Voter ID Laws Shouldn’t Be Implemented

Argued by: Jesse Allen, Molly VandeVander, Zach Steinhardt and Tara Atkinson
What are Voter ID laws?

- A law that requires a person to have some form of identification at the polling station in order to vote or receive a ballot for an election.

What counts as an ID?
- Varies based on state
- Photo ID vs Non-Photo ID
- Some have none:
  - NC, WV, MD, PA, NJ, NY, MA, VT, ME, IL, IA, MN, NE, WY, NM, CA, NV, OR
- Some require non-photo IDs:
  - CT, DE, SC, KY, OH, MO, AR, OK, ND, MT, CO, UT, AZ, WA, AK
- Some require photo IDs:
  - NH, RI, VA, TN, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA, TX, KS, MI, IN, WI, SD, ID, HI
Voter Identification Laws in Effect in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strict Photo ID</th>
<th>Strict Non-Photo ID</th>
<th>Photo ID requested</th>
<th>ID requested; photo not required</th>
<th>No document required to vote</th>
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Voter Fraud Is Not a Problem

- Although Voter Fraud can happen, it does not happen on a mass scale and never large enough to make a difference in any election.
  - Examples
    - 2013 Husted report showed that only 17 non-citizens had cast votes in the 2012 Ohio Presidential General election, out of 5.63 million votes cast. And since non-citizens can obtain driver’s licenses in Ohio, a photo ID requirement wouldn’t necessarily stop such votes.
    - Another Husted report found that fewer than 0.003% of votes in the 2012 Ohio Election could have been fraudulent by all other types of fraud.
  - “You’re more likely to get struck by lightning in Texas” than find in-person voter fraud.” - Corey Booker (D-NJ)
    - Politifact rated: True
    - 4 / 71,500,000 votes between 2000 and 2014 were fraudulent
      - 3/4 of them could have been prevented with strict ID laws
    - 1 / 1,350,000 chance of being struck by lightening (National Weather Service)
Disenfranchisement of Voters

- Disenfranchisement presents a serious issue for the integrity of democracy
  - Provides a misrepresentation of the public voice

- 2014 Texas midterms
  - New, stricter ID laws prevented 600,000 eligible voters from voting (MSNBC)
  - Provisional ballots
  - 12.8% of Texas voters cited not having a valid ID as a reason they did not vote (Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy)

- 2012 Ohio General Election
  - 930,000 eligible Ohioans-mostly non-whites, college students and those with low incomes—may not have the correct identification required and could be at risk of being disenfranchised

- Significant populations in states with voter ID laws
Discriminatory towards Minorities

- **Age:** Younger voters
- **Race:** Hispanic, Black
  - Alabama closed DMVs in counties with >75% black registered voters (Snopes)
    - claims it is due to costs
- **Gender:** Women
  - Many women get married or divorced and change their names and addresses
  - This can create a mis-match when trying to register to vote if voter ID laws were in place
- **Lower income households**
  - Many people of the low class do not have the money or resources to have their own private transportation
  - This decreases the chances of these citizens getting a license and if voter ID laws were strict in their state, it would stop them from being allowed to vote
Highly Partisan: Bias towards Republicans

- The minority groups tend to lean more to the left
- Republicans more often
- It is in the Republicans favor to enact voter ID laws
  - "I don't want everybody to vote. Elections are not won by a majority of people. They never have been from the beginning of our country, and they are not now. As a matter of fact our [Republican] leverage in the elections quite candidly goes up as the voting populace goes down." - Paul Weyrich, Co-Founder of Heritage Foundation

"The likelihood that a unified Republican government approves a new photo ID law is sixteen times greater than for other types of governments" - The Politics of Race and Voter ID Laws in the States: The Return of Jim Crow?

Between 2005 and 2007, ten state legislatures proposed voter ID legislation. Of all the people voting on the bills (state houses and senates) ‘95.3% of the republican voting and 2.1% of democrats voting supported the bills’

-The Voting Wars
Highly Partisan: Bias towards Republicans

2015 PEW Research Center Findings

- 52% of Women in general were found to lean Democratic.

Groups that Tilt Republican
- Mormon
- White evangelical Protestant
- White southerners
- White men, some college or less
- White
- Silent generation (ages 69-86)

Groups that Tilt Democratic
- Black
- Asian
- Religiously unaffiliated
- Post-graduate women
- Jewish
- Hispanic
- Millennial generation (ages 18-33)
Diminishes Voter Turnout

Youth Voting: College students

- Since most college students don’t live near the school they attend, they would have to vote absentee.
- College students and other young people often don’t have government-issued photo IDs that contain their current addresses, because their permanent residence is often different from where they live during college.
- These laws diminish voter turnout for college students which make up 21% of the voting eligible population in the U.S. according to The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement.
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Voter Fraud (cont.)

“The Brennan Center’s ongoing examination of voter fraud claims reveal that voter fraud is very rare, voter impersonation is nearly non-existent, and much of the problems associated with alleged fraud in elections relates to unintentional mistakes by voters or election administrators.”
Disenfranchisement

- Preventing certain groups from exercising their right to vote.
  - Millennial Generation (US)
  - Hispanic Americans
  - Black Americans
  - Lower Class citizens
  - Women
  - Elderly

- Highly Partisan: Bias Towards Republicans
Diminishes Voter Turnout

- Creates election outcomes which are not representative of how our nation actually feels because of the diminished voter turnout.
UFO SIGHTINGS MORE COMMON THAN VOTER FRAUD

BETWEEN 2000 - 2010

649 MILLION VOTES CAST IN GENERAL ELECTIONS

47,000 UFO SIGHTINGS

13 CREDIBLE CASES OF IN-PERSON VOTER IMPERSONATION

SOURCE: MOTHER JONES/CRUCIALCONNECTS.ORG