My edits which are mostly stylistic are tracked in the attachment. Please share a final clean version with Jeff Boyd and myself before submission.

Gentlemen:

Here is a revised version of the submission, which incorporates the overwhelming majority of OAG's suggested changes. I have made some minor edits based on my review of OAG's changes and comments from our Elections Division and Jeff Boyd. I did include one line of argument OAG deleted in much reduced form in a footnote OAG left intact (this is the stuff concerning public opinion). As I say I wasn't initially sure that stuff should be included in depth. As I worked on this last night, I decided it does not (based on OAG's approach and other feedback). However, I included a very reduced version of the point in the footnote OAG left intact regarding Rhode Island (footnote 4) for discussion and consideration this afternoon. I kind of think is helpful and works in footnote 4 reduced footnote form but am open to discussing further.

I plan to call you at 4 pm. I am not sure if Jeff Boyd and Travis Richmond will join me.

Best,

JS
The State of Texas

Hope Andrade
Secretary of State

June-July__, 2011

Mr. T. Christian Herren, Jr.
Chief, Voting Section
Civil Rights Division
Room 7254 - NWB
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

RE: Submission under Section 5, Voting Rights Act, of Senate Bill 14, Chapter 123, 82nd Legislature, 2011.

Dear Mr. Herren:

We hereby request expedited consideration of this submission under 28 C.F.R. § 51.34. The Legislature of the State of Texas has enacted Senate Bill 14, Chapter 123, 82nd, 82nd Legislature, 2011 (the “Act”), relating to requirements to vote, including presenting proof of identification. As described in more detail below, the Act requires a voter to present a current or recently expired form of photo identification in order to vote in person at a polling place. The Act also requires the Office of the Secretary of State and local election officials and the Office of the Secretary of State to develop voter education programs, create polling-place official-training programs for polling-place officials, and create and revise election forms and postings beginning September 1, 2011.

Because of the upcoming statutory deadlines contained in the Act, we are hereby requesting expedited consideration of this submission under 28 C.F.R. § 51.34. An expedited response from your office will allow the state to promptly implement comprehensive education of voters and local election officials. Accordingly, we would appreciate a decision from your office by August 20, 2011 would be appreciated.

Pursuant to the requirements of 28 C.F.R. § 51.27, the following information is submitted with respect to the Act:

(a) & (b) A copy of the Act is enclosed herewith. An electronic copy of the Act is also available at http://www.sos.state.tx.us/statdoc/bills/index.shtml.
(e) The Act amends the Texas Election Code (the "Code") and the Texas Transportation Code to require voters to present a current form of photo identification in order to qualify to vote in person at the polling place in elections held in the State of Texas. The Act creates exemptions for certain disabled voters with disabilities, voters whose religious beliefs prevent them from being photographed for identification, and voters those who have lost their identification in disasters. A voter who does not present a current form of photo identification when appearing by personal appearance at the polling place, and who does not fall within the scope of the Act's exemptions, may elect to vote provisionally. A voter who casts a provisional ballot under these circumstances may then take advantage of the Act's A new post-election cure process procedures is created in the Act to allow individuals who were unable to vote. The Act provides that a voter that presents his or her photo identification or executes one of the affidavits set out in Section 65.054(b)(2)(B) (religious objection) or (C) (natural disaster objection) in the presence of the registrar (discussed below) at the polling place to do so at the voter registrar's office within 6 days after the election shall have his or her in order to have their provisional ballots counted. Moreover, in addition, the Act creates a new election identification certificate and provides that the is created, available from the Texas Department of Public Safety will make these certificates available, free of charge, to for voters who do not have access to any other acceptable form of photo identification.

[Discuss the Act's education and outreach components].

The Act requires state and local authorities to engage in a thorough voter education and outreach program that includes the following components: including the new photo-identification requirements on voter registration cards; including these requirements on the Secretary of State's web site in multiple languages; including this same information on local registrars' websites; including a physical posting of these requirements in all county clerks' offices; including a physical posting of the requirements at prominent places within polling locations, and a statewide voter education program conducted by the Secretary of State.

Finally, the criminal penalty for illegal voting is raised from a state jail felony to a second-degree felony. The criminal penalty for attempted illegal voting is increased from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony.

The Act requires the Secretary of State to adopt training standards and develop training materials to implement the changes to polling place procedures contained in the Act as soon as practicable after September 1, 2011. In addition, as soon as practicable the county clerk is required to provide a session of training under Section 32.111 of the Code that incorporates the new Secretary of State training standards.

Finally, the penalty for illegal voting is raised from a state jail felony to a second-degree felony. The criminal penalty for attempted illegal voting is increased from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony.
The provisions of the Act regarding the need to present a current form of photo identification when voting by personal appearance—including the new cure provisions—go into effect for elections held on or after January 1, 2012. The increased criminal penalties contained in the Act apply only to offenses committed on or after January 1, 2012 as well, and the Secretary of State’s office is charged with both voter and poll worker education on the new requirements. Finally, the criminal penalty for illegal voting is raised to a second-degree felony.

(c) SECTION BY SECTION REVIEW

SECTION 1 of the Act amends Section 13.002 of the Code by adding new subsection (i). New subsection (i) provides—providing—that a voter registration applicant who wishes to be exempted on the basis of disability from the identification requirements of Section 63.001(b) of the Code (which are discussed in more detail below) must present with his or her application: (1) written documentation either from the Social Security Administration stating that the applicant has been determined to have a disability or from the Department of Veterans Affairs demonstrating that the applicant has a disability rating of at least 50 percent and (2) a statement that the applicant does not possess one of the acceptable forms of identification described under Section 63.0101 of the Code (as amended by the Act).

Section 13.002 was added to the Code by Senate Bill 616, Chapter 211, 69th Legislature, 1985 (precleared on August 16, 1985), and amended by Senate Bill 1441, Chapter 436, 70th Legislature, 1987 (precleared on August 31, 1987), House Bill 612, Chapter 472, 70th Legislature, 1987 (precleared on August 31, 1987), House Bill 613, Chapter 920, 70th Legislature, 1987 (precleared on August 31, 1987), Senate Bill 221, Chapter 2, 71st Legislature, 1989 (a non-substantive change not subject to preclearance), House Bill 74, Chapter 916, 73rd Legislature, 1993 (precleared on September 13, 1993), House Bill 1914, Chapter 390, 74th Legislature, 1995 (precleared on October 13, 1995). House Bill 127, Chapter 797, 74th Legislature, 1995 (precleared on January 16, 1997), Senate Bill 500, Chapter 454, 75th Legislature, 1997 (precleared on August 11, 1997), House Bill 1549, Chapter 1315, 78th Legislature, 2003 (precleared on November 20, 2003), House Bill 1268, Chapter 1049, 79th Legislature, 2005 (precleared on October 21, 2005), House Bill 417, Chapter 614, 80th Legislature, 2007 (precleared on November 16, 2007), Senate Bill 74, Chapter 1295, 80th Legislature, 2007 (precleared on September 27, 2007), Senate Bill 1969, Chapter 87, 81st Legislature, 2009 (a non-substantive change not subject to preclearance), House Bill 536, Chapter 91, 81st Legislature, 2009 (precleared on July 15, 2009), and most recently House Bill 1448, Chapter 632, 81st Legislature, 2009 (precleared on August 5, 2009).

SECTION 2 of the Act amends Section 15.001 of the Code by adding new subsection (c). The new language provides that the registration certificate issued to a voter who meets the disability exemption requirements of new Section 13.002(i) of the Code (discussed above) must indicate on the certification that the voter is exempt from the requirement to present identification requirement other than the registration certificate before being accepted for voting. Presentation of the certificate itself:
Section 15.001 was added to the Code by Senate Bill 616, Chapter 211, 69th Legislature, 1985 (precleared on August 16, 1985), and amended in Senate Bill 1441, Chapter 436, 70th Legislature, 1987 (precleared on August 31, 1987), House Bill 1914, Chapter 390, 74th Legislature, 1995 (precleared on October 13, 1995), House Bill 127, Chapter 797, 74th Legislature, 1995 (precleared on January 16, 1997), and Senate Bill 932, Chapter 532, 80th Legislature 2007 (precleared on November 19, 2007).

SECTION 3 of the Act adds new Section 15.005 to the Code. This new section, which requires the voter registrar of each county to provide notice of the identification requirements for voting (as amended by the Act) and a detailed description of those requirements listing of the forms of acceptable identification to be included with each voter registration certificate and registration certificate renewal mailing from the county voter registrar. The Secretary of State is required to provide the wording of the notice.

SECTION 4 of the Act makes a conforming amendment to Section 15.022 of the Code to require the voter registrar to correct a registration on receipt of the registrations omissions list or an affidavit submitted under section 63.006 from a voter swearing that he or she has been placed in the incorrect precinct by the voter registrar's office.

Section 15.022 was added to the Code by Senate Bill 616, Chapter 211, 69th Legislature, 1985 (precleared on August 16, 1985), and amended by Senate Bill 280, Chapter 54, 70th Legislature, 1987 (precleared on August 24, 1987), House Bill 74, Chapter 916, 73rd Legislature, 1993 (precleared on September 11, 1999), and most recently House Bill 127, Chapter 797, 74th Legislature 1995 (precleared on January 16, 1997).

SECTION 5 of the Act adds new Section 31.012 to the Code. According to this new section, as of Effective-September 1, 2011, the Secretary of State and each county voter registrars that maintains an Internet website must will be are required to provide notice of information concerning the new identification requirements for voting (as amended by the Act) procedures on their respective websites. The information must be provided in each language in which voter registration materials are available in the state and county. The Secretary of State must provide the wording of the notice.

New sSection 31.012(b) also requires the Secretary of State to conduct a statewide education effort regarding the new identification requirements for voting (as amended by the Act).

New s, and Section 31.012(c) requires each county clerk to post in a prominent location a physical copy of the notice that is required to be posted on the county’s or Secretary of State’s Internet website (discussed above). This notice must be provided in a prominent location in their offices in each language in which voter registration materials are available in the county.

SECTION 6 of the Act is effective September 1, 2011 and adds Section 32.1111(c) to the Code. This new subsection, which requires the Secretary of State to include requirements for provisions on the acceptance and handling of identification presented by
a voter to an election officer under the Code the new identification requirements and procedures in its poll worker training materials.

Section 32.111 was added to the Code by Senate Bill 616, Chapter 211, 69th Legislature, 1985 (precleared on August 16, 1985) and amended in House Bill 1695, Chapter 1316, 78th Legislature, 2003 (precleared on November 20, 2003).

SECTION 7 of the Act is effective September 1, 2011 and amends Section 32.114(a) of the Code to require that the each election county clerk must conduct complete the part of the training program described in SECTION 6 (described above), one or more training sessions using the training materials prepared by the Secretary of State regarding the new voter identification requirements. Each election clerk must complete the portion of training from the county clerk pertaining to voter acceptance and handling of the new identification requirements.

Section 32.114 was added to the Code by Senate Bill 616, Chapter 211, 69th Legislature, 1985 (precleared on August 16, 1985). It was amended by House Bill 74, Chapter 916, 73rd Legislature, 1993 (precleared on September 11, 1993), House Bill 1603, Chapter 864, 75th Legislature, 1997 (a non-substantive change not subject to preclearance) and House Bill 1695, Chapter 1316, 78th Legislature, 2003 (precleared on November 20, 2003).

SECTION 8 of the Act adds new Section 62.016 to the Code. The new section requires the presiding judge of each polling place to post in a prominent place on the outside of each polling location a list of acceptable forms of identification for voting by personal appearance at the polling place. The list must be in 24-point font and posted separately from other required notices.

SECTION 9 of the Act amends several subsections of Section 63.001 of the Code.

Amended Section 63.001(b) of the Code is amended to require a voter to present one form of identification as set out in Section 63.0101 of the Code to an election official at the polling place in order to qualify to vote. Prior law required a voter to present a current voter registration certificate and another form of identification if the voter did not have his or her current registration certificate.

Amended Section 63.001(c) of the Code is amended to provide that, after the election official receives from the voter the identification described by Section 63.0101 of the Code (see above), the election official shall create a new procedure under which the polling place election official reviews the identification to determine whether the voter’s name is on the precinct list of registered voters. If the election officer determines (using standards adopted by the Secretary of State) that the voter’s name on the identification is substantially similar to but does not match exactly the name on the list, then the voter will be accepted for voting if the voter submits an affidavit stating that the voter is the person on the list of registered voters.
Amended sSection 63.001(d) of the Code is amended to provides that if, as determined by the procedures set forth in Section 63.001(c) (see above), the voter’s name is on the precinct list and exact name does not appear on the list, but the election official can determine, using standards adopted by the Secretary of State, that a substantially similar name on the list is in fact the voter, the voter shall be accepted after completing an affidavit attesting to the fact that the voter is the person on the list. Under Section 63.001(d) of the Code, if the voter’s identity is verified from the documentation provided, under Section 63.001(e) of the Code, the voter shall be accepted for voting.

Subsection 63.001(f) is amended to and makes a conforming change.

Section 63.001(g) of the Code is added and provides that a voter who does not meet the identification requirements of this section may only vote provisionally. For such a voter, this new subsection requires that an election officer must inform the voter of his or her eligibility to cast a provisional ballot. The election officer must also provide the voter with a form written information (in a form prescribed by the Secretary of State) that lists the requirements for presenting identification, states the procedures for presenting identification, provides information on the post-election identification procedure set out in Section 65.0541 of the Code, includes a map showing the location where the identification may be presented, and includes a notice that if the post-election procedure is followed, and the voter is found to have been eligible to vote at the precinct, the provisional ballot will be accepted.

Section 63.001(h) of the Code is added and provides that a voter with disabilities who presents their voter registration certificates containing the indication described by Section 15.001(c) (see above) on offering to vote is exempt from the identification procedures described by this section, if the voter’s registration certificate contains a disability exemption notation in accordance with Section 15.001(e) of the Code.

Section 63.001 was added to the Code by House Bill 616, Chapter 211, 65th Legislature, 1985 (precleared on August 16, 1985) and amended by House Bill 127, Chapter 797, 74th Legislature, 1995 (precleared on January 16, 1997) and most recently House Bill 1603, Chapter 864, 75th Legislature, 1997 (a non-substantive change not subject to preclearance).

SECTION 10 of the Act amends Section 63.0011(a) of the Code. The section is amended to provide that a federal or state judge or the spouse of a federal or state judge whose residence address has been omitted from the precinct list of registered voters under Section 18.005(c) of the Code shall be asked by the polling place election official whether the residence address on their identification is current and whether the voter has changed residence in the county.

Section 63.0011 was added to the Code by House Bill 127, Chapter 797, 74th Legislature, 1995 (precleared on January 16, 1997). It was later amended by House Bill 41, Chapter
594, 80th Legislature, 2007 (precleared on October 2, 2007) and by House Bill 3069, Chapter 927, 81st Legislature, 2009 (precleared on September 9, 2009).

SECTION 11 of the Act adds new Section 63.0012 to the Code. The new section is effective September 1, 2011 and requires an election offer to distribute written notice of the identification that will be required for voting beginning with elections held on or after January 1, 2012, and information on obtaining an election identification certificate free of charge from the Texas Department of Public Safety to each voter that that if a voter presents a form of identification that will not be sufficient for acceptance as a voter on or after that date submits an insufficient form of identification when qualifying to vote at a polling place, election officials must distribute a notice to voters regarding the new identification requirement that will be effective for elections held on or after January 1, 2012, along with the process for obtaining free identification from the Texas Department of Public Safety (TDPS) under new Chapter 521A of the Texas Transportation Code. The wording of this notice new form must be designed by the Secretary of State. Section 63.0012 of the Code expires on September 1, 2017.

SECTION 12 of the Act amends Section 63.006 of the Code. Section 63.006(a) is amended to provide that, with respect to a voter who a voter who presents the proper identification, but whose s's name is not on the precinct list of registered voters, the voter shall be accepted for voting but presents a valid form of identification shall be accepted for voting. If the voter also presents a registration certificate indicating the voter is registered in the precinct or is registered in a different precinct in the same county and executes an affidavit stating the voter is a resident of the precinct where offering to vote was a resident of the precinct at the time the information on the residence address was last provided to the registrar, did not deliberately provide false information to the registrar, and will vote only once in the election.

Under amended Section 63.006(b) of the Code, after the voter is accepted, the voter’s name must be entered on the registration omissions list.

