

ACTION--VOTING RIGHTS

H.R. 4844, the so-called Federal Election Integrity Act of 2006 creates new barriers to voting by requiring every voter to provide government-issued current and valid photo identification at the polling place in 2008. By 2010 every voter would have to provide ID that includes proof of citizenship.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVE NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU TODAY. THE VOTE COULD COME AS EARLY AS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20.

Use the email "Contact Congress" logo at either www.lwvnj.org or www.lwv.org These are set up to get your email through filters and current action alerts have preset messages if you would rather not write your own. Phone using the Capitol Hill switchboard at: 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121. Individual Washington office numbers are listed below.

The shortest message is: **VOTE NO on H.R. 4844**--a politicized approach that will shut out voters.

1. Photo ID requirements disproportionately impact those who are least likely to have current photo ID: the elderly, young people, people of color, rural voters, the homeless, low-income people, frequent movers. The expense involved in obtaining photo ID can be an economic burden.
2. At polls acceptance of the ID would be determined by poll workers. Such tests and devices have historically resulted in discrimination and disenfranchisement of eligible voters.
3. Voter fraud addressed in H.R. 4844 is a rare problem. There is no question that election misconduct exists, but there is a lack of evidence of instances in which voters misrepresent their identity at the polls.
4. Proof of citizenship required in 2010 is like a 21st century poll tax. A newly issued US passport currently costs \$97 plus postage and requires supporting documentation. Obtaining proof of citizenship imposes real costs in both time and money.

MUCH OF THE LAST CENTURY WAS SPENT BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO CITIZEN VOTER PARTICIPATION. WE MUST NOT ALLOW NEW BARRIERS TO BE ERECTED IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

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