

Please Vote NO on HB12-1111

Oppose All Efforts to Limit Identification Options for Voting

We in Colorado recognized long ago that the right to vote should not depend on one's age, income or ability to buy a home.

Voting is the bedrock of our democracy: we should encourage every eligible voter to do so, not create additional and unnecessary obstacles. Requiring further identification for registration or voting hinders Colorado citizens' efforts to responsibly participate in elections.

Additional Costs

Additional ID would increase election costs for counties during a time of ongoing budget cuts.

- For Colorado to adopt this requirement, IDs must be made available free of charge for all those who do not have them. Colorado would likely have to expand the number of ID-issuing offices and extend their operating hours to meet this requirement.
- Missouri estimated that a new voter ID law **would cost the state close to \$6 million** in the first year, and approximately \$4 million in the second and third years of implementation (Demos <http://www.demos.org>).

Colorado will need to engage in extensive, ongoing voter outreach and education campaigns to ensure voters know they must obtain and bring their required identification to the polls on Election Day.

- With the passage of Georgia's ID law, the Secretary of State had to send letters out to citizens suspected of not having the identification instructing them how to obtain ID, advertise in print and on-air media, and mail out information packets and reminders (Demos <http://www.demos.org>).

Lack of Problem

There is virtually no evidence that voters engage in voter impersonation - the only kind of fraud addressed by additional ID requirements.

- Colorado County Clerks have testified that **there are no instances of voter fraud in Colorado**.

Additional Voter ID Requirements Disenfranchise Voters

While it may seem benign to require voters to present a state-issued photo ID, in fact, there are multiple barriers to obtaining ID, particularly for many low-income citizens, seniors, young people, minorities, and people with disabilities.

- For those without identification, it is a significant burden to obtain the necessary back-up documentation, take time off during business hours, find transportation to offices that issue the ID, and find the funds for application fees and transportation.
- It is estimated that 10% of all Americans do not have photo identification:
 - One-fifth are 18-24 year olds
 - Over one-third are seniors
 - Over 70% are women (Project Vote Voter ID Policy Brief <http://www.projectvote.org>)
- For voters who do not have photo ID, maintaining the currently acceptable forms of ID such as utility bills, bank statements and tribal IDs is necessary for participation.
- El Paso County elections staff testified that 90% of their voters used photo ID in 2010. If this statistic were applied to Colorado's full registration rolls, more than 330,000 voters could be impacted by a photo ID requirement.

By passing burdensome laws that address a non-existent problem, elected officials risk further eroding the public's faith in their ability to govern with the interests of the voters in mind.

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Oppose Changing Voting Identification Requirements