Section 63.006 was added to the Code by House Bill 616, Chapter 211, 69th Legislature, 1985 (precleared on August 16, 1985) and amended by House Bill 1603, Chapter 864, 75th Legislature, 1997 (a non-substantive change not subject to preclearance).

SECTION 13 of the Act amends Section 63.009 of the Code to delete the procedure under which a voter without a certificate and whose name is not on the precinct list of registered voters could vote after the voter registrar confirmed the voter’s eligibility and the voter completed two separate affidavits. Under the change, the voter without a certificate whose name does not appear on the precinct list would have to vote provisionally and complete the provisional voter affidavit.

Section 63.009 was added to the Code by House Bill 616, Chapter 211, 69th Legislature, 1985 (precleared on August 16, 1985). It was amended by House Bill 75, Chapter 728, 73rd Legislature, 1993 (precleared on September 13, 1993), House Bill 330, Chapter 1078, 75th Legislature, 1997 (precleared on October 8, 1997), House Bill 331, Chapter 1349, 75th Legislature, 1997 (precleared on September 2, 1997), and most recently by
House Bill 1549, Chapter 1315, 78th Legislature, 2003 (precleared on November 20, 2003).

SECTION 14 of the Act amends Section 63.0101 of the Code to remove, which removes any form of identification that does not include a non-photograph identification from the forms of identification that are acceptable for voting by personal appearance at the polling place. The deleted forms of identification include the birth certificate or other documents confirming birth and admissible in a court of law, citizenship papers that do not contain the person's photograph, official mail addressed to the voter from a governmental entity, copies of a current utility bill, bank statements, paychecks, or other government documents that show the name and address of the voter. Additionally, the Act deletes the authorization-authorization for the Secretary of State to prescribe additional forms of identification is deleted.

Also deleted as acceptable identification at the polling place are driver's licenses and personal identification cards issued by other states.

Added to the list of acceptable forms of identification are a United States military identification card that contains the person's photograph and has not expired or that expired no earlier than 60 days before the date of presentation, a concealed handgun carry license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (TDPS) issued that has not expired earlier than the 60th days before the date of presentation, and the TDPS-issued election identification certificate issued by the TDPS, as set out in Chapter 521A, Texas Transportation Code.

Finally, the TDPS-issued driver's license and a personal identification card or and a the United States passport that expired more than 60 days before the date of presentation no are no longer remain valid forms of identification but in a change from prior law, must be current or have expired not earlier than the 60th day before the date of presentation.

Section 63.0101 was added to the Code by House Bill 330, Chapter 1078, 75th Legislature, 1997 (precleared on October 8, 1997). It was amended by House Bill 331, Chapter 1349, 75th Legislature, 1997 (precleared on September 2, 1997), by House Bill 1603, Chapter 864, 75th Legislature, 1997 (a non-substantive change not subject to preclearance), and most recently by House Bill 1549, Chapter 1315, 78th Legislature, 2003 (precleared on November 20, 2003).

SECTION 15 of the Act amends Section 63.011 of the Code to add a requirement that the provisional ballot affidavit include a space for the election officer to indicate whether the voter presented a valid form of identification.

Section 63.011 was added to the Code by House Bill 1549, Chapter 1315, 78th Legislature, 2003, (precleared on November 20, 2003), and later amended by House Bill 2823, Chapter 1073, 80th Legislature, 2007 (precleared on September 24, 2007).
SECTION 16 of the Act amends Section 64.012 of the Code to increase the penalty for illegal voting in an election to a second degree felony from a third degree felony and to increase the penalty for attempted illegal voting to a state jail felony from a Class A misdemeanor.

Section 64.012 was added to the Code by Senate Bill 616, Chapter 211, 69th Legislature, 1985 (precleared on August 16, 1985), amended by House Bill 1603, Chapter 864, 75th Legislature, 1997 (a non-substantive change not subject to preclearance), and by House Bill 54, Chapter 393, 78th Legislature, 2003 (precleared on November 21, 2003).

SECTION 17 of the Act amends Section 65.054(b) of the Code. The amendment first clarifies that a provisional ballot shall be accepted (rather than may be accepted) if the early voting ballot board makes certain determinations. Among these determinations are two that are newly--added by the Act. The first applies to situations where the provisional ballot affidavit envelope was properly completed and the voter is eligible to vote in the election. Section 65.054(b)(2) of the Code is added to create three exceptions to allow acceptance of the provisional ballot assuming the voter was not challenged and voted provisionally solely because of the lack of identification: (1) the voter must have met the identification requirements either at the time the ballot was cast or when submitted to the county voter registrar after the election per Section 65.0541 of the Code; (2) has voters with a religious objection to being photographed and may completes an affidavit stating the objection and that the voter has consistently refused to be photographed for any governmental purpose during the period the voter has held the religious belief; and or (3) the voter may completes an affidavit asserting that he or she does not have valid identification due to a natural disaster declared by the President of the United States no earlier than 45 days prior to the date the ballot was cast which caused the destruction of the voter’s identification or the inability to access the voter’s identification. The second permitted determination applies to a situation where the voter has not been challenged and the voter voted a provisional ballot solely because the voter did not meet the identification requirements set forth in the Act.

Section 65.054(b) was added to the Code by House Bill 1549, Chapter 1315, 78th Legislature, 2003, (precleared on November 20, 2003), and later amended by House Bill 2823, Chapter 1073, 80th Legislature, 2007 (precleared on September 24, 2007).

SECTION 18 of the Act adds new Section 65.0241 to the Code. Under this new section, a voter who casts a provisional ballot because he or she did not present an acceptable form of identification at the polling place may, correct the problem by presenting a valid identification to the voter registrar not later than the six days 6th day after the date of the election, present a valid form of identification to the voter registrar for examination, or execute or completing one of the affidavits set out in Section 65.054(b)(2)(B) (religious objection) or (C) (natural disaster objection) in the presence of the registrar. The Secretary of State is charged with prescribing the procedures to implement this section.

SECTION 19 of the Act amends Section 66.0241 of the Code to and which makes conforming changes related to SECTION 12 of the Act. These changes relate relating
to which documents are placed in Envelope Number 4, which is given to the county voter registrar after election day to make updates to the voter registration list.

SECTION 20 adds a new Chapter 521A to the Texas Transportation Code. Section 521A.001(a) requires the Texas Department of Public Safety (TDPS) to issue election identification certificates to persons who stating that they are obtaining the certificate to comply with the identification requirements set out in Section 63.001 of the Code because they do not have one of the acceptable forms of identification listed under Section 63.0101 of the Code. At the time the person applies for the election identification certificate, the person must be either a registered voter and either presents a valid registration certificate or apply for voter registration at that time.

Section 521A.001(b) provides that TDPS may not charge a fee for issuance of the election identification certificate or a duplicate certificate.

Under Section 521A.001(c), the election identification certificate may not be used or accepted as a personal identification certificate.

Under Section 521A.001(d), an election official may not deny a person who presents an election identification certificate the ability to vote on the basis that the person failed to submit a TDPS drivers license or personal identification card.

Section 521A.001(e) requires TDPS to design the election identification certificate to be similar in form, but distinguishable by color, from the State’s driver’s license and personal identification certificate. TDPS may cooperate with the Secretary of State in designing the form.

Under Section 521A.001(f), TDPS may require applicants for the election identification certificate to furnish the same information required for a driver’s license under Section 521.142 of the Transportation Code.

Section 521A.001(g) authorizes TDPS to cancel and require surrender of an election identification certificate if TDPS determines the holder was not entitled to the certificate or provided incorrect/misleading information on the certificate application.

Finally, under Section 521A.001(h), an election identification certificate expires on a date set by TDPS, except that certificates issued to voters 70 or older do not expire.

SECTION 21 of the Act repeals Section 63.007 of the Code and Section 63.008 of the Code to conform with changes in SECTIONS 12 and 13 of the Act.

SECTION 22 of the Act requires the Secretary of State to adopt training standards and develop training materials to implement the changes to polling place procedures under the Act as soon as practicable after September 1, 2011. In addition, as soon as practicable the county clerk is required to provide a session of training under Section 32.111 of the Code that incorporates the new Secretary of State training standards.
SECTION 23 of the Act provides that the change in law set out in SECTION 16, increasing the penalty for illegal voting to a second degree felony and the penalty for attempted illegal voting to a state jail felony, applies only to offenses committed on or after January 1, 2012. Offenses committed before that date are covered by the law in effect at the time of the offense, and an offense is considered to have been committed before January 1, 2012 if any element of the offense was committed prior to that date.

SECTION 24 of the Act provides that—effective September 1, 2011, county voter registrars may use state funds disbursed under Chapter 19 of the Code for expenses connected with voter registration drives and other activities designed to increase voter registration. This section expires on January 1, 2013.

(d) The submitting authority is the Honorable Hope Andrade, Secretary of State of Texas, in her capacity as chief elections officer of Texas. The Secretary of State's office may be reached at P.O. Box 12060, Austin, Texas 78711-2060, (512) 463-5650.

(e) Not applicable.

(f) Not applicable.

(g) The authority responsible for the passage of the Act was the Texas Legislature.

(h) The Act was adopted pursuant to the provisions of Tex. Const. art. III, § 30.

(i) The Act was passed by the Texas Senate on January 26, 2011, and by the Texas House with amendments on March 24, 2011. The Senate adopted the conference committee report on May 9, 2011, and the House adopted the conference committee report on May 16, 2011. The Act was signed by Governor Rick Perry on May 27, 2011.

(j) The training provisions, the notice of identification requirements in SECTION 11, and the state funds disbursement requirement in SECTION 24 take effect on September 1, 2011. The remaining provisions will take effect on January 1, 2012.

(k) The provisions of the Act have not been implemented.

(l) These procedures will affect the residents of the State of Texas.

(m) The reason for the change provided for in the Act is to ensure the integrity of the voting process by allowing registered voters to vote, enhancing detection of ineligible voters, and deterring ineligible voters from voting, all while providing safeguards to allow ensure that no-eligible voters the opportunity to have their is prevented from having his or her ballots counted in an election.

(n) The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) previously precleared Georgia's 2005 law, which—like the Texas Act—requires voters to present photo identification before voting by personal appearance at a polling place. The Act will not affect members of any racial or linguistic minority differently from the way the general public is affected. The
Act does not have the intent and will not have the effect of diluting the voting strength of any racial or linguistic minority. The preceding conclusions are demonstrated by the provisions of the Act, the Department of Justice (the “DoJ”) having pre-cleared similar laws passed in other states such as Georgia, the lack of any successful Section 2 challenge to those laws (and Indiana’s similar photo identification law), analysis of voting data in states that have had similar photo identification laws in place for some time, and the widespread public support photo identification laws enjoy, including among minority communities.

That preclearance decision is consistent with the U.S Supreme Court’s decision in Crawford v. Marion County, in which the Court rejected constitutional challenges to Indiana’s photo-ID law.

The Act requires the use of photo identification documentation that is commonly utilized by the vast majority of the public. As former United States Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens acknowledged in the Supreme Court’s decision that court’s decision upholding Indiana’s photo-identification law against constitutional attack, modern life requires photo identification to transact even the most mundane business. Indeed, in delivering the judgment of the United States Supreme Court, Justice Stevens, joined by Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Kennedy, Justice Stevens approvingly cited, with approval the following statement of the Commission on Federal Election Reform, which was chaired by former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, jointly chaired: “‘Photo identification cards are currently needed to board a plane, enter federal buildings, and cash a check. Voting is equally important.” Crawford v. Marion County Elect’n Bd., 128 S.Ct. 1610, 1618 (2008).

Commensurate with such sentiments, this observation, Texas’ law requiring voters to present a photo identification at the polls, the Act provides for the acceptance of commonly held documents: a state-issued driver’s license or personal identification card, a United States military identification card, a United States passport, a United States citizenship certificate, or a concealed handgun license. See Section 13 of the Act. In fact, while there are only 12,604,131 registered voters in Texas, there are currently about 17,008,051 active Texas driver’s licenses and identification cards. The obvious inference is that Texas’ new photo identification requirements will not dilute minority voting strength because minorities are likely to possess or be able to obtain such widely used identification at rates similar to White voters.

However, to Te alleg—address concerns some that were raised about the Act’s photo identification requirements contained in the Act, the Texas Legislature included several any conceivable concern to the contrary, no matter how unwarranted, the Act includes extensive voter education provisions, as well as other and other safeguards for Texas voters.

For example, the—The Act requires state and local authorities to engage in a thorough voter education and outreach program that includes including the following components: elements: inclusion of the new photo-identification requirements on new voter registration cards and renewal cards that are issued to all registered voters beginning late this year; including these inclusion of the requirements on the Secretary of State’s web site in all languages required for election materials in Texas; including this same
information on—and-on local registrars’ websites in the locally requisite languages; including a physical posting in each of these requirements in all county clerks’ offices in such languages; including a physical posting of the requirements at prominent places within polling locations, and a statewide voter education program conducted by the Secretary of State. See Sections 3, 4, 5 and 8 of the Act. Historically, Texas’ statewide voter education efforts have included print and electronic media such as radio and television and have included specific efforts to reach minority communities. In sum, the Act is carefully designed to clearly seek to ensure that every voter, regardless of their race, disability, education level or economic status in life, is fully informed about the Act’s new requirements.

In addition to these voter education and outreach efforts, in the event that the state’s extensive voter education and outreach efforts escape a small number of voters, the Act contains other safeguards to protect the rights of eligible voters to vote and have their ballots counted. It takes still more precautions. For example, the Act provides for a “cure” period whereby a voter may return after casting a provisional ballot to present the required ID if the voter failed to do so at the polls. Indeed, the Act specifically requires election workers to specifically inform voters who do not present an adequate form of photo identification at the polling place of the procedures they may follow to have their ballots counted. Such provisional voters of the acceptable forms of photo identification. See Sections 9 and 11 of the Act.

Moreover, the Act even provides for difficulties that may arise in clerical handling of Hispanic surnames by addresses the situation in which a voter’s instructing election workers to utilize set standards for accepting voters whose photo identification documents include a spellings of their names that is may not be identical. But is are substantially similar to the spellings on poll lists in polling locations. See Section 9 of the Act. Lastly, to the extent persons belonging to racial or linguistic minorities disproportionately suffer from poverty and thereby currently lack photo identification, the Act creates an entirely new identification document that the state must provide free of charge to voters who attest to their inability to pay for other acceptable forms of identification. See Section 20 of the Act.

This truly remarkable litany of fail-safe educational and other efforts to ensure no disparate negative impact on minority voters should alone demonstrate that no such impact will occur.

