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## Fast Facts on the Voter Restriction (Photo ID) Amendment

*(Prepared by Democracy NC - Updated 7/13/2018)*

Voting restrictions, like strict photo ID laws, hurt eligible voters, especially voters of color. The vague proposal on the ballot this fall would permanently change the N.C. constitution in a way that will harm real people, limit our access to the ballot, and reduce voter participation. It was wrong in 2013, and it's still wrong in 2018. This amendment does not even define what photo ID voters would need to cast a ballot – instead, it asks voters to hand politicians a blank check and let them fill into the critical details later. **Vote [ X ] AGAINST the Voter Restriction (Photo ID) Amendment.**

### It's Extreme, Not Mainstream

- **Only 1 state has a photo ID mandate in its constitution: Mississippi.** The N.C. amendment is worse. It doesn't even say whether a military or college ID would be accepted, or if free IDs will be provided. It is an extreme proposal that would make our state only the second to place a photo ID restriction in its constitution.
- **Like Amendment One (2012), the Monster Voting Law, and HB2 before it, the extreme Voter Restriction Amendment is another "black eye" to North Carolina's reputation.**

### It Asks Voters to Change the Constitution Without Any Details

- The Voter Restriction Amendment would require "photo ID" at the polls, but provides no guidance as to what would meet that requirement. Our state's last ID law was thrown out in court, **yet the legislature wants the public's trust to just "fill in the details later."**
- The Voter Restriction Amendment is a confusingly vague, permanent addition to the state constitution that will require another ballot measure to undo, and **will severely restrict the ability of future legislatures to ease the burden on voters.**

### It Isn't Common Sense – It Makes No Sense

- The amendment's sponsors say this is about "honesty and integrity" in our elections. While we should all demand an election system we can trust, a **photo ID requirement does nothing to address the state's most pressing election security issues:** reliability of voting equipment, safeguards for voter

data, or protections against foreign interference. Research consistently shows that irregularities in voting are vanishingly rare, and the types of irregularities that this amendment would prevent are even rarer.

- **Legitimate election security shouldn't prevent voting access.** In North Carolina, we know photo ID laws are used to silence certain voters and impact many more. Photo ID has already disproportionately disenfranchised African-American voters. Although African Americans made up only 23% of all voters in the March 2016 Primary, they were 34% of the 1,400 voices silenced by the previous law.

## It Will Make Voting Harder and Reduce Participation

- **All photo ID restrictions limit voter participation and make our democracy less inclusive.** A 2014 U.S. Government Accountability Office study<sup>1</sup> found that **strict photo ID laws reduce voter participation by 2-3 percentage points**, which can translate into tens of thousands of votes lost in a single state. A 2016 study from the University of Wisconsin-Madison<sup>2</sup> on the impact of Wisconsin's photo ID law in the 2016 election concluded that **thousands, and perhaps tens of thousands, of otherwise eligible people were deterred from voting by the ID law.** As the study's main researcher wrote, **"An eligible voter who cannot vote because of the ID law is disenfranchised, and that in itself is a serious harm to the integrity to the electoral process."**
- Studies from Indiana<sup>3</sup>, which has a smaller population of voters of color than North Carolina, show that **people of color are less able to access photo IDs.** A 2017 report from the University of California-San Diego and Bucknell University, found that **Latino participation is affected most by photo ID:** 7.1 percentage points lower in general elections and 5.3 points lower in primaries in strict ID states than in other states.<sup>4</sup> **Strict photo ID laws – like this amendment proposes make it harder for African-American, Latino, Asian-American, and multiracial-American voters to access to the ballot.**

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**Your vote is under attack.  
Go to the end of your ballot, vote AGAINST, and fight back!**

*For more information about the Voter Restriction Amendment and other anti-voter amendments on the ballot this fall, visit [demnc.co/amendments](http://demnc.co/amendments).*

<sup>1</sup>See <https://www.gao.gov/assets/670/665966.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>See <http://electionlawblog.org/?p=94997>

<sup>3</sup>See [http://mattbarreto.com/papers/PS\\_VoterID.pdf](http://mattbarreto.com/papers/PS_VoterID.pdf)

<sup>4</sup>See <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/688343>