SB 14 Talking Points

LEGITIMATE STATE INTERESTS

- Deterring and detecting fraud
  - Deceased voters, felons, duplicate registrations, and non-residents remain on voter rolls (2007 State Auditor report found over 49,000 of these possible ineligible voters).
  - Fraudulent registration applications are rampant (over 6,000 applications by non-citizens rejected in Harris County from 2004-2007, 2008 ACORN and 2010 Houston Votes registration scandals made national news).

- Improving and modernizing election procedures
  - Majority of Texans have Driver's License or qualified photo ID.

- Protecting public confidence and improving election integrity

- Fair and Equitable
  - Low burden that is equitably applied to advance the state's interest of ensuring election integrity.
  - Non-discriminatory.
  - Equally applied.

(These points are taken directly from Supreme Court opinion describing Indiana's "legitimate state interests" in adopting photo ID.)

MEASURES REQUIRED TO OFFSET BURDENS ON VOTERS
• Access to free photo ID cards.
  o Fee waived for those seeking ID for voting purposes.

• Availability of provisional ballots and absentee ballots.
  o Provisional ballots, must present photo-id w/in 6 days for review by the early voting ballot board.

• Ensure that obtaining ID is no more inconvenient or burdensome than usual act of voting.
  o Process of registering is still the same.
  o Access to ID is maintained.

• Phase-in provision
  o SB 14 does not have a phase-in provision.
  o Instead, act will take effect in whole on 1/1/12.

• Education
  o Texas will pursue an aggressive voter education program as stated in SB 14.