The framework Texas has created in its photo-identification law to root out voter fraud without negatively impacting minority voters is consistent with similar photo-identification regimes in other states that DOJ has pre-cleared, such as Georgia’s

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1 Beginning in September, 2011. For elections conducted after January 1, 2012, election workers must provide notice of the acceptable forms of photo identification for elections conducted after January 1, 2012 to all voters presenting identification that does not meet the requirements of the Act and as well as information on how such voters can obtain acceptable identification for free. See Section 11 of the Act. DOESN'T THIS APPLY TO ELECTIONS AFTER 9/1/2011?
precleared 2005 law. For example, DoJ precleared Georgia's photo-identification laws in 2005 and 2006. Georgia's administratively precleared photo-ID law is remarkably similar to the Act in that Georgia requires the following forms of photo-identification for in-person voting: a Georgia driver's license, an identification card issued by any Georgia state entity or the United States, a valid United States passport, an employee identification card issued by any Georgia state entity, the United States or local political entities, a United States military identification or a tribal identification card. See Georgia Stat. Ann. Section 21-2-417(a). Like Texas's law the Act, Georgia’s law has included a “cure” period (of more limited duration than the Texas cure period), free photo identification for economically distressed voters lacking other approved forms of identification, and provided for an extensive voter education and outreach program. See Georgia Stat. Ann. Sections 21-2-417(b), 418, and 419. In fact, DoJ first precleared DOJ precleared. --Georgia's original photo-identification law was precleared even before Georgia enacted its free ID provision and its most recent voter education mandate, which Georgia added in a subsequent legislative session.\(^2\)

DoJ should also consider the history of Indiana's photo-identification law is also relevant to DoJ's a Section 5 evaluation of the Act when evaluating the Act. Indiana enacted an in-person voting photo-identification law similar to the Act that requires voters to present photo identification that the voter is from the United States or the State of Indiana. Such identification must includes the name of the voter in a form that conforms to the voter's registration record and an expiration date. The identification must be current or have expired after the date of the most recent general election. See Ind. Stat. Ann. Sections 3-11-8-25.1 and 3-5-2-40.5. Indiana excepted those voting in person at a precinct polling place located at a state-licensed care facility where they reside and those attesting to indigency or a religious exception to being photographed. See Ind. Stat. Ann. Sections 3-10-1-7.2(e), 3-11-8.25.1, 3-11-10-1.2, 3-11.7-5-1, and 3-11.7-5-2.5. Indiana voters not qualifying for an exception and failing to meet the photo-identification standard are allowed to vote provisionally and later provide the required identification. See Ind. Stat. Ann Sections 3-11-8-25.1, 3-11-7-5-1, and 3-11.7-5-2.5.\(^3\)

Various plaintiffs challenged Indiana's statutory regime on federal and state constitutional grounds and federal and state statutory grounds, claiming the law would negatively impact minority communities. See Indiana Democratic Party v. Todd Rokita,

\(^2\) DoJ has also precleared photo-identification laws in other states such as Arizona, Louisiana, and Alabama. The Arizona law requires voters to present either one form of photo identification with a voter's name and address or two forms of non-photo identification that contain the person's name and address. See Ariz. Stat. Ann. Section 16-579. Louisiana's law does not allow voters the use of a non-photo ID; however, it allows voters unable to present a photo ID to sign an affidavit or present other evidence concerning the voter's identity. See Louisiana Stat. Ann. Section 18: 562. Alabama's law requires voters to present either one form of photo identification or one form of non-photo documentation issued by government, a utility or a bank. Lastly, Florida enacted a photo identification law that does not allow for the use of non-photo ID, although the entirety of that state is not subject to Voting Rights Act pre clearance and the law allows for provisional ballots to be accepted by local authorities if those authorities conclude the ballot was legitimately cast. See Florida Stat. Ann. Title 9, Sec. 101.043.

\(^3\) For a more complete explanation/explanation of Indiana's statutory scheme as well as evidence of the actual practice in Indiana elections, see Indiana Democratic Party v. Todd Rokita, 458 F.Supp.2d 775, 786-87 (So.Dist. Ind. 2006), aff'd by, 472 F.3d 949 (7th Cir. 2007), aff’d by, 128 S.Ct. 1610 (2008).
458 F.Supp.2d 775, 820-43 (S.D. Ind. 2006), aff’d by, 472 F.3d 949 (7th Cir. 2007), aff’d by, 128 S.Ct. 1610 (2008). Although the claims did not include Voting Rights Act dilution claims, they did include allegations that the State of Indiana violated voting rights provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. See id. at 839-42 (discussing claims under 42 U.S.C. 1971). Moreover, in considering the gamut of plaintiffs’ claims, the courts at the trial and appellate levels clearly considered concerns that Indiana’s law would negatively impact members of minority communities. See, e.g., 458 F.Supp.2d at 795-96; Crawford v. Marion County Elect’n Bd., 472 F.3d 949, 952 (7th Cir. 2007), aff’d by, 128 S.Ct. 1610 (2008); 128 S.Ct. at 1614.

At every level, the federal courts upheld Indiana’s law with concerns about the Indiana law's effect on minority groups prominently before them. In doing so, the trial court wrote:

Despite apocalyptic assertions of wholesale voter disenfranchisement, Plaintiffs have produced not a single piece of evidence of any identifiable registered voter who would be prevented from voting pursuant to [the Indiana photo ID law] because of his or her inability to obtain the necessary photo identification. Similarly, Plaintiffs have failed to produce any evidence of any individual, registered or unregistered, who would have to obtain photo identification in order to vote, let alone anyone who would undergo any appreciable hardship to obtain photo identification in order to be qualified to vote . . .

Plaintiffs’ inability to provide the names or otherwise identify any particular affected individuals persists despite various polls and surveys that were conducted for the specific purpose of discovering such individuals . . .

[It is a testament to the law's minimal burden] and narrow crafting that Plaintiffs have been unable to uncover anyone who can attest to the fact that he/she will be prevented from voting despite the concerted efforts of the political party and numerous interested groups who arguably represent the most severely affected candidates and communities.

458 F.Supp.2d at 822-23.

The Seventh Circuit added that there was “something remarkable about the plaintiffs considered as a whole” as there was not a single one “who intend[ed] not to vote” because of the Indiana law. 472 F.3d at 951-52.

As for the United States Supreme Court, Justice Stevens explained in the lead opinion for the Court, that given Indiana’s provision of free photo identification, in most instances, "the inconvenience of making a trip to the [Bureau of Motor Vehicles], gathering the required documents, and posing for a photograph surely does not qualify as a substantial burden on the right to vote, or even represent a significant increase over the usual burdens of voting." 128 S.Ct. at 1621. And after speculating that such burdens could impose a
special burden on a small number of voters, such as those in economic distress, Justice Stevens noted that the record before the Court simply provided no basis to conclude Indiana's law placed excessively burdensome requirements on any class of voters. See id. at 1623. Moreover, Justice Stevens directly addressed and rejected a dissenting opinion urging arguments typical of those positing that photo ID laws dilute minority voting strength such as assertions that tens of thousands of Indiana citizens did not possess photo identification or that some of those citizens might not have readily available public transportation to obtain such identification. See id. at 1623 n. 20.

Three other justices who joined in the judgment of the Court refused to even entertain, at least for constitutional purposes, a person-by-person analysis of the burdens of a voting regulation when the regulation has non-discriminatory purpose and is generally applicable. See id. at 1625-1627. Justice Scalia wrote for those justices as follows: "The universally applicable requirements of Indiana's voter-identification law are eminently reasonable. The burden of acquiring, possessing, and showing a free photo identification is simply not severe, because it does not even represent a significant increase over the usual burdens of voting. And the state's interests . . . are sufficient to maintain that minimal burden. That should end the matter." Id. at 1627. Tellingly, no one has since made a record reflecting an excessive or disparate burden on any class of persons in Indiana on any legal basis, whether under federal constitutional or statutory grounds. This is especially significant because Indiana is a state with significant minority population groups. See Indiana QuickFacts from the US Census Bureau. In sum, the fact that Indiana's law remains intact and in that state's statute books more than three years after the United States Supreme Court's Crawford decision is strong evidence that the Act will also produce no evidence of disparate impact on members of racial or ethnic minorities.

Analysis of voting patterns in Indiana since the implementation of that state's photo-identification regime reveals no evidence supporting the fear that these laws will decrease minority voter turnout. Professor Jeffrey Milyo, a professor of public affairs and economics who has been affiliated with the University of Missouri, the University of Kansas, and the Cato Institute specifically looked at voting patterns in Indiana before and after the implementation of photo ID requirements in a publication for the Institute of Public Policy at the University of Missouri's Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs. He compared turnout between the 2002 and 2006 midterm elections and implemented various control factors or "sensitivity checks" to isolate the effects of Indiana's photo ID law. See Jeffrey Milyo, The Effects of Photographic Identification on Voter Turnout in Indiana: A County Level Analysis, Institute of Public Policy, University of Missouri Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs at 1, 7 (December 2007). Professor Milyo specifically sought to identify the effects of photographic identification on "turnout in counties with a greater percentage of minority, poor, elderly, or less educated populations." See id. He concluded that while overall voter turnout in Indiana increased about two percentage points from 2002 to 2006, turnout in counties with greater percentages of minority or poor voters increased by even more, and that the most
consistent effect of photo identification in Indiana was to increase turnout in counties with a greater percentage of Democrat-leaning voters. See id. at 1, 7.  

In light of Indiana’s experience, it should not be surprising that data from Georgia—the state with the other implemented photo identification requirement most similar to the Act—reflects no dampening of minority voter turnout. As the attached material from the Georgia Secretary of State’s Office reflects, minority turnout increased after Georgia adopted its photo identification law. And it did so for both Hispanics and African Americans in both presidential and midterm election cycles (2004 to 2008 and 2006 to 2010). In sum, the evidence not only reflects no negative turnout impact on minority voters, but actually suggests that photo-identification laws may have bolstered turnout, a result some proponents of photo-identification predicted could occur because they argued photo identification would boost confidence in the electoral system.

That prediction correlates with one last metric that suggests the Act will not negatively impact minorities: the strong public support that exists throughout the country for photo identification laws across partisan and even racial lines. For example, one poll reported that 82% of Americans, including 75% of Democrats, believe that “people should be required to show a driver’s license or some form of photo ID before they are allowed to vote.”—John Fund, Stealing Elections: How Voter Fraud Threatens Our Democracy 5, 136 (2004). A Wall Street Journal/NBC poll in 2006 similarly found that 80% of voters favored a photo-ID requirement, with 62% favoring it strongly. Only 7% were opposed.

John Fund, Jimmy Carter is Right, WALL ST. J., May 22, 2006. Still another survey concluded that: (1) 95% of people who identify themselves as conservatives or Republicans supported voter-ID requirements; (2) slightly more than 70% of moderates and independents expressed support; and (3) two-thirds of Democrats supported the idea; as did 60% of people who identified themselves as liberal and 50% calling themselves “very liberal.”—Stephen Ansolabehere, Elting R. Morison Professor, Dep’t of Pol. Sci., MIT, Paper Presented at N.Y.U. Ann.Surv.Am.L.- Symp.: “Access Versus Integrity in Voter-Identification Requirements” at 4-5 (2007). The latter survey found that over 70% of Whites, Hispanics, and African Americans supported such requirements. Id. at 5. These sorts of results are replicated in Texas, where a February 2011 poll showed:

Findings such as Professor Milyo’s may explain why a heavily-Democratic-state such as Rhode Island recently adopted a requirement that voters present photographic identification to vote in person—though Democratic politicians have often opposed photo-ID. See Rhode Island Governor Signs Voter ID Bill, Yahoo News, July 7, 2011, http://sg.news.yahoo.com/rhode-island-governor-signs-voter-id-bill-211606786.html. Notably, a minority Democrat-sponsored the measure in the Rhode Island state senate. Id. Professor Milyo’s findings may also explain why majorities of Americans across partisan, ideological, racial, and other lines consistently express support for photo identification in voting. For example, non-partisan independent polling conducted in Texas contemporaneously with the legislative debate regarding the Act reflected that virtually every subgroup in the survey strongly supported photo identification in voting including: “Republicans, independents and Democrats; whites, blacks and Hispanics; men and women; and urban, suburban and rural. Hispanics — one of the populations many fear would be disadvantaged by such a law — favor showing photo IDs by a 68 percent to 22 percent margin. Democrats favor it by a 58 to 32 percent split, independents by a 70 to 19 percent margin.” Ross Ramsey, UT/TT Poll: Texans Are Ready to Roll the Dice, TEXAS TRIBUNE, Feb. 23, 2011, http://www.texastribune.org/texas-issues/gaming/gambling/utt-poll-texans-are-ready-to-roll-the-dice/.

Significantly, both Indiana and Georgia, like Texas, have large minority populations. [CITE TO CENSUS OR OTHER AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE].
Support for requiring photo IDs for voters is overwhelming, with 75 percent in favor and 17 percent opposed. It's favored by virtually every subgroup in the survey: Republicans, independents and Democrats; whites, blacks and Hispanics; men and women; and urban, suburban and rural. Hispanics—one of the populations many fear would be disadvantaged by such a law—favor showing photo IDs by a 68 percent to 22 percent margin. Democrats favor it by a 58 to 32 percent split; independents by a 70 to 19 percent margin.

Ross Ramsey, UTT Poll: Texans Are Ready to Roll the Dice, Texas Tribune, Feb. 23, 2011, http://www.texastribune.org/texas-issues/gaming-gambling/utt-poll-texans-are-ready-to-roll-the-dice/. This pattern of support also apparently manifested itself in actual voting in Arizona since that state's photo identification requirement originated in a citizen initiative. Exit polls reflected that minority voters backed the initiative, Proposition 200, even though it included multiple highly controversial measures such as proof of citizenship when registering to vote and evidence of legal residency when applying for some government benefits. See CNN.com Election Results, November 17, 2004, http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2004/pages/results/states/AZ/01/epolls_0.html; Lourdes Medrano and Enrico Volante, Prop. 200 Had Hispanic Support, Ariz. Daily Star, November 4, 2004. It is doubtful that there would be so much minority support for photo identification laws if minority citizens thought members of their race would be negatively impacted by photo identification laws. The Department should respect the judgment of so many of the citizens the Voting Rights Act is designed to protect.

But to the extent the Department seeks more information regarding the Act, lack of disparate impact on any racial or linguistic minority please contact:

The Honorable Aaron Peña (joint sponsor)
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910
(512) 463-0426

The Honorable Larry Gonzales (co-sponsor)
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910
(512) 463-0670

The Honorable Jose Alizada (co-sponsor)
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910
(512) 463-0645

(o) There is no past or pending litigation concerning the subject matter of the Act.
The procedure for the adoption of the change is not subject to preclearance.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Paul Miles, Staff Attorney, Elections Division, at (512) 463-5650.

Sincerely,

Ann McGeehan
Director of Elections

Enclosure

AM:PM:id
Lisa Ried

From: John Sepehri [JSepehri@sos.state.tx.us]
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 11:53 PM
To: Jeff Boyd; Travis Richmond
Subject: RE: SB 14 Submission

Importance: High

Gentlemen—

Ann McGeehan, our elections division director, seemed fine with OAG's changes. As I indicated, they are mostly fine by me as well. However, I have spent this evening making a relatively small number of edits to OAG's edits (and incorporating stuff from Jeff's catches where they still apply to the OAG version). I will forward you what I propose to be the final OAG/SOS(OOG) version tomorrow morning after I have had a chance to confirm the legal director for the elections division, Elizabeth Winn, has no issues with the OAG version. You should be able to readily discern who made what changes as my changes tonight to OAG's version are in blue.

I will provide this to you in case you want to peruse it in advance of my call with OAG that you two may or may not be joining (it wasn't a 100% clear to me from the e-mail exchanges in the late afternoon/early evening).

Bottom line—if you haven't spent much time on the OAG version, I would wait till you get my proposed final version.

JS

From: Jeff Boyd [mailto:jeff.boyd@governor.state.tx.us]
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 5:18 PM
To: John Sepehri; Travis Richmond
Subject: RE: SB 14 Submission

John—

I've only had time to skim through it while marking edits on the attached. Substantively, for lack of time I will defer to the OAG and you. If there are specific issues you'd like me to consider, I'm happy to do so if you will let me know what they are.

Jeff Boyd

Jeffrey S. Boyd
General Counsel
Office of Texas Governor Rick Perry
1100 San Jacinto Blvd.; Fourth Floor
Austin, Texas 78701
512/463-1788
jeff.boyd@gov.texas.gov

From: John Sepehri [mailto:JSepehri@sos.state.tx.us]
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 5:00 PM
To: Jeff Boyd; Travis Richmond
Subject: SB 14 Submission

OAG had some significant suggested revisions, not too unexpectedly from my point of view, particularly to the non-minority impact statement portions. They did, however, delete in its entirety one section I threw in at the end of the minority impact statement. I don't feel too strongly about it and think I see why. But I do want to discuss with them.
Do you all want to join in the discussion we plan tomorrow afternoon to provide any thoughts from your end? Did you want to see their suggested changes or do you prefer we work it out with them and then you can see the combined SoS/OAG version? Or some other approach? Just let me know.

JS
Lisa Ried

From: John Sepehri [JSpehri@os.state.tx.us]
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 8:22 PM
To: Jeff Boyd; Travis Richmond
Subject: RE: SB 14 Submission

BTW—Let me know if a 4 pm call does not work for you two, and I’ll see if another time works for the OAG guys.

JS

From: Jeff Boyd [mailto:jeff.boyd@governor.state.tx.us]
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 5:18 PM
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JS
Dear Friend,

I wanted to update you on the major progress made this morning to secure our elections in Texas.

At 10:00 AM Tuesday morning, the Texas Senate began debate on the voter ID bill. The bill would require either a photo ID or two forms of other identification in order for a person to vote in Texas.

After the Democrats multiple delaying attempts were exercised we finally got down to the business of hearing from invited and citizen testimony.

