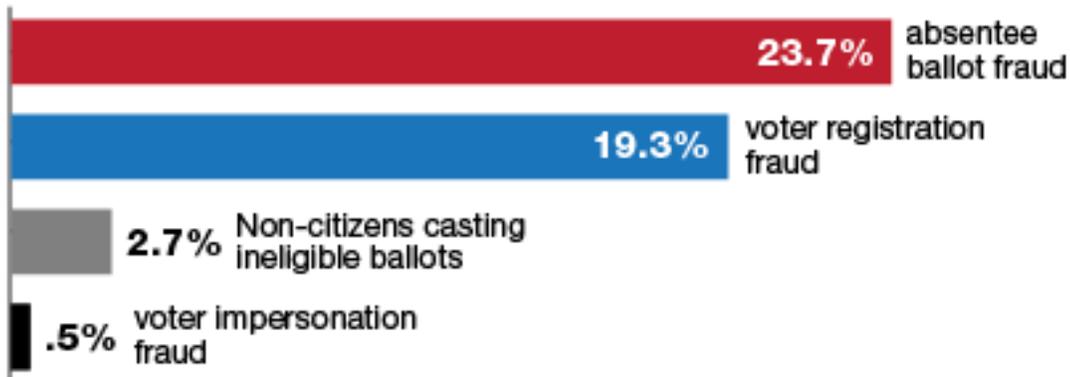
The Problem



DATAPOINTS

Breakdown of documented election fraud cases in all 50 states and the District of Columbia since 2000

The 2,068 cases of election fraud include, among others:



Source: News21
Pew Center on the States, 2012

- Voter Registration fraud is the second highest form of voter fraud happening across the US.
- What can you expect when there's no real check in place?

The Pew Research Center



Approximately
24 MILLION
– 1 in 8 – active voter
registrations in the U.S. are no
longer valid or are significantly
inaccurate.

- A 2012 Pew Center study reviewed the voter rolls and systems of all 50 states and DC.
- One of their findings was an overwhelming number of inaccurate voter registrations.

The Pew Research Center

- According to Pew researchers, “These [voting] systems are plagued with errors and inefficiencies that waste taxpayer dollars, undermine voter confidence, and fuel partisan disputes over the integrity of our elections.”

HB1390 – Why this bill?

- ***"There is a very real problem with aliens being registered to vote,"*** said Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who said about a dozen states are likely to pass such proof of citizenship measures in coming years.
- If we want illegal aliens voting in Maryland, then the law should change to indicate that.
- If you believe, that voting should only be the right of citizens, then we need to put the checks in place to enforce and ensure that.

Supporters of HB 1390

- Election Integrity Maryland
 - They are a 501(c)(4) organization whose goal is to promote integrity throughout the voting process in Maryland, thereby enhancing the public's confidence in its voting franchise in local, state and federal elections.
 - They have been working to clean the voter rolls in Maryland

Please vote favorably on HB1390 to:

- Protect the integrity of our voting process.
- Ensure that only proven citizens are participating in voting.

Questions?