

Calling for the Temporary Suspension of Wisconsin's Photo ID Law

Dane County contracted with the University of Wisconsin Madison to conduct a survey of registered voters in Dane and Milwaukee Counties who did not vote in the 2016 presidential election. The survey found that 11.2% of eligible nonvoting registrants were deterred by the Wisconsin's voter ID law. This corresponds to 16,801 people in the two counties deterred from voting, and could be as high as 23,252 based on the confidence interval around the 11.2% estimate, which is between 7.8% and 15.5%. The survey further found that 6% of nonvoters were *prevented* from voting because they lacked ID or cited ID as the main reason they did not vote, which corresponds to 9,001 people, and could be as high as 14,101 based on the confidence interval of between 3.5% and 9.4%.

In addition, roughly 80% of registrants who were deterred from voting by the ID law, and 77% of those prevented from voting, cast ballots in the 2012 election. Based on these estimates, if all of the affected registrants voted the voter ID requirement reduced turnout in the two counties by 2.24 percentage points under the main measure of effect, and by 1.2 percentage points under a conservative measure. If they voted at 2012 rates, voter ID lowered turnout by 0.9 to 1.8 percentage points. The burdens of voter ID fell disproportionately on low-income and minority populations. Among low-income registrants (household income under \$25,000), 21.1% were deterred, compared to 7.2% for those over \$25,000. Among high-income registrants (over \$100,000 household income), 2.7% were deterred. 8.3% of white registrants were deterred, compared to 27.5% of African Americans.

The survey also found considerable confusion about the law. Most of the people who said they did not vote because they lacked ID actually possessed a qualifying form of ID. This confusion may be the result of a lack of effective efforts educating eligible voters of the requirements of the law, and it is consistent with other studies that show many otherwise eligible voters are confused about ID laws. There were no significant differences between people who had seen information about the voter ID law and those who had not.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors believes that every voter should have the opportunity to vote;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors finds that that thousands, if not tens of thousands, of otherwise eligible people were deterred from voting by the recently adopted photo ID law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors calls on Governor Walker and the State Legislature to suspend the Wisconsin Photo ID law until alterations can be made to ensure the access to the ballot for all Wisconsin citizens. Those alterations at a minimum should include the addition of an affidavit process that allows voters to cast a ballot for those lacking a correct ID and a simplification of acceptable ID's as adopted by other states

44 such as Idaho and Texas. In addition, a comprehensive and aggressive voter education effort  
45 should be funded by the state to ensure citizens are aware of the changes in the law.

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47 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be given to members of the Wisconsin  
48 Legislature, Governor Scott Walker, United States Representative Mark Pocan, United States  
49 Senator Tammy Baldwin, and United States Senator Ron Johnson.