While many Texans slept, we worked through the night. I am proud to say at 9:15 this morning (nearly 24 hours after we began) the Texas Senate passed voter id out of committee. The vote was 20-12 (all the Republicans with Lt. Gov. Dewhurst voted in favor and all the Democrats voted against).

The bill will be taken up on the Senate floor again next week (likely Monday) and then assuming it passes, it will go to the House where it faces an uncertain future.

I wanted you to be in the know.

Keep up with me on Facebook
If you want to keep up with us on Facebook, get an account, click here to connect and then click request a friend. I update my Facebook page numerous times throughout the day.

If you want the real scoop, sign up with me on Facebook.
It is an honor to serve you in the Texas Senate.

May God Bless,

Dan Patrick

Please use the “forward to a friend” option to reach others who may find this information helpful.

Disclaimer: You are receiving this email as a public service from Senator Dan Patrick. Should you decide you do not want to receive future informational emails from Senator Patrick you may click on the "unsubscribe" link below.

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4/4/2012
********** EMERGENCY CALENDAR **********
SENATE BILLS
SECOND READING

ATP SB 14 Fraser / et al.
Relating to requirements to vote, including presenting proof of identification; providing criminal penalties.

********** GENERAL STATE CALENDAR **********
HOUSE BILLS
SECOND READING

TRH HB 71 Martinez, "Mando" / et al.
Relating to the fee charged for the Texas Airport Directory.

CAE HB 229 Solomons
Relating to the duties of the county tax assessor-collector and voter registrar regarding exemptions from jury service.

JTS HB 451 Lucio III / et al.
Relating to the creation of a Don't Mess with Texas Water program to prevent illegal dumping that affects the surface waters of this state.
********** EMERGENCY CALENDAR **********

SENATE BILLS
THIRD READING

SB 14    ATP, JRJ  Fraser / Birdwell / Carona / Deuell / Duncan / et al
       SP: Harless / Taylor, Larry / Pena / Truitt / Smith, Todd / et al.
Relating to requirements to vote, including presenting proof of
identification; providing criminal penalties.

********** GENERAL STATE CALENDAR **********

HOUSE BILLS
THIRD READING

HB 451    JTS  Lucio III / Creighton / Branch / Bohac
Relating to the creation of a Don't Mess with Texas Water program to prevent
illegal dumping that affects the surface waters of this state.
Voter ID passes; now let’s move to real problems

If there weren’t more serious issues facing Texans, it would be tempting to urge the Legislature, having fixed a problem that doesn’t exist, to address the problem its remedy has exacerbated.

The House of Representatives on Thursday passed a voter ID law that requires Texans to show state or federal photo identification before voting.

The Senate has passed its own version of the bill, and after the differences have been reconciled, the legislation will be signed by Gov. Rick Perry. He will sign the bill happily, because he regarded the issue as so serious that he stamped it as an emergency that should be among the first considered during the session.

The emergency legislation passed despite the fact no evidence was presented that fraud has occurred as a result of not requiring photo identification.

In New Mexico, where a similar push is under way, an investigation turned up 57 names of people illegally registered to vote. Texas is much larger, but the states are similar enough that it gives a sense of the insignificance of the problem.

Polls indicate a majority of Texans support the legislation, and why wouldn’t they approve of any step that lessens the possibility of candidates winning by cheating?

But then, the majority of Texans have a driver’s license or some other acceptable form of photo identification. It’s hard for them to put themselves in the shoes of the hundreds of thousands of people who don’t drive and don’t have a photo ID.

Those people — maybe disabled, maybe elderly, maybe working when the Department of Public Safety office where they can get a free photo ID is open — suddenly will find it difficult to exercise their constitutional right.

And how much more difficult will it be for some in sparsely populated West Texas, where they will have to travel 100 or 200 miles to get an acceptable ID?

If it is too difficult, they will join the millions of Texans who already decline to vote even without unreasonable hurdles. And that’s one area where Texas already is challenging to be No. 30 in its 32 percent turnout: The 2010 general election was the worst in the country.
He said people with disabilities who protested outside the GOP governor’s offices Tuesday blocked employees and visitors to gubernatorial offices: “Their actions ... are not the way to get a meeting with the governor.”

Instead, their actions got stanchions and ropes set up to protect the area surrounding Perry’s offices from the public, along with a Department of Public Safety officer standing guard. They also got some attention for the issue — and a court date.

Eleven people — nine using wheelchairs — each were issued a summons and charged with criminal trespass, a Class B misdemeanor, for staying at the Capitol past its 10 p.m. closing time, said DPS spokeswoman Tela Mange.

The protesters with disabilities want lawmakers to protect the home and community services that allow them to live outside of nursing homes. They want them to use all of the rainy-day fund, which is expected to have $9.4 billion that could be spent with a supermajority vote of lawmakers.

Bob Kafka, a statewide organizer with the disabilities rights group ADAPT of Texas, said such cuts don’t make sense economically or for people’s lives.

“One of the chants we used while outside the governor’s office was: ‘I’d rather go to jail than die in a nursing home,’” Kafka said. People with disabilities weren’t the only ones protesting.

UT students and others protested before attending a Finance Committee hearing.

“Public education is being thrown under the bus by the state,” said Carina Souflee, who said she graduated from UT in December.

People with families in nursing homes met with lawmakers, saying they don’t know what they’ll do if the facilities close or no longer can afford to take Medicaid patients due to a reduction in reimbursement rates.

“If I’m hoping and praying our legislators show some compassion. ... A lot of people have outlived the resources they planned on having,” said Kathleen Segura, a San Antonio teacher who said her 90-year-old mother is in a Schertz nursing home. The elderly woman is on Medicaid because she has depleted her savings.

Segura said she and her husband moved several years ago from The Woodlands, where her mother lived with them for about a year. A retired brother-in-law then could come in and be with her mother during the day, she said. But even though her dementia wasn’t as bad then, it still wasn’t safe for her to be left alone for as little as 30 minutes, Segura said. Both she and her husband work during the day.

If her mother could no longer stay in the nursing home, Segura said, “It would be financially devastating for us. But more important ... it would be detrimental to my mother.”


House committee takes up voter ID bill

Controversial bill already passed Senate 19-11

Updated: Tuesday, 01 Mar 2011, 11:39 AM CST
Published: Tuesday, 01 Mar 2011, 11:35 AM CST
AUSTIN (KXAN) - A controversial voter ID bill is up for consideration Tuesday by the House Select Committee on Voter Identification and Voter Fraud. The Republican-backed legislation would require Texans to present a photo ID before voting.

House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, created this new committee after Gov. Rick Perry designated the issue an emergency at the beginning of the session. That designation would allow the bill to move quickly in the first 60 days of the session through the process to becoming law.

The Texas Senate 19-11 approved the bill now before House members after around 40 amendments were offered among six hours of debate.

"We're going to make sure anyone voting in the state of Texas when they show up at the polls they're going to have to be able to show who they are with a photo ID," said Sen. Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, the bill's sponsor.

While senators rejected a string of amendments to allow additional forms of photo ID, they approved giving Texans the ability to use concealed-handgun licenses to vote. The amendment passed 30-0, adding handgun licenses to the list of acceptable items: driver's license, passport, and military ID.

"What we tried to do today by amendment is make a situation we knew was going to happen by amendment to ease that burden just slightly," said Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus, on the eve of the Senate's approval. "We fell short on many measures but there's still the process to go in the House."

Though they were able to defeat similar bills in past sessions, Democrats acknowledged the inevitable passage of the bill this session. An overwhelming GOP majority gives the bill a much better chance.

Republicans maintained the bill would prevent voter fraud at the polls, but Democrats said it would only keep certain voters away from the polls. Such voting groups brought up were the elderly, the poor, minorities, and the disabled.

Perry has said one of the reasons for fast-tracking the bill is because it never made it to a vote in the House last session. In 2009, House Democrats stalled with numerous, lengthy questions in order to kill the bill.

"I am pleased that state lawmakers are quickly addressing this issue, which is important to Texans and critical to ensuring our state has proper protections against voter fraud, and I fully expect the House will soon follow suit and pass this important measure," Perry said previously.

Rep. Tan Parker, Chair of the Caucus External Communications Committee, said, "These issues are important to Texans and thanks to a stronger Republican majority in the Legislature, we will be able to take decisive action on these and other significant issues."

Democrats question the constitutionality of the Voter ID bill, saying it might violate the federal Voting Rights Act. However, Fraser said he modeled the legislation after an Indiana law, which the U.S. Supreme Court upheld.

"Sadly, as structured, SB 14 is poised to become the most stringent photo voter ID measure in the country," said Van de Putte. "Without the amendments that my colleagues and I proposed to alleviate voter suppression, I do not believe SB 14 can comply with the provisions of the federal Voting Rights Act."

Fraser also said implementation and education for voters would cost $2 million, though he suggested most or all of that could come from federal funding. Democrats have been critical of the cost, saying that cost or available funding is not a sure thing yet and that future court costs might outweigh the benefits.

They also questioned the reasoning behind the bill and any evidence of voter fraud. To consider a bill just two weeks into the session was a highly unusual move. Democrats suggested it should not have taken priority during a state budget crisis with a projected shortfall as high as $27 billion.

Republicans said the integrity of the ballot box is one of the most important issues facing all Texans.
"We all agree that ensuring the integrity of the vote is extremely important," said Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston. "Because that right is extremely important, we need to be careful moving forward so that we don’t create unnecessary barriers to a sacred, constitutional right."

The Texas Democratic Party said the legislation unfairly targets Hispanic voters, because it could suppress minorities’ votes.

“While education cuts could cost 189 thousand Texans their jobs, Republicans have invented a non-existent voter fraud problem to pass a purely political bill that threatens the voting rights of Texas Hispanics,” said Anthony Gutierrez, the TDP deputy executive director.

The TDP has been critical of two Hispanic Republicans sitting on the committee – Reps. Aaron Peña and Jose Aliseda, wondering what their decisions will be. The bill cannot pass out of committee without one of their votes, according to the TDP.

Rep. Patricia Harless, R-Spring, is the bill’s sponsor in the House. After Tuesday’s hearing on voter ID, the House State Affairs Committee will take up sanctuary city bills on Wednesday, another polarizing issue in the Capitol.

More than $1 million worth of marijuana hidden among oranges, seized by DPS

- Kayla Bell
- Originally published March 2, 2011 at 7:12 p.m., updated March 2, 2011 at 10:55 p.m.

Texas Department of Public Safety Troopers in Wharton County seized more than $1.7 million worth of marijuana hidden among a trailer of oranges in one of the department’s two recent drug seizures.

The first happened at 9:22 p.m. Sunday on northbound U.S. Highway 59 at the state Highway 71 exit when an 18-wheeler was pulled over, said DPS communications operator John Adkison.

Troopers found 194 bundles, or 4,253 pounds, of marijuana hidden among oranges, Adkison said. The street value of the marijuana is $1.78 million.

Felix Garcia Jr., 28, of Rio Grande City, was arrested on suspicion of felony manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance. Garcia was traveling from Weslaco to Houston, Adkison said.

Garcia was taken to Wharton County Jail, where he remains in custody in lieu of a $500,000 bond, according to a jail deputy.

At 4:17 p.m. on Tuesday, Trooper Alfred Ochoa pulled over a Ford pickup towing a utility trailer on northbound U.S. Highway 59 just south of the Wharton Airport, Adkison said. The driver, 69-year-old Robert Braun, displayed several signs of nervousness and had an implausible reason for the trip, Adkison said.

Braun, of Mission, refused consent to search. A K-9 conducted a free-air search of the vehicle and gave a positive alert, Adkison said.

Troopers subsequently found 34 bundles of marijuana hidden inside an external fuel tank and tool box. The 34 pounds of marijuana has a street value of $47,460, Adkison said.

Braun was arrested on suspicion of felony manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance.

Braun posted a $100,000 bond to leave Wharton County Jail Wednesday, the deputy said.
Senator Website E-Mail for SD-24

Name: Mickey Mathis
Title: Mrs.
Organization: [omitted]
Phone: 325 643 9513
Address: 135 Azalea
City: Brownwood
State: TX
Zip: 76801

Voter ID, E verify and other anti illegal immigration bills are crucial to this State. 24 percent of the population is on some kind of social program. Schools, communities, and our state gov are all overdrawn at the bank. Stop the invasion. Clean out the welfare rolls.
Verify who is in this state. Washington has stopped deporting. Texas has to tighten up and toughen up NOW.
Janice McCoy

From: Lynn & Georgina Christy [gely@ncvt.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2008 10:11 AM
To: Alternate ID Sen. Troy Fraser
Subject: Photo ID for Voters

Senator Troy Fraser

I absolutely support your bill for photo requirements for all voters. I hope you get it passed.

I sometimes wonder Liberal Democrats oppose such legislation because they depend on Welfare receiving illegals to win elections????

Border Security: Eliminate all entitlements for illegals, including citizenship to their new borns.

Result: Most would quit coming and a lot (now here) would go back.
No need for a fence or additional Border personnel.

Lynn Christy
Burnet County
Tara Boothe

From: Jean McLeod [jean_mcleod_99@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2007 10:18 AM
To: Alternate ID Sen. Tommy Williams
Subject: Voter Identification Bill

Senator Williams:

Support the debate on HB 218. Texas, as well as all other states, needs a strong voter verification program. I support picture identification only for voting. Any illegal alien can produce two pieces of paper with his/her name on it. All voters should be checked for citizenship status before being allowed to vote. I know that LULAC as well as other illegal alien rights organizations are promoting registration for illegal aliens in this state and across the entire country. In the present system, there is nothing to keep them from being able to vote just as though they are citizens. This bill is weak at best but better than nothing.

Sincerely,
Jean McLeod
Baytown

5/2/2007 DIA 000903
Senate Website E-Mail for SD-4:

Name: Mac Garrison  
Title:  
Organization:  
Phone: 281-650-7126  
Address: 2602 Riverlawn Dr  
City: Kingwood  
State: TX  
ZIP: 77339

Voting is a right that most American citizens believe is a sacred, constitutional right that must be protected. It is incumbent for our lawmakers to create a system that is fair, equitable, and free of fraud. Democratic lawmakers tell us that showing an ID card would disenfranchise certain segments of our population from voting. That notion is absolutely preposterous, unless they have an ulterior motive. Other than to promote fraud, to pander to a special interest group, or to maintain power, I can see absolutely no reason for any legislator to be against showing identification to vote.

Showing an ID is now part of every day American life. We show ID9s to get on airplanes, to get library cards, to cash a check, and even to get into where we work. We are even required to carry an ID when we drive and are required to produce it if we are pulled over by the police.

Showing an ID to vote is just one small step to insure that the voting process remains as free from corruption as possible. Are Democratic lawmakers so desperate for power that they would rather risk voter fraud so they can remain in office? Are Democratic lawmakers so beholden to certain special interest groups that they need illegal aliens and felons to vote for them? With 25 million criminal aliens in this country, it is imperative that we know that only American citizens are the ones voting. It's time to stand up and do the right thing and vote FOR showing proper identification to vote.

Mac Garrison  
Kingwood, TX
Tara Boothe

From: thewritr@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 12:19 PM
To: Alternate ID Sen. Tommy Williams
Subject: INETMAIL: ID for voters

Senate Website E-Mail for SD-4
------------------------
Name: David Lyday
Title: Mr.
Organization: [omitted]
Phone: [omitted]
Address: 3306 Three Pines Drive
City: Kingwood
State: Texas
Zip: 77339
------------------------

Senator:

Absolutely support the requirement of ID in order to vote.

The idea that anybody can walk in a cast a vote without any kind fo verification or, oh, say, citizenship is proposterous. The people who calim that it somehow &quot;disenfranchises poor people&quot; simply want illegal aliens to be able to vote.

NONSENSE!
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1
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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR - WEB MAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Name: Mr. Shad Baker

Address:
112 Plantation Dr
Seguin
TX
78155

Message:
Voter ID

Shad Baker
112 plantation drive
seguin, TX 78155-9442

January 28, 2011

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
PO Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711-2428

Dear Governor Perry:

Below are my thoughts on this issue.

I support the voter ID legislation. We also need to prevent illegal aliens from getting driver's licenses in the first place.

A proud member of National Write Your Congressman.

Sincerely,

Shad Baker
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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR – WEB MAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Name: Mrs. Susan Sunday

Address:
1704 Sealy Rd
Sealy
TX
77474

Message:
Voter ID

Susan Sunday
1704 Sealy Rd.
Sealy, TX 77474-2172

January 28, 2011

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
PO Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711-2428

Dear Governor Perry:

Below are my thoughts on this issue.

