



JEWISH COMMUNITY ACTION

Organizing for justice

Vote No – Defeat the Proposed Photo ID/Voter Suppression Amendment

Jewish Community Action works each election cycle to promote non-partisan voter participation, particularly in communities that have historically been disenfranchised.

Voting is every citizen's right, guaranteed and protected by the United States and Minnesota Constitutions, and is an integral part of our democratic system. We are proud that Minnesota has one of the highest voter turnout rates in the country and is a standard bearer of election integrity.

However, in early April 2012, the MN state legislature passed a bill proposing to amend the Minnesota Constitution. Voters will be asked the following question in November:

"Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to require all voters to present valid photo identification to vote and to require the state to provide free identification to eligible voters, effective July 1, 2013?" Yes ___
No ___

Photo ID is a drastic change to the election system and it is full of harmful consequences and barriers to our democratic process: (a lot of questions still remain unanswered)

A voter in a polling place must present "valid government-issued photographic identification" before getting a ballot. *(What photo IDs will be acceptable? What about absentee voters who cannot be at the polling place to present an ID?)*

Voters without the proper ID "must be permitted to submit a provisional ballot." *(Requires the state to set up whole new systems to allow for provisional ballots at an estimated cost of \$50 million and the ongoing costs to local taxpayers would be \$3-15 million/year)*

Provisional ballots will be counted only if the voter brings appropriate ID to election offices within a week or so. *(Another day off work plus transportation)*

The state must issue "photographic identification at no charge" to all eligible voters without the required photo ID. *(Taxpayers will pay for "free" ID; voters will pay for required documents.)*

GET ENGAGED: Come to a phone bank every Wednesday night in October from 6:30 – 9:00 pm at the JCA offices. RSVP to 651-632-2184

The proposed amendment would:

- **Photo ID would eliminate absentee voting *as we know it***, impacting homebound voters, people with disabilities, servicemen and women overseas, and students studying out of state and abroad.

Over

- **End Election Day registration and vouching *as we know it*.** Minnesota’s current Election Day registration system is one of the reasons that our state leads the nation in voter participation – each 2008, **18% of Minnesota voters registered on election day.**²
- **Further disenfranchise voters and be discriminatory in its very nature. Having a disproportionate impact on low-income citizens, communities of color, the elderly, the disabled, women and young people,** as these groups are the least likely to have current photo IDs.³

A historical glance at voting policy:

Throughout history, our nation has moved away from restrictive, non-inclusive, racist, discriminatory voting laws and practices, towards a system that is more inclusive and fair for all citizens. Let’s not go backwards, let’s keep moving forward. We see the proposed amendment as a step backwards.

1776	1848	1870	1920	1965	1971	2011
White men with property have the right to vote but Catholics, Jews, Quakers and others are barred from voting.	Property and literacy requirements are imposed to keep Mexicans living in Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, and Nevada from voting after they were guaranteed citizenship.	The <i>Fifteenth Amendment</i> is ratified by the states, giving freed slaves and other African American men the right to vote, but voter suppression continues in the Jim Crow south through poll taxes, literacy tests and grandfather clauses.	The <i>Nineteenth Amendment</i> is ratified by the states and becomes national law, giving women the right to vote.	President Johnson signs the <i>Voting Rights Act</i> into law, permanently barring direct barriers to political participation by racial and ethnic minorities prohibiting any election practice that denies the right to vote on account of race.	The <i>26th Amendment</i> gives 18-year-olds the right to vote.	Thirty-four states considered photo voter ID legislation. Eight states enacted new laws, and five governors vetoed photo ID.

States with a history of discriminatory voting practices are required to gain judicial or administrative preclearance before implementing any changes in voting procedures (as stipulated by the Voting Rights act of 1965). A number of these states have **tried to impose Photo ID laws and have been denied by the Department of Justice on grounds that these laws would be a form of voter suppression.**¹

Jewish Community Action is proud to partner with several organizations to defeat the proposed amendment. Our election process works well; it is a standard bearer of election integrity. JCA stands in opposition to an amendment that would impede democratic and civic participation, disenfranchise voters, clutter the constitution, and fly in the face of our nation’s long march towards voter inclusion. To learn more and to get involved, please contact melissa@jewishcommunityaction.org, 651.632.2184 **PLEDGE TO VOTE NO** at www.jewishcommunityaction.org

¹Brennan center for Justice, http://brennan.3cdn.net/92635ddafbc09e8d88_i3m6bjdeh.pdf
²Minnesota Council of nonprofits, <http://www.minnesotanonprofits.org/mcn-at-the-capitol/election-day-registration-map-2008.pdf>
³League of Women Voters of Minnesota, <http://www.lwvmn.org/Page.aspx?pid=734>