

Is a photo ID law for voters harmless?

Do you know someone who doesn't drive?

Or who goes to college?

Or who changed her name when she married?

They will find voting a lot more difficult under a bill that NC Republicans claim is needed to stop someone from voting in your name. H-351 would require you to show a government-issued photo ID each time you vote.

It may sound simple, but it will waste millions of tax dollars a year to "fix" a problem that hardly exists. And it will mostly hurt voters who have faced unfair barriers to voting – people of color, low-income voters and youth.

The Facts about H-351

- **Hundreds of thousands.** The State Board of Elections has discovered that about 500,000 active registered voters don't have a current NC drivers' license or identity card. Creating new IDs and processing voters at the polls will cause longer lines and bureaucratic hassles.

- **Discrimination.** People of color, students, the elderly, and low-income citizens are all less likely to have a license and more likely to face difficulty getting to a government office to get a photo ID. The time and money used to get an ID amounts to a poll tax – an old barrier to suppress voting.

The discrimination is plain: African Americans are 22% of all registered voters in NC, but they are 32% of the registered voters who don't have a current photo ID.

- **Where's my job?** Lawmakers were elected to fix the economy, but GOP conservatives are pushing a divisive agenda. An ID law would cost millions to implement – tax money that could save teachers' jobs and vital programs.

- **Constitutional right.** Unlike riding an airplane or cashing a check, voting is a fundamental right, like Free Speech. Strong evidence should be presented to impose a restriction on a constitutional right; it doesn't exist.

- **Current laws work.** It's already a felony to vote illegally in NC or to lie when you sign in to vote. Poll watchers can challenge voters, and an ID with a verified address is required to register in the first place. Less than 5 votes per 1,000,000 in NC elections from 2004 to 2010 involved fraud that a photo ID would prevent.

- **Unequal treatment.** People who vote using a mail-in absentee ballot won't have to show an ID. But the rate of fraud with those ballots is 7 times higher than for in-person voters. Why exempt them? Is it because Republicans in NC use absentee ballots more than Democrats?

- **Extremism.** Most states with ID laws accept a student ID card or a sworn statement at the polls, but not H-351. It's a harsh version of an ID law.



Visit www.democracy-nc.org or call us at 919-286-6000 for more info. Call your legislator about H-351 at 919-733-411.