I support the voter ID legislation.

In the little town I live in I am always asked for a drivers license and have no problem showing it. Neither should anyone else who is given the right to vote. If you are an illegal alien you have no business voting on anything anyhow.

Finally we've moving ahead to something to stop people with no rights.

Get it done!

A proud member of National Write Your Congressman.

Sincerely,

Susan Sunday
I wrote the following letter to the paper, however they came back and said they would not print it. They said it was inaccurate to say the board supports Illegal's. I disagree based on their record. But you can see they are not fair. You can see we US Citizens have a tough battle to fight these Organizations. Please-please do all you can to at least get the Sanctuary City, E-verify and voter ID passed. Thanks

Donald Kneram
7808 Heatherbrook Ct
N. Richland Hills
817-918-2782

I strongly disagree with your Tues. Editorial position on Sanctuary City. TX needs that Bill as well as others like E-Verify to deal with our ILLEGAL problems. The Legislature is finally listening to we US Citizens, as we spoke loud and clear last fall.

As reported we have approx. 1.6 Mil. Illegal's in TX, the second highest next to Calif. We US Citizens are tired of our laws not being followed and paying to support their medical, education, and welfare bills. Its been reported that Immigration costs Texas taxpayers $16 Billion a year. That impacts our state budget.

This is not the first time the Editorial Board came out supporting Illegal's in our state. I am astonished that the Board, Mayor Moncrief, and other Business support Illegal's that violate our laws over We US Citizens. The last I heard our unemployment rate is 8.2%. TX Citizens do not want to compete with Illegal's for Texas jobs.

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR - WEB MAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Name: Mr. J.D. Bone

Address: 1702 Blevins Ln.
           TX 76248

Correspondence ID: 200901160060
IP Address: 173.74.15.36
Incoming Type: O

Date Submitted: 1/15/2009 6:52:40PM
Email: jbone11@verizon.net
Phone:

Message:
Governor Perry, I was made aware of the fact that anyone can vote in our Texas elections without providing Picture Identification. Can you or your office do anything about this? With so many illegal aliens in our state, this a very dangerous practice and should be stopped immediately, before another state wide election.
Thank you for reading my message.
J.D. Bone
Dear Ms. Kaechler,

Thank you for your email. The Department of Justice (DOJ) does have an email address for comments on Section 5 submissions, which is Section5.comments@usdoj.gov. For more information, please visit the DOJ's website.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write. I always appreciate hearing from my constituents. If my staff or I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Patricia Harless
State Representative
District 126
512.463.0496 (Capitol office)
281.376.4114 (District office)

Is there a way for TX citizens to communicate with the Feds to try and force them to ok the ruling? I think it SHOULD be necessary for people to show ID and keep illegals from voting and to keep people from allowing other people to use their name to vote, especially to falsely pad the ballot.
Tara Boothe

From: Jean McLeod [jean_mcleod_99@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2007 10:18 AM
To: Alternate ID Sen. Tommy Williams
Subject: Voter Identification Bill

Senator Williams:

Support the debate on HB 218. Texas, as well as all other states, needs a strong voter verification program. I support picture identification only for voting. Any illegal alien can produce two pieces of paper with his/her name on it. All voters should be checked for citizenship status before being allowed to vote. I know that LULAC as well as other illegal alien rights organizations are promoting registration for illegal aliens in this state and across the entire country. In the present system, there is nothing to keep them from being able to vote just as though they are citizens. This bill is weak at best but better than nothing.

Sincerely,
Jean McLeod
Baytown

5/2/2007
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Tara Boothe

macgarrison@msn.com

Tuesday, May 22, 2007 4:26 PM
Alternate ID Sen. Tommy Williams
DISTRICT-INETMAIL: YES TO VOTER ID

Senate Website E-Mail for SD-4:

Name: Mac Garrison
Title:
Organization:
Phone: 281-650-7126
Address: 2602 Riverlawn Dr
City: Kingwood
State: TX
ZIP: 77339

Voting is a right that most American citizens believe is a sacred, constitutional right that must be protected. It is incumbent for our lawmakers to create a system that is fair, equitable, and free of fraud. Democratic lawmakers tell us that showing an ID card would disenfranchise certain segments of our population from voting. That notion is absolutely preposterous, unless they have an ulterior motive. Other than to promote fraud, to pander to a special interest group, or to maintain power, I can see absolutely no reason for any legislator to be against showing identification to vote.

Showing an ID is now part of every day American life. We show ID9s to get on airplanes, to get library cards, to cash a check, and even to get into where we work. We are even required to carry an ID when we drive and are required to produce it if we are pulled over by the police.

Showing an ID to vote is just one small step to insure that the voting process remains as free from corruption as possible. Are Democratic lawmakers so desperate for power that they would rather risk voter fraud so they can remain in office? Are Democratic lawmakers so beholden to certain special interest groups that they need illegal aliens and felons to vote for them? With

25 million criminal aliens in this country, it is imperative that we know that only American citizens are the ones voting. It's time to stand up and do the right thing and vote FOR showing proper identification to vote.

Mac Garrison
Kingwood, TX
July 2, 2009

To: Rick Perry – 512-463-1849

From: Chuck & Caroline Nuytten – Rockwall, TX
       Anne & Chris Elliott – Wylie, TX
       Chris & Kathleen Nuytten – Rockwall, TX
       Curtis Nuytten – Rockwall, TX

Governor Perry,

We want to encourage you to keep our representatives and senators in the special session until they deal with Voting ID. We need a system that requires you to prove your citizenship, and voting status. This item must be dealt with before dismissing this special session. If it is not, we fear that there will be too many illegals at the next vote for a Republican to be Governor.
Dear Mr. Secretary:

As a person born and raised in this great state, it greatly disturbs me to learn that a person wishing to vote, may be able to do so without proving beyond a doubt that they are indeed registered voter. Of course, we all know the underlying reason for this (increase the illegal hispanic votes - we do not all agree our governor about who should be president) but I believe that I still do live in the United States of America, am a law-abiding citizen, and expect my government to protect us from voter fraud. Please uphold our laws for voter registration and do not "water" them down so that it will have the effect of electing the person YOU (or out governor) want in office.

Sincerely,

Kris Perry (Republican)
6401 Ryeworth Dr.
Frisco, Texas 77346
Name: Mr. Charles D Reagan

Address: 21937 Briarcliff Dr
Spicewood
TX
78669

Correspondence ID: 200804300383
IP Address: 24.242.129.210
Date Submitted: 4/30/2008 1:18:14PM
Email: creagan1@austin.rr.com
Phone: 512-402-9127

Message:

Please call a Special Session to address the need for photo ID for voting now to be prepared for the November election.

Lt Gov Dewhurst failed to get this critical issue accomplished in the last session, allowed a foolish Senate rule to prevent a majority vote.

You need to be specific in calling for a Special Session and waive all idiot rules that permit a minority opinion to prevail.

Texas has to have a valid voter photo ID law in place to prevent illegal alien and democrat voter fraud in November.

4/30/08

DIA 000915
Name: Mr. J.D. Bone

Address: 1702 Blevins Ln.
TX 76248

Message:
Governor Perry, I was made aware of the fact that anyone can vote in our Texas elections without providing Picture Identification. Can you or your office do anything about this? With so many illegal aliens in our state, this a very dangerous practice and should be stopped immediately, before another state wide election.
Thank you for reading my message.
J.D. Bone
Dear Governor Perry:

In your State of the State speech this year, you outlined four pieces of legislation you wanted passed in the 2009 session regarding illegal immigration:

1. An end to sanctuary city policies where liberal big cities tie the hands of law enforcement in regards to our immigration laws.

2. A study outlining the costs of illegal immigration to the taxpayers of this state.

3. Bills helping law enforcement deal with the increasing problem of transnational gangs operating across the Mexico-Texas border.

4. Legislation to deter and prevent voter fraud by requiring photo ID at the ballot box.

All of these bills and more were killed by Republican traitors in the Texas House, most notably Rep. Burt Solomons and Speaker Straus, who cut a backroom deal with the Democrats to kill this legislation, according to the Austin-American Statesman.

We need leadership on this issue, and my vote for your re-election may depend on how you handle this issue. Doing nothing and letting Texas go the way of California is not an option. Please call a special session of the Legislature to deal with this most urgent of issues.

Sincerely,

Jean Barton
P. O. Box 150223
Longview, Texas, TX 75615

P.S. I intend to donate monies for election against any one that does not vote against the illegal wetbacks.
Dear Governor Perry:

In your State of the State speech this year, you outlined four pieces of legislation you wanted passed in the 2009 session regarding illegal immigration:

1. An end to sanctuary city policies where liberal big cities tie the hands of law enforcement in regards to our immigration laws.

2. A study outlining the costs of illegal immigration to the taxpayers of this state.

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Sincerely,

Philip farmer
2103 Pinehill Dr
pearland, TX 77581

P.S. Send the illegal wetbacks home! Make them provide ID's if they are here, period.
Dear Governor Perry:

In your State of the State speech this year, you outlined four pieces of legislation you wanted passed in the 2009 session regarding illegal immigration:

1. An end to sanctuary city policies where liberal big cities tie the hands of law enforcement in regards to our immigration laws.

2. A study outlining the costs of illegal immigration to the taxpayers of this state.

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Sincerely,

Jerry Polvado
1999 Glidewell Road
Mineral Wells, TX 76067

P.S. Governor Perry, "Demand" those Representatives back to finish up the work on Illegal Mexicans!!!!!!!!!!! Keep up the good fight for Texas. Jerry Polvado ps We don't need a Washington Hot Shot back in Texas screwing up our State Government.
Dear Governor Perry:

In your State of the State speech this year, you outlined four pieces of legislation you wanted passed in the 2009 session regarding illegal immigration:

1. An end to sanctuary city policies where liberal big cities tie the hands of law enforcement in regards to our immigration laws.

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Sincerely,

Anne Aynesworth
308 Village Cr.
Waco, TX 76710

P.S. Governor Perry, The above facts are the reasons why I haven't given any money to the state or national Republican Party in 2-3 years. I won't ever do so unless the illegal INVASION into this country is STOPPED by immediate legislation! Anne Aynesworth
Dear Governor Perry:

In your State of the State speech this year, you outlined four pieces of legislation you wanted passed in the 2009 session regarding illegal immigration:

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Sincerely,

Jack Wine
Box 8969
Hidalgo, TX 78557

P.S. This is most urgent for all of Texas. I live on the border and see swarms of illegals crossing daily. Something must be done quickly. Thank you. Jack Wine
Dear Governor Perry:

In your State of the State speech this year, you outlined four pieces of legislation you wanted passed in the 2009 session regarding illegal immigration:

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Sincerely,

R.F. HORKA
125 MLK Dr.
SILSBEE, TX 77656

P.S. THE PEOPLE(AND I MEAN A VAST MAJORITY) ARE SICK & TIRED OF BEING RIPPED OFF BY A FEW IDIOTS IN THE LEGISLATURE. WE ARE TIRED OF PAYING THESE ILLEGALS WAY AT OUR EXPENSE. HOW DUMB ARE THOSE WHO ARE AGAINST VOTER ID, WE HAVE LET DEAD PEOPLE AND NON QUALIFIED VOTERS ELECT IDIOTS, FOR WAY TO LONG. THE DEMOCRATS HAVE ILLEGALLY VOTED THE BLACKS FOR YEARS & THEY INTEND DO THE SAME TO THE MEXICANS, VOTER ID & STRICT IMMIGRATION LAWS WILL STOP THIS. GOVERNOR PERRY, WE ARE BEGGING YOU TO ACT, BUT IF YOU FAIL TO FACE THIS PROBLEM AND LET THE IDIOTS RUN THIS STATE, I ALSO PROMISE WE WILL REMEMBER!!!!!! A FIVE TIME COUNTY WIDE ELECTED OFFICIAL & A SUPPORTER OF YOURS IN THE PAST.
Dear Governor Perry:

In your State of the State speech this year, you outlined four pieces of legislation you wanted passed in the 2009 session regarding illegal immigration:

1. An end to sanctuary city policies where liberal big cities tie the hands of law enforcement in regards to our immigration laws.

2. A study outlining the costs of illegal immigration to the taxpayers of this state.

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Sincerely,

Jean Mahon
4202 Cowhouse Creek Court
Corpus Christi, TX 78410

P.S. Please stand up and do something to stop all the illegals and help save e-verify. thanks Jean
Kristi Sellers  
5865 Iris  
Silsbee, Texas 77656  

June 2, 2009

Governor Rick Perry  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Tx. 78711

Dear Governor Perry,

I respectfully urge you to call the legislators back to Austin for a special session to address the following bills which are vital to saving Texas from the same fate as California. It is imperative that we get these bills turned into law as soon as possible so that we can halt and reverse the massive invasion of illegals before it is too late. I am very disappointed that Speaker Straus and Rep. Solmons blocked this important legislation in the regular session this year. The following bills are essential for Texas:

1 Photo Voter ID (HB125)  
2 Transitional gangs in Texas (SB11, SB366, SB 371 and SB423)  
3 The cost of state services to illegal aliens (SB276)  
4 Sanctuary City Bill (SB358)

I must say that I have never before been involved in politics or government with the exception of voting in elections. However I am deeply worried that our state is in danger of turning into another California if we don’t take real action now before it is too late. We all need to put politics aside and do what is best for all Texans. Texans are counting on you for leadership during these perilous times.

Respectfully,

Kristi Sellers
Case 1:12-cv-00128-RMC-DST-RLW  Document 241-9  Filed 06/27/12  Page 56 of 119
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR - WEB MAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Name: Mr. Donald E Kneram

Address: 7808 Heatherbrook Ct
N. Richland Hills
TX
76182

Correspondence ID: 75.58.158.41
Date Submitted: 4/22/2011 3:59:51PM
Email: bkneram@aol.com
Phone: 817-910-2782
Incoming Type: O

Message:
This is my 51st letter on Illegal's in our state.

I am very disappointed in the lack of progress by the Senate and the House in moving Bills forward to deal with the Illegal's like HB12, HB182, HB197, HB1275, SB84,SB14 plus others. I am afraid this session will end up like the last one with no action taken. Time is running out and they are not even out of committee. The people spoke last election--97% of Rep. said we wanted action this session.

We have the second highest number of Illegal's. Other states like GA are passing bills and they don't even have the numbers we do.

Please do all you can to move these bills for a vote and convince your colleague's to work hard to pass them.
Case 1:12-cv-00128-RMC-DST-RLW   Document 241-9   Filed 06/27/12   Page 57 of 119

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR - WEB MAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Name: Mr. and Mrs. George C CLARK SR
Address: 3128 Wayfarer Road
          Bedford
          TX
          76021

Correspondence ID: 70.116.147.14
Date Submitted: 3/12/2012 11:59:32AM
Email: clarkcgmk@gmail.com
Phone: (817) 793-6603

Incoming Type: 0

Message:

Fox News
Breaking News: White House blocks law requiring Texas residents to show photo identification before voting, citing concerns that it would restrict Hispanic voters.

Hon. Perry, Obama blocking and suing states has GOT TO STOP!! He is on a strong path to dictatorship. He is giving the right to illegals to vote because that is the only way he can increase his chances of winning in 2012.

You have always stood straight for Texas against this insane administration. Please don't stop now!

Asking you and all federal officials to stop this insanity.

Thank you, George and Mary Clark
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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR - WEB MAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Name: Mrs. Maria Angela A. Collins

Address: 270 Hope Hollow Road
          Loganville
          GA
          30052-221

Correspondence ID: 98.230.156.33
IP Address: 98.230.156.33
Incoming Type: O

Date Submitted: 3/13/2012 3:55:39PM
Email: pcepro@cpcoofga.com
Phone: (404) 735-7503

Message:
Sean Hannity had a discussion about photo ID for voting... I am not sure if Texas passed a no ID for voting... BUT DO NOT PASS! just simply go by this...
If we need IDs for alcohol / tobacco purchases because of the age factor... then... the voting age is 18 years of age... then all states need the id. Liberals just want the illegals to vote... that is all I see. thank you for your time. Maria Angela Collins
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR - WEB MAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Name: Ms. Susan Galloway

Address: 711 N 29th
       Humboldt
       TN
       38343

Correspondence ID: IP Address: 205.185.227.52

Date Submitted: 3/12/2012 10:31:19AM
Email: rogallow@click1.net
Phone: 731-388-2199

Incoming Type: O

Message:

Honorable Governor Perry,

Live in Tennessee, we have had to show our Drivers License or Photo ID for as long as I can remember and I have been voting since for 42 years! It is the right thing to do. We had so much voter fraud three years ago. Washington is trying to win the votes of illegals and felons. Can you do anything to stop this? Is there anything others can do to help Texas protect its states rights?

