



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

1212 Guadalupe St., Suite 107 • Austin, TX 78701-1800  
(512) 472-1100 • Fax (512) 472-4114 • [lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org](mailto:lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org)

# ADVOCACY PAPER

## **VOTER ID Requirement: A barrier to voting, NOT an answer for voter fraud!**

Some have suggested that requiring a voter ID at the polling place will prevent voter fraud. The League of Women Voters does not share this view.

***The only problem that requiring a photo ID even purports to solve is “voter impersonation.” The League has studied the evidence of “voter impersonation” at both the national and Texas levels and found it to be practically non-existent.***

***Too many people will be adversely affected where there is no adequate justification for requiring voter ID.*** Many of our grandmothers, mothers, sisters and daughters will be unable to vote without new documentation because they married or divorced and do not have a photo ID with a name that matches the one on their voter registration card. Others who may be negatively impacted are those who don't need a driver's license because they use public or family- provided transportation and don't have another type of government issued photo ID. Voter ID requirements disproportionately affect the elderly, young people, racial and ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities

***Time and money will be wasted on an issue that does not prevent voter fraud.*** To guarantee that the law is implemented fairly and uniformly, the state will need to develop training materials with clear standards for poll workers throughout the state. In addition, the state must develop a plan to make it clear to the voters exactly what will be required of them when they go to the polls.

*The individual who finds himself/herself without a photo ID will incur personal expenses and possibly missed work to secure the required ID before voting.*

***Additional Voter ID requirements would not prevent felons from voting, individuals from voting twice, or inaccurate and out-of-date addresses on voter registration cards.***

**Voter ID requirements would have an adverse effect on voter turnout.** Voter ID aims to solve a problem, voter fraud, that is virtually non-existent. Requiring voter ID would create new barriers and further depress voter participation in Texas. Statistics from the 2008 general election reveal that voter turnout in Texas was lower than in almost all other states. Instead of enacting a voter ID requirement that will have a chilling effect on turnout, Texas should work to increase citizen participation in the election process.