3/12/12
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Name: Mr. Steven E Hulet Sr
Address: 4525 capri court nw albuquerque NM 87114

Message:
Mr. Governor -

IGNORE this Asshole DOJ and Communist President - Supreme Court opined last year, LEGAL to require ID to vote - they are ONLY trying to make it possible for ALL ILLEGALS - of which there are more than 20 million adults - to vote, and they will ALL vote for that SOB because he is giving them everything he denies US - THE CITIZENS!

Stop talking about it - let it die for now, then on voting day and require ID to vote - nothing they can do then - nothing. If Calif. or NM ID - deny them opportunity to vote because they are ILLEGALs...do the right thing! focus on saving this country - not creating another Communitis regime.

Also - step up border security starting day before voting - make it EXTREMELY TIME CONSUMING to cross the border either direction on both days - so consuming people give up and go back to their cardboard boxes in shit hole mexico.

STAY WITH IT MAN!
Dear Governor Perry,

Texas is in the news again—this time about voter ID. Here in my county, Escambia FL, a picture ID is required when voting. It will be matched against the voter registration roster.

I assume when a voter in TX registers he/she is required to show proof of citizenship and home address? When he/she has such proof there is no problem to show this proof again when actually voting.

Eric Holder’s interference with TX law is just a blatant attempt to get as many illegals as possible to vote for the democratic party.

Don’t let it happen.

Thank you.
Gov. Perry,

How can you let Obama and his stooge cronies block the Voter ID requirement?
Whatever happened to the rule of law and states rights?

Obama is pandering to all Hispanics and that includes illegals who will be voting to give this socialist another 4 years to finish destroying the USA as we now know it. Sad!.

What are you going to do?

Take it to the Supreme Court before Obama can appoint another Judicial Puppet to the bench for his personal ideology.
Name: Mrs. Sharon Clark
Address: 1405 W. 19th
         Odessa
         TX
         79764

Date Submitted: 3/12/2012 4:41:38PM
Email: dutch63@clearwire.net
Phone:

Message:
I just read an article where Obama is blocking Texas voter law that requires identification. This is absurd and a way for him to get illegal votes. This man is ruining our country & letting other countries & illegals move in and take over. He's not following the constitution, why can't we impeach him? This law has been passed and should be followed. Why should illegals or anyone without an ID get to vote? I do hope you are filing with the supreme court to over rule his decision.
Dear Ms. Garner,

It's good to hear from you.

I agree that we must take all necessary steps to ensure the integrity of the ballot box. I remain committed to passing a voter identification bill that requires an individual to present a state issued photo ID in order to vote.

Please do not hesitate to contact either me or my staff with any concern.

Sincerely,

Representative Cindy Burkett

________________________________________________________________________

From: Donna Garner [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2011 12:43 PM
To: Donna (2) Garner
Subject: TEX. PHOTO I. D. BILLS - HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT COMPLETE 1.20.11

Yesterday I sent out the following “homework assignment” on the Photo I. D. Bills filed in Texas. Today I received from Karla Heidt (texaspalert@yahoo.com) this superb, helpful analysis of the various bills. This should prove to the Texas Legislators that the public is engaged in this Legislative Session, that they want to help, that they care about what is in these bills, and that they are committed to doing their part as private citizens. Please take the time to thank Kathy for all her hard work. -- Donna Garner]

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1.18.11 -- Homework Assignment: Photo I. D. Bills Filed in Texas

Please go to http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Reports/Reports.aspx to find out about the various versions of the Photo I. D. bill. These are the Texas Legislators (there may be others) who have filed Photo I. D. bills: Bonnen, Perry, T. Smith, Riddle, Harless, Doc Anderson

I believe it is a good thing for all citizens to carry a form of photo I. D. for many different identification purposes (e.g., first responders, police, fire, EMT, schools, loan applications, colleges, organizations, employees, entrance to a military post, motel check-ins, VISA’s and passports, airline tickets, check cashing, etc.)
Photo I.D.'s have become a normal part of everyday life in the United States, and the Photo Voter I. D. requirement will motivate people to become responsible citizens.

As you study the various Photo I. D. versions of bills, please share your results with us.

Donna Garner

Wgarner1@hot.rr.com

=================================================================

ANALYSIS OF PHOTO I. D. BILLS
BY KARLA HEIDT

For each bill, the text of the bill is in blue and my comments are in red.
The two I would support from the House are Chisum’s bill and Perry’s bill. From the Senate, I would support Fraser’s bill because his is the one that passed the Senate in the last session but was squashed in the House.

HB16 – Debbie Riddle

The following is an excerpt from the bill:

Sec. 63.0101. DOCUMENTATION OF PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION. (a) The following documentation is an acceptable form [as proof] of photo identification under this chapter:

(1) a driver's license or personal identification card issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety or the equivalent agency of another state that has not expired or that expired no earlier than two years before the date of presentation [or a similar document issued to the person by an agency of another state, regardless of whether the license or card has expired]; (a lot of illegals have drivers licenses)

(2) a United States military identification card that contains the person's photograph [form of identification containing the person's photograph that establishes the person's identity];
(3) a valid employee identification card that contains the person's photograph and is issued by an employer of the person in the ordinary course of the employer's business [birth certificate or other document confirming birth that is admissible in a court of law and establishes the person's identity]; (A lot of illegals who do work have these)

(4) a United States citizenship certificate [papers] issued to the person that contains the person's photograph;

(5) a United States passport issued to the person;

(6) a student identification card issued by a public or private institution of higher education that contains the person's photograph [official mail addressed to the person by name from a governmental entity]; (Does she not know how many illegals attend college and have a photo ID!)

(7) a license to carry a concealed handgun issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety;

(8) an identification card issued by a state agency of this state that contains the person's photograph; or

(9) a valid identification card that contains the person's photograph and is issued by:

(A) an agency or institution of the federal government; or

(B) an agency, institution, or political subdivision of this state.

(b) The following documentation is acceptable as proof of identification under this chapter:
(1) the voter's voter registration certificate or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter; (I'm pretty sure illegals have utility bills, bank statements, etc.)

(2) official mail addressed to the person by name from a governmental entity; (If I'm not mistaken, illegals have access to food stamps and that is a governmental entity?)

(3) a certified copy of a birth certificate or other document confirming birth that is admissible in a court of law and establishes the person's identity;

(4) United States citizenship papers issued to the person;

(5) an original or certified copy of the person's marriage license or divorce decree; (Illegals get married and divorced too)

(6) court records of the person's adoption, name change, or sex change; (Illegals can also have these or have them forged)

(7) an identification card issued to the person by a governmental entity of this state or the United States for the purpose of obtaining public benefits, including veteran's benefits, Medicaid, or Medicare; (Illegals have these)

(8) a temporary driving permit issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety; (Illegals can get these)

(9) a pilot's license issued to the person by the Federal Aviation Administration or another authorized agency of the United States; (Didn't the hijackers on 9-11 get these?)
(10) a library card that contains the person's name issued to the person by a public library located in this state; (I'm sure illegals who can read could go to the library and get a library card) or

(11) a hunting or fishing license issued to a person by the Parks and Wildlife Department [or]

[(8) any other form of identification prescribed by the secretary of state].

c) The commissioners court of a county may authorize the county elections administrator or the county clerk, as applicable, to issue photo identification cards that may be used as proof of a voter's identification under Subsection (a).

This is nothing but an Illegal Alien Voting Rights Act

HB112 – Patricia Harless

Hers is almost word for word the same as HB16.

SECTION 10. Section 63.0101, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 63.0101. DOCUMENTATION OF PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION. (a) The following documentation is an acceptable form as proof of photo identification under this chapter:

(1) a driver's license or personal identification card issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety that has not expired or that expired no earlier than two years before the date of presentation [or a similar document issued to the person by an agency of another state, regardless of whether the license or card has expired];
(2) a United States military identification card that contains the person's photograph [form of identification containing the person's photograph that establishes the person's identity];

(3) a birth certificate or other document confirming birth that is admissible in a court of law and establishes the person's identity;

(4) United States citizenship certificate [papers] issued to the person that contains the person's photograph;

(5) a United States passport issued to the person;

(6) official mail addressed to the person by name from a governmental entity;

(7) a valid identification card that contains the person's photograph and is issued by:

(A) an agency or institution of the federal government; or

(B) an agency, institution, or political subdivision of this state.

(b) The following documentation is acceptable as proof of identification under this chapter:

(1) the voter's voter registration certificate or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter;

(2) official mail addressed to the person by name from a governmental entity;
HB186 – Charles Perry

This is indeed a better bill. It removes non-photographic identification from the equation (bank statements, utility bills, etc.) However, I might suggest one alteration that might make it better. Require a separate photo voter ID card that can only be obtained by presenting a certified birth certificate, US passport, or citizenship papers in order to prove citizenship status.

SECTION 8. Effective January 1, 2012, Section 63.0101, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 63.0101. DOCUMENTATION OF PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION. The following documentation containing the person's photograph is acceptable as proof of identification under this chapter:

(1) a driver's license or personal identification card issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety or a similar document issued to the person by an agency of another state that, regardless of whether the license or card has not expired or that expired no earlier than two years before the date of presentation;

(2) a United States military identification card containing the person's photograph that establishes the person's identity;

(3) a valid Veteran's Identification Card (birth certificate or other document confirming birth that is admissible in a court of law and establishes the person's identity);

(4) a United States citizenship certificate (papers) issued to the person;

(5) a United States passport issued to the person;

(6) a license to carry a concealed handgun issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety (official mail addressed to the person by name from a governmental entity); or
(7) a valid identification card that contains the person's photograph and is
issued to the person by:

(A) an agency or institution of the federal government; or

(B) an agency, institution, or political subdivision of this state [copy of a
current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheek, or other government
document that shows the name and address of the voter; or

[(8) any other form of identification prescribed by the secretary of state].

==================================================================
HB248 – Warren Chisum

This version is slightly more rigid. It removes birth certificates as acceptable forms of ID. It also removes student IDs, employee IDs, and all forms of mail as acceptable proof of identity.

SECTION 12. Section 63.0101, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 63.0101. DOCUMENTATION OF PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION. The following documentation is an acceptable form of proof of photo identification under this chapter:

(1) a driver's license or personal identification card issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety that has not expired or a similar document issued to the person by an agency of another state, regardless of whether the license or card has expired;

(2) a United States military identification card that contains the person's photograph that has not expired or a form of identification containing the person's photograph that establishes the person's identity;

(3) a birth certificate or other document confirming birth that is admissible in a court of law and establishes the person's identity;

(4) United States citizenship certificate papers issued to the person that contains the person's photograph; or

(5) a United States passport issued to the person that has not expired; or

(6) official mail addressed to the person by name from a governmental entity;

(7) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter or
(8) any other form of identification prescribed by the secretary of state.
HB401 – Todd Smith

This bill provides for a Voter Photo ID, however, it can only be obtained if you do not have a driver’s license or other state issued photo ID. The methods for obtaining the Voter Photo ID do not require proof of citizenship. It also keeps in place the allowance of a photo student ID as proof of identity. The text is below.

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 12, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 12.007 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.007. TEXAS VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD. (a) Each voter registrar shall issue Texas voter identification cards to registered voters to be used only for the purpose of meeting the identification requirements of Section 63.001(b). The voter registrar must provide at least one place in the county to accept applications for and issue Texas voter identification cards. The voter registrar may not charge an application fee or a fee for the issuance of a Texas voter identification card.

(b) A person who has a valid driver's license or personal identification card issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety is not eligible for a Texas voter identification card.

(c) The Texas voter identification card issued to a person must:

(1) be captioned "TEXAS VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD";

(2) contain a prominent statement that under Texas law the card is valid only as identification for voting purposes;

(3) be laminated;

(4) contain a digital color photograph of the person; and

(5) include the following information relating to the person:

(A) full legal name.
(B) residence address;
(C) birth date;
(D) date the identification card was issued;
(E) sex;
(F) height;
(G) weight;
(H) eye color;
(I) the county where the identification card was issued, including a county number to be assigned for each county by the secretary of state; and
(J) any other information or identification as required by rule of the secretary of state.

(d) The application form for a Texas voter identification card must elicit the information required under Subsection (c) and any other information required by rule of the secretary of state. The application must be signed and sworn to by the applicant.

(e) The following information must be presented to and verified by the voter registrar before the voter registrar issues a Texas voter identification card to a person:

(1) a photo identification document, or an identification document that includes both the person’s full legal name and date of birth;
(2) documentation showing the person’s date of birth;
(3) evidence that the person is registered to vote in this state; and
(4) documentation showing the person’s name and address of principal residence.
(f) A Texas voter identification card remains valid if the person to whom it was issued resides at the same address and remains qualified to vote. A person who changes residence within the state must surrender the card to the voter registrar of the new county of residence and may apply for and receive a Texas voter identification card issued by the new county of residence if the person is otherwise eligible under this section. A person who moves residence outside the state or who ceases to be qualified to vote must surrender the person's Texas voter identification card to the voter registrar who issued the card.

(g) The secretary of state shall provide each voter registrar with the necessary equipment, forms, supplies, and training for the production of the Texas voter identification cards and shall maintain the equipment.

(h) The secretary of state shall adopt rules for the administration of this section.

... 

SECTION 5. Section 63.0101, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 63.0101. DOCUMENTATION OF PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION. The following documentation is an acceptable form [as proof] of photo identification under this chapter:

(1) a driver's license or personal identification card issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety that has not expired or that expired no earlier than one year before the date of presentation [or a similar document issued to the person by an agency of another state, regardless of whether the license or card has expired];
(2) a United States military identification card that contains the person's photograph [form of identification containing the person's photograph that establishes the person's identity];

(3) a birth certificate or other document confirming birth that is admissible in a court of law and establishes the person's identity;

[(4) United States citizenship certificate [papers] issued to the person that contains the person's photograph;

(4) [(§)] a United States passport issued to the person;

(5) a license to carry a concealed handgun issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety that contains the person's photograph;

(6) a student identification card issued by a public or private institution of higher education that contains the person's photograph [official mail addressed to the person by name from a governmental entity];

(7) a valid identification card that contains the person's photograph and is issued by:

(A) an agency or institution of the federal government;

(B) an agency, institution, or political subdivision of this state; or

(C) a tribal organization; or

(8) a Texas voter identification card issued under Section 12.007 [(copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter; or

[(8) any other form of identification prescribed by the secretary of state].
SB178 – Troy Fraser, et al.

Senator Fraser was the author of the bill that passed the Senate in the last session. This version is even tougher.

SECTION 12. Section 63.0101, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 63.0101. DOCUMENTATION OF PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION. The following documentation is an acceptable form of proof of photo identification under this chapter:

(1) a driver's license or personal identification card issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety that has not expired [or a similar document issued to the person by an agency of another state, regardless of whether the license or card has expired];

(2) a United States military identification card that contains the person's photograph that has not expired [form of identification containing the person's photograph that establishes the person's identity];

(3) a [birth certificate or other document confirming birth that is admissible in a court of law and establishes the person's identity];

(4) [United States citizenship certificate papers] issued to the person that contains the person's photograph; or

(4) [5] a United States passport issued to the person that has not expired [;]

(6) official mail addressed to the person by name from a governmental entity;

(7) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter or
(8) any other form of identification prescribed by the secretary of state.
HB539 – “Doc” Anderson

This bill was re-written to lump all forms of photo IDs issued by the government in
together and require that whichever photo ID is presented be unexpired and have the
person’s name on it. It also leaves all forms of non-photographic forms of ID intact. His
bill is also almost identical to Riddle and Harless. I think they will probably be lumped
together into the same bill and just be listed as co-authors.

SECTION 11. Section 63.0101, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 63.0101. DOCUMENTATION OF PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION. (a) An
[The following documentation is] acceptable form of photo [as proof of] identification
under this chapter must:

(1) be a driver’s license or personal identification card issued to the person
by the Department of Public Safety or a similar document] issued to the person by an
agency of this state or the United States [another state, regardless of whether the license or
card has expired];

(2) contain a [form of identification containing the person’s] photograph of
the person that establishes the person’s identity;

(3) display the person’s name, which must substantially conform to the name
on the voter registration list [a birth certificate or other document confirming birth that is
admissible in a court of law and establishes the person’s identity]; and

(4) contain an expiration date that:

(A) has not occurred; or

(B) occurs after the date of the most recent general election for state
and county officers.
(b) The following documentation is acceptable as proof of identification under this chapter:

(1) United States citizenship papers issued to the person;
(5) a United States passport issued to the person;
(6) official mail addressed to the person by name from a governmental entity;
(7) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter;
(2) official mail addressed to the person by name from a governmental entity;
(3) a certified copy of a birth certificate or other document confirming birth that is admissible in a court of law and establishes the person's identity;

(4) United States citizenship papers issued to the person;
(5) an original or certified copy of the person's marriage license or divorce decree;
(6) court records of the person's adoption, name change, or sex change;
(7) an identification card issued to the person by a governmental entity of this state or the United States for the purpose of obtaining public benefits, including veterans benefits, Medicaid, or Medicare;

(8) a temporary driving permit issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety;

(9) a pilot's license issued to the person by the Federal Aviation Administration or another authorized agency of the United States:
(10) a library card that contains the person's name issued to the person by a public library located in this state; or

(11) a hunting or fishing license issued to a person by the Parks and Wildlife Department [or

[(8) any other form of identification prescribed by the secretary of state].

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This one does not allow for any non-photographic ID, however, it still allows for photo student ID. I cannot stress enough that illegal alien college students HAVE campus student IDs.

Sec.63.0101. DOCUMENTATION OF PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION. The following documentation is an acceptable form as proof of photo identification under this chapter:

(1) a driver's license or personal identification card issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety that has not expired or that expired no earlier than one year before the date of presentation; or a similar document issued to the person by an agency of another state, regardless of whether the license or card has expired;

(2) a United States military identification card that contains the person's photograph;

(3) a birth certificate or other document confirming birth that is admissible in a court of law and establishes the person's identity;

(4) United States citizenship certificate papers issued to the person that contains the person's photograph;

(4)(5) a United States passport issued to the person;

(5) a license to carry a concealed handgun issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety that contains the person's photograph;
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(6) a student identification card issued by a public or private institution of higher education that contains the person's photograph or official mail addressed to the person by name from a governmental entity; or

(7) a valid identification card that contains the person's photograph and is issued by:

(A) an agency or institution of the federal government;

(B) an agency, institution, or political subdivision of this state; or

(C) a tribal organization or copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter; or

(S) any other form of identification prescribed by the secretary of state.

Sent out by Donna Garner, wgarner1@hotrr.com
Senate Website E-Mail for SD-4:

Name: tamara mcfarland
Title:
Organization:
Phone:
Address: 53 crystal lake lane
City: the woodlands
State: tx
ZIP: 77380

-----------------

It is estimated that over 21 million United States citizens do not have government-issued photo identification. Most common form of government-issued photo ID: a driver’s license. This number is made up of mostly the urban poor, the elderly, the disabled. And students, young people and others who have moved recently may not have IDs with their current information.

Identification/proof of citizenship restrictions cost money, amounting to a modern-day poll tax.

If this bill were to pass--it only further alienates the poor. Please do NOT vote YES for HB 218.
Dear Senator:

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 362 for the following reasons:

Voter Impersonation Fraud Doesn't Exist - despite spending millions of dollars to investigate and stop voter fraud, the Attorney General of Texas has never prosecuted a single case of a voter impersonating another voter at the polls.

Voter ID measures propose an extra hurdle for many Texans that is reminiscent of the poll tax. The working poor and senior citizens are less likely to have a photo ID - or the time or ability to get one. In 2006, a study by the non-partisan Brennan Center for Justice found that 18% of citizens 65 and over, 25% of African American citizens, and 15% of voters earning under $35,000/year don't have government-issued photo identification.

Voter ID does not address most common election fraud or other more common election related problems. Thousands of eligible Texans are denied the right to register to vote and many eligible voters are turned away from the polls every election. We need to spend time ensuring that every eligible Texan has the right to vote, not wasting time and resources on addressing something that does not exist.

We have much bigger priorities in the State- healthcare, tuition deregulation, and economy. All of these issues deserve time and resources of the Senate. These issues impact every Texan every day.

This legislation will cost the State and Counties to implement. Loss of revenue from issuing free DL (no ID is free, the State has to pay for it and the potential voter will have to spend time and money obtaining the documents needed to obtain a Drivers License).

As many as 2 million Texans could be disenfranchised: Women, students, seniors that don't have a driver's license, recently married or divorced women, anyone with a name on the ID that does not match the voter registration exactly, and many others.

Thank You for ensuring that my voice will continue to be heard and my vote will continue to count.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Rea
17046 South Gleneagles
Conroe, TX 77385

3/11/2009
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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR - WEB MAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Name: Mr. Charles D Reagan

Address: 21937 Briarcliff Dr
Spicewood
TX
78669

Correspondence ID: 200804300383

IP Address: 24.242.129.210

Date Submitted: 4/30/2008 1:18:14PM

Email: creagan1@austin.rr.com

Phone: 512-402-9127

Incoming Type: O

Message:

Please call a Special Session to address the need for photo ID for voting now to be prepared for the November election.

Lt Gov Dewhurst failed to get this critical issue accomplished in the last session, allowed a foolish Senate rule to prevent a majority vote.

You need to be specific in calling for a Special Session and waive all idiot rules that permit a minority opinion to prevail.

Texas has to have a valid voter photo ID law in place to prevent illegal alien and democrat voter fraud in November.
Dear Governor Perry:

In your State of the State speech this year, you outlined four pieces of legislation you wanted passed in the 2009 session regarding illegal immigration:

1. An end to sanctuary city policies where liberal big cities tie the hands of law enforcement in regards to our immigration laws.

2. A study outlining the costs of illegal immigration to the taxpayers of this state.

3. Bills helping law enforcement deal with the increasing problem of transnational gangs operating across the Mexico-Texas border.

4. Legislation to deter and prevent voter fraud by requiring photo ID at the ballot box.

All of these bills and more were killed by Republican traitors in the Texas House, most notably Rep. Burt Solomons and Speaker Straus, who cut a backroom deal with the Democrats to kill this legislation, according to the Austin-American Statesman.

We need leadership on this issue, and my vote for your re-election may depend on how you handle this issue. Doing nothing and letting Texas go the way of California is not an option. Please call a special session of the Legislature to deal with this most urgent of issues.

Sincerely,

Alecia Beane
1321 Tidwell Lane
Celina, TX 75009

P.S. Please do the right thing. We the people are tired of our country and our state being run by special interest groups. We the voters WILL turn out to vote next election.
Dear Governor Perry:

In your State of the State speech this year, you outlined four pieces of legislation you wanted passed in the 2009 session regarding illegal immigration:

1. An end to sanctuary city policies where liberal big cities tie the hands of law enforcement in regards to our immigration laws.

2. A study outlining the costs of illegal immigration to the taxpayers of this state.

3. Bills helping law enforcement deal with the increasing problem of transnational gangs operating across the Mexico-Texas border.

4. Legislation to deter and prevent voter fraud by requiring photo ID at the ballot box.

All of these bills and more were killed by Republican traitors in the Texas House, most notably Rep. Burt Solomons and Speaker Straus, who cut a backroom deal with the Democrats to kill this legislation, according to the Austin-American Statesman.

We need leadership on this issue, and my vote for your re-election may depend on how you handle this issue. Doing nothing and letting Texas go the way of California is not an option. Please call a special session of the Legislature to deal with this most urgent of issues.

Sincerely,

Don Swancy
409 McCarty St
Weatherford, TX 76086

P.S. We MUST render Texas sanctuary cities enforcement policies illegal. Immigration Law must be vigorously enforced. NO amnesty, NO path to citizenship, NO regularization, NO expanded visas for ANY class.
March 3, 2009

To: Chairman Duncan
CC: Chairman Fraser
From: Leticia Van de Putte
Subject: Ground Rules, Committee-of-the-Whole Public Hearing

Thank you for being open to discussing our serious concerns regarding this legislation, and the process by which it will be considered. The Senate Democrats have remaining concerns regarding the process moving forward:

1. We would request more time to prepare for the Committee-of-the-Whole hearing. In fact, we have at least one expert witness who because of a scheduling conflict will not be able to attend on March 10. Further, we renew our protest that the Texas Senate has no business taking voter identification legislation prior to addressing issues of broad importance to Texans.

2. We would request additional slots for invited testimony. What has been discussed is “3 or 4” from each side. We would request at least 8 from each side. Before asking Texas voters to go to considerable additional bureaucratic lengths to exercise a fundamental right, the Texas Senate should be absolutely clear that there is an identifiable and measurable problem in need of a legislative solution, the perils involved with the legislative reactions currently proposed, and detailed analysis on the effects on minority voters protected under the Voting Rights Act. These crucial issues could be more completely addressed with expanded panels of expert witnesses.

3. We request that the Senate provide qualified legal representation to the Democrats, much as might happen during a debate over redistricting legislation, in which myriad Constitutional issues are present.

4. We request that a stenographer be provided to record all proceedings of the Committee-of-the-Whole testimony and deliberations, and the subsequent deliberations of the Texas Senate on this legislation. The necessary pre-clearance requirements with the U.S. Department of Justice, and the likelihood of litigation resulting from this legislation makes this request prudent.

5. We request that the Texas Attorney General make himself available as a resource witness during the deliberations of the Committee-of-the-Whole. Many claims of “voter fraud” have been made in the course of the public debate in this and previous legislative sessions. Since the Attorney General’s office has spent considerable tax dollars
investigating the extent of this problem, his testimony is relevant to deliberations on this legislation.

Thank you in advance for addressing these concerns. As always, please feel free to call me at any time to discuss these or any other concerns.
He said people with disabilities who protested outside the GOP governor’s offices Tuesday blocked employees and visitors to gubernatorial offices: “Their actions ... are not the way to get a meeting with the governor.”

Instead, their actions got stanchions and ropes set up to protect the area surrounding Perry’s offices from the public, along with a Department of Public Safety officer standing guard. They also got some attention for the issue — and a court date.

Eleven people — nine using wheelchairs — each were issued a summons and charged with criminal trespass, a Class B misdemeanor, for staying at the Capitol past its 10 p.m. closing time, said DPS spokeswoman Tela Mange.

The protesters with disabilities want lawmakers to protect the home and community services that allow them to live outside of nursing homes. They want them to use all of the rainy-day fund, which is expected to have $9.4 billion that could be spent with a supermajority vote of lawmakers.

Bob Kafka, a statewide organizer with the disabilities rights group ADAPT of Texas, said such cuts don’t make sense economically or for people’s lives.

“One of the chants we used while outside the governor’s office was: ‘I’d rather go to jail than die in a nursing home,’” Kafka said. People with disabilities weren’t the only ones protesting.

UT students and others protested before attending a Finance Committee hearing.

“Public education is being thrown under the bus by the state,” said Carina Souflée, who said she graduated from UT in December.

People with families in nursing homes met with lawmakers, saying they don’t know what they’ll do if the facilities close or no longer can afford to take Medicaid patients due to a reduction in reimbursement rates.

“I’m hoping and praying our legislators show some compassion. ... A lot of people have outlived the resources they planned on having,” said Kathleen Segura, a San Antonio teacher who said her 90-year-old mother is in a Schertz nursing home. The elderly woman is on Medicaid because she has depleted her savings.

Segura said she and her husband moved several years ago from The Woodlands, where her mother lived with them for about a year. A retired brother-in-law then could come in and be with her mother during the day, she said. But even though her dementia wasn’t as bad then, it still wasn’t safe for her to be left alone for as little as 30 minutes, Segura said. Both she and her husband work during the day.

If her mother could no longer stay in the nursing home, Segura said, “It would be financially devastating for us. But more important ... it would be detrimental to my mother.”


House committee takes up voter ID bill

Controversial bill already passed Senate 19-11

Updated: Tuesday, 01 Mar 2011, 11:39 AM CST
Published: Tuesday, 01 Mar 2011, 11:35 AM CST
AUSTIN (KXAN) - A controversial voter ID bill is up for consideration Tuesday by the House Select Committee on Voter Identification and Voter Fraud. The Republican-backed legislation would require Texans to present a photo ID before voting.

House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, created this new committee after Gov. Rick Perry designated the issue an emergency at the beginning of the session. That designation would allow the bill to move quickly in the first 60 days of the session through the process to becoming law.

The Texas Senate 19-11 approved the bill now before House members after around 40 amendments were offered among six hours of debate.

"We're going to make sure anyone voting in the state of Texas when they show up at the polls they're going to have to be able to show who they are with a photo ID," said Sen. Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, the bill's sponsor.

While senators rejected a string of amendments to allow additional forms of photo ID, they approved giving Texans the ability to use concealed-handgun licenses to vote. The amendment passed 30-0, adding handgun licenses to the list of acceptable items: driver's license, passport, and military ID.

"What we tried to do today by amendment is make a situation we knew was going to happen by amendment to ease that burden just slightly," said Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus, on the eve of the Senate's approval. "We fell short on many measures but there's still the process to go in the House."

Though they were able to defeat similar bills in past sessions, Democrats acknowledged the inevitable passage of the bill this session. An overwhelming GOP majority gives the bill a much better chance.

Republicans maintained the bill would prevent voter fraud at the polls, but Democrats said it would only keep certain voters away from the polls. Such voting groups brought up were the elderly, the poor, minorities, and the disabled.

Perry has said one of the reasons for fast-tracking the bill is because it never made it to a vote in the House last session. In 2009, House Democrats stalled with numerous, lengthy questions in order to kill the bill.

"I am pleased that state lawmakers are quickly addressing this issue, which is important to Texans and critical to ensuring our state has proper protections against voter fraud, and I fully expect the House will soon follow suit and pass this important measure," Perry said previously.

Rep. Tan Parker, Chair of the Caucus External Communications Committee, said, "These issues are important to Texans and thanks to a stronger Republican majority in the Legislature, we will be able to take decisive action on these and other significant issues."

Democrats question the constitutionality of the Voter ID bill, saying it might violate the federal Voting Rights Act. However, Fraser said he modeled the legislation after an Indiana law, which the U.S. Supreme Court upheld.

"Sadly, as structured, SB 14 is poised to become the most stringent photo voter ID measure in the country," said Van de Putte. "Without the amendments that my colleagues and I proposed to alleviate voter suppression, I do not believe SB 14 can comply with the provisions of the federal Voting Rights Act."

Fraser also said implementation and education for voters would cost $2 million, though he suggested most or all of that could come from federal funding. Democrats have been critical of the cost, saying that cost or available funding is not a sure thing yet and that future court costs might outweigh the benefits.

They also questioned the reasoning behind the bill and any evidence of voter fraud. To consider a bill just two weeks into the session was a highly unusual move. Democrats suggested it should not have taken priority during a state budget crisis with a projected shortfall as high as $27 billion.

Republicans said the integrity of the ballot box is one of the most important issues facing all Texans.
"We all agree that ensuring the integrity of the vote is extremely important," said Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston. "Because that right is extremely important, we need to be careful moving forward so that we don’t create unnecessary barriers to a sacred, constitutional right."

The Texas Democratic Party said the legislation unfairly targets Hispanic voters, because it could suppress minorities’ votes.

“While education cuts could cost 189 thousand Texans their jobs, Republicans have invented a non-existent voter fraud problem to pass a purely political bill that threatens the voting rights of Texas Hispanics,” said Anthony Gutierrez, the TDP deputy executive director.

The TDP has been critical of two Hispanic Republicans sitting on the committee – Reps. Aaron Peña and Jose Aliseda, wondering what their decisions will be. The bill cannot pass out of committee without one of their votes, according to the TDP.

Rep. Patricia Harless, R-Spring, is the bill’s sponsor in the House. After Tuesday’s hearing on voter ID, the House State Affairs Committee will take up sanctuary city bills on Wednesday, another polarizing issue in the Capitol.

More than $1 million worth of marijuana hidden among oranges, seized by DPS

- Kayla Bell
- Originally published March 2, 2011 at 7:12 p.m., updated March 2, 2011 at 10:55 p.m.

Texas Department of Public Safety Troopers in Wharton County seized more than $1.7 million worth of marijuana hidden among a trailer of oranges in one of the department’s two recent drug seizures.

The first happened at 9:22 p.m. Sunday on northbound U.S. Highway 59 at the state Highway 71 exit when an 18-wheeler was pulled over, said DPS communications operator John Adkison.

Troopers found 194 bundles, or 4,253 pounds, of marijuana hidden among oranges, Adkison said. The street value of the marijuana is $1.78 million.

Felix Garcia Jr., 28, of Rio Grande City, was arrested on suspicion of felony manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance. Garcia was traveling from Weslaco to Houston, Adkison said.

Garcia was taken to Wharton County Jail, where he remains in custody in lieu of a $500,000 bond, according to a jail deputy.

At 4:17 p.m. on Tuesday, Trooper Alfred Ochoa pulled over a Ford pickup towing a utility trailer on northbound U.S. Highway 59 just south of the Wharton Airport, Adkison said. The driver, 69-year-old Robert Braun, displayed several signs of nervousness and had an implausible reason for the trip, Adkison said.

Braun, of Mission, refused consent to search. A K-9 conducted a free-air search of the vehicle and gave a positive alert, Adkison said.

Troopers subsequently found 34 bundles of marijuana hidden inside an external fuel tank and tool box. The 34 pounds of marijuana has a street value of $47,460, Adkison said.

Braun was arrested on suspicion of felony manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance.

Braun posted a $100,000 bond to leave Wharton County Jail Wednesday, the deputy said.
Outgoing Correspondence Report

Date Sent: 5/18/2009
Type: Email
Description: Constituent
Summary: May 18, 2009

Ms. Kathy Rogers
Galveston County GOP
krogers@classwide.com

Dear Ms. Rogers:

I appreciate the Galveston County GOP's interest in my committee vote against the Voter ID bill.

I stand firmly behind my belief that the Senate bill presented to me by Republican Chairman Todd Smith completely undermined what Texans -- particularly Republicans -- have demanded. This bill is not a true Voter Photo ID bill. If your members have in any way been following the developments surrounding this legislation, they would know that I have been the most vocal and active member on the House Elections Committee in challenging the opposition and defending Republican views and ideals. I worked very closely with Rep. Dwayne Bohac and the Republican Party of Texas to put together a strong bill that strictly requires a photo ID but instead was presented with an ineffective piece of legislation that would allow a person to vote simply by showing a non-photo library card.

I respectfully disagree with you that the House-Senate conference committee is where the details are "always sorted out." If Chairman Todd Smith continues to support and advance the Senate version of the bill, there will be no differences in the details to sort out and the conferees' hands will be tied to the provisions placed in front of them. Chairman Smith, who will be among the appointed House
conferees, has made his stance clear -- he is not committed to strictly requiring a photo ID to vote nor does he feel that immediate effect of a mandatory voter ID is necessary. He supports phasing in the changes over a four year period.

More importantly, it is highly unlikely that the bill would even make it that far. Your members must consider that the House of Representatives is comprised of 76 Republicans and 74 Democrats. Further, we have suffered an unfortunate loss of Republican Rep. Edmund Keumpel's presence on the floor, as he remains in critical condition after suffering a heart attack. Additionally, Republican members, Rep. Delwin Jones and Rep. Tommy Merritt, have already stated that they will either oppose the bill or work to ensure that it is substantially weakened. It is evident that the numbers on the House floor do not work in our favor for passing a strong Voter ID bill. The real opportunity to move an effective and true photo ID bill was to pass it out of the House Elections Committee and then force Chairman Smith to stand behind the committee's final product.

With all of that said, before casting my "nay" vote in committee, I took a pass on voting to ensure that there were enough votes to move the bill to the House floor. Upon seeing that there were five votes, I voted against the bill to send a strong message to Chairman Smith and to all Texans that his bill is completely unacceptable and is an outright insult to citizens who have demanded effective Voter ID legislation.

Please let your members know that I showed up this session and requested to be a member of the House Elections Committee so that we could pass a powerful and meaningful piece of legislation. I am not here to pass a bill that, as it stands, allows someone to vote just by showing a copy of their gas bill. This is offensive to your membership and to all Texans who deserve to have their vote count. I won't stand for it and neither should you.

I will continue my efforts on the House floor to make it a strong bill that takes immediate effect and solely allows a citizen to cast their vote upon showing a photo ID.

Sincerely,

03/21/2012 (3:54 PM)
Dennis Bonnen
District 25

May 18, 2009

Ms. Kathy Rogers
Galveston County GOP
krogers@classwide.com

Dear Ms. Rogers:

I appreciate the Galveston County GOP's interest in my committee vote against the Voter ID bill.

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Outgoing Correspondence Report

I will continue my efforts on the House floor to make it a strong bill that takes immediate effect and solely allows a citizen to cast their vote upon showing a photo ID.

Sincerely,

Dennis Bonnen
District 25

Bills: For 81R SB 362
Recipients: Ms. Kathy Rogers
Texas

Incoming Summary: Dear Representative Bonnen,

I have been tasked by the Galveston County GOP to find out why you voted against the Voter ID bill. They don't want to hear that you didn't think it was strong enough (because that is always sorted out in the House-Senate committee).

I hope you'll support when it comes to the floor.

Thanks, in advance, for any non-automated reply

03/21/2012 (3:54 PM)

Page 5 of 6

Representative Dennis Bonnen
Thank you for your reply. Just one question, isn't some form of Voter ID preferable to none at all? That's what the Dems have learned, incrementalism works.

Even if Voter ID doesn't pass the first time, then maybe people will throw out their representative if they voted no—no offense intended—and you'll have a better group to work with next session. If there is no Bill, there is no progress.

Just my opinion.

--Kathy Rogers
Type: Email
Staff: Shera Eichler
Description: Constituent

Date Written: Response Required: Yes
Priority: Closed
Status: File Location:
Incoming Correspondence Report

Summary: Name: Mr. Bobby Koenning
Address: 925 Meyer Street
City: Clute
State: TX
Zipcode: 77531
Phone: 979-2367995
E-mail: bjkoenning@sbcglobal.net

Message:
Hello,

Once again I would like to thank you and your staff for the time and hard work you and your staff do for Brazoria County and the City of Clute.

I recently read in the The Facts that there was a bill pending that would create a Photo Id Voting Card, but there were nine Democrats opposing the bill.
Could you please send me the names of these Democrats.

The past two years the City of Clute election is a prime example of why we need Photo Id Voting Cards here in the State of Texas.

Year before last the City of Clute file charges against a Hispanic man for code violation after he refused to clean up his property.
A warrant was issued for his arrest, but the man fled to Florida.
The man's wife and a close friend of her's went out and register new voters right before the City Election.
On election day they went out in vans picking up these voters they had register.
They succeeded in having a new Judge elected for the City of Clute.
The new judge in turn dismissed the charges pending against this man.
The man came back to Clute and during last year City of Clute election he and his wife went out in vans and helped their friend get elected to City Council. They also helped the City Judge get his cousin and two of his friends elected.

In this year election the Hispanic man nephew is running for Clute City Council.
We found out he has been voting illegally the past three years by voting in another ward then the one he lives in.
My brother Billy has passed this information onto the Brazoria County DA and they are looking into it.

I personally seen a Hispanic lady trying to use a green card to vote with doing last year election.
Our clerks said there were Hispanics coming in that spoke spanish only and some who barely spoke english asking who was the Mayor, because they were told not to vote for him.
I was also told by a hispanic lady working at Bucees that someone had come into Bucees trying to get her to go vote.
She told me that she told them that she couldn't vote in Clute, because she lived in Angleton.

Right now Cities have no way of knowing if voters are legal or not.
A photo id voting card would help cities with this problem.

Bobby Koenning
Type: Email
Staff: Emily Eppright
Description: Constituent
Home Phone: (979) 236-7995

Priority:
Status: Closed
File Location:

Date Written:
Response Required: Yes
No. of Responses: 1
May 21, 2007

Mr. Bobby Koenning
925 Meyer Street
Clute, Texas 77531

Dear Mr. Koenning,

Thank you for email with your legislative concerns. I fully agree with you, and want you to know that I voted to successfully pass HB 218 on April 24, and HB 626 on May 2 in the House of Representatives. HB 218 requires that a voter present proof of identification when offering to vote in addition to one's voter registration certificate. HB 626 requires a voter applicant to prove he or she is a United States citizen by furnishing a birth certificate or, if the person is a naturalized citizen, the city state, and year of taking the naturalization oath.

Both these bills are on their way to the Senate, and I encourage you to contact your Senator with your request. I have provided his contact information for your convenience:

The Honorable Kyle Janek
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711
or by phone: (512) 463-0117

Thank you again for contacting me. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the future if I can be of assistance with any state matter.

Sincerely,

Dennis Bonnen
State Representative, District 25
Case 1:12-cv-00128-RMC-DST-RLW   Document 241-9   Filed 06/27/12   Page 107 of 119

Incoming Correspondence Report

Date Received: 5/23/2007
Name: Jones, Mickey

Address Type: Home
Address: 119 Cottonwood Lane
Lake Jackson, Texas 77566-4517

Summary: Dennis, It is very important to your survival as a politician to bring up the Voter ID Bill today! The blocker bill is mute for today only and this can be passed today! Do it.

Thanks,
Mickey Jones
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

Type: Email
Staff: Emily Eppright
Description: Constituent
Home Phone: (979) 265-5666

Priority: 
Status: Closed
File Location:

Bus Phone: (979) 848-2220

Date Written:
Response Required: Yes
No. of Responses: 1
May 31, 2007

Ms. Mickey Jones  
119 Cottonwood Lane  
Lake Jackson, TX  77566

Dear Mickey:

Thank you for your continued correspondence throughout the legislative session. Please be assured that I fully supported and voted in favor of House Bill 218, the voter i.d. bill, when it came before the House of Representatives in April.

In response to your email dated May 23, please understand that H.B. 218 had already passed the House and was before the Senate at that time. Therefore, I had absolutely no influence over the actions taken on that day by our State Senators.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts with me regarding this important issue. Please do not hesitate to call on me in the future if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Dennis Bonnen  
District 25
Case 1:12-cv-00128-RMC-DST-RLW   Document 241-9   Filed 06/27/12   Page 109 of 119

Incoming Correspondence Report

Date Received: 6/18/2007

Name: Murphy, Mike

Address Type: Home
Address: 54 Plum Court
          Lake Jackson, Texas 77566

Summary: I feel cheated as an American and Texan that our Texas Congress couldn't get voter ID passed. The tired old adage that it would discourage the poor and minorities is hogwash and lies. Texans know this.

So we basically are saying you have to have an ID to drive and purchase liquor but forget about voting proof of citizenship.

Why can't we get common sense things done in Austin?
Voter ID and property tax relief. Maybe special interest benefits again over the people.

American citizens who have been convicted as felons can't vote but illegals can. It is being done. Please don't tell me this isn't happening and isn't an issue.

Please get something done about this. Enforce our laws against illegals. We will do this against our own citizens!! Don't you see the insanity Texans and Americans see in our voted officials who don't listen to them but special interest.

Do the right thing and get this done.

Gods Bless

Mike Murphy
Type: Email
Staff: Emily Eppright
Description: Constituent
Home Phone: (979) 299-6748

Priority: Closed
File Location: 
Cell Phone: (979) 417-6700

Date Written:
Response Required: Yes
No. of Responses: 1

March 21, 2012 (12:36PM)
June 21, 2007

Mr. Mike Murphy
54 Plum Court
Lake Jackson, Texas 77566

Dear Mr. Murphy,

Thank you for your continued correspondence. I want you to know that I voted to successfully pass HB 218 on April 24, and HB 626 on May 2 in the House of Representatives. HB 218 would require that a voter present proof of identification when voting, in addition to one's voter registration certificate. HB 626 would require a voter applicant to prove he or she is a United States citizen by furnishing a birth certificate or, if the person is a naturalized citizen, the city state, and year of taking the naturalization oath.

As you know, both of these bills died in the Texas Senate. I am just as frustrated as you are at the outcome of these bills. However, immigration and border security are such massive issues that they require the cooperation of both the state and Federal Government. Be assured that I, as your State Representative will do all in my power to combat this problem on a state level.

As you know from previous correspondence, I carried several bills this session that would directly address illegal immigration. I am pleased to tell you that I voted to pass SB 11 which allocates over $100 million dollars to protect and secure our borders where the federal government has failed to do so. This bill provides resources to help fight crime, human trafficking, and lawlessness on the Texas/Mexico border. This includes funding to aid the state's hard-pressed border sheriffs and other law enforcement groups, and four new advanced helicopters that will give our law enforcement a stronger presence. This bill will allow Texas lawmen to work closely with their federal counterparts to more adequately secure our border. These and other reforms of SB 11 make Texas among the most-prepared of states for terrorism, natural disasters, or other homeland security threats. Furthermore, I voted to increase the punishments for organized crime related to illegal immigration, such as the running of document mills which provide fraudulent identification papers, which help illegal immigrants evade deportation and fraudulently obtain jobs and state benefits.
Please be assured that I will look for any and all opportunities to help remedy this great problem in our state, keeping your thoughts in mind for the duration of my service as your State Representative. I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts with me regarding this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Dennis Bonnen
District 25
In light of the recent US Supreme Court decision on a state law for voter IDs, will there be a bill introduced in Texas soon to require IDs for voting?

Thanks,

Anita
Type: Email
Staff: Shera Eichler
Description: Constituent
Home Phone: (979) 849-0286

Priority:  
Status: Closed

File Location:  
Cell Phone: (979) 864-0132

Date Written:  
Response Required: Yes
No. of Responses: 1
Bus Phone: (979) 849-1156
April 29, 2008

Ms. Anita Bargas
321 Lasso
Angleton, TX 77515

Dear Anita:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding future state legislation in response to the Supreme Court's ruling in *Crawford v. Marion County Election Board*.

Given that this issue was of great importance during the 2007 legislative session, I assure you that there will once again be a bill introduced next session to address voter fraud. If it is not filed by another member, please be assured that I stand ready to lead the effort. The integrity of elections will remain a top priority for me and my fellow legislators during the upcoming session.

Any time you wish to visit about this issue or any other state matter, please don't hesitate to call on me. It is always a pleasure to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Dennis Bonnen
District 25
### Incoming Correspondence Report

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Address Type</th>
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<td>1/14/2009</td>
<td>King, Marvin</td>
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<td></td>
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**Summary:** IMMIGRATION AND VOTERS ID - Concerned that no local legislators mentioned immigration in story in yesterday's Facts. Assured him this was still an issue.

Told me how upset it is for him as a WW II veteran to see Mexican flag flying at homes - never thought he would live to see the day that was done.

He also agrees with voter IDS. We do photo IDs for everything else and people who do not want them or trying to hide something.

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<td>Status: Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff: Linda Winder</td>
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</table>

**Description:**

**Home Phone:** (979) 548-2015
DIA 000984

Case 1:12-cv-00128-RMC-DST-RLW   Document 241-9   Filed 06/27/12   Page 115 of 119

Incoming Correspondence Report

Date Received: 1/22/2009
Name: Paine, Matt

Address Type: Home
Address: 9100 Plantation Drive
West Columbia, Texas 77486-7176

Summary: VOTER IDs, PROPERTY TAX, CBISD, BRAZORIA, ETC.

- Totally supports voter ids and wants dennis to do. People who apply for welfare, etc. have to show photo ids.
- Wants income tax to substitute for property taxes or for DB to do something where people do not lose homes in tax sales - this is legalized stealing and taking advantage of others' misfortunes. Homes should be sold for market value and taxes taken out of that.
- Thinks school building projects should be managed by state. He is a project manager and knows that it is no more expensive to build an office building than a school but school projects are much more expensive. State should have standard facilities - not have the difference between LJ and Damon as that is not equal education.
- Upset that DPS officer Randy Jones is councilman at Brazoria and that is illegal and DA should do something about it.

Staff Notes: Told him I would pass on all comments to DB
- Noted that Jones did not run for re-election last year and is no longer on Brazoria Council and he still thinks he should be fired from DPS for being on the Council illegally.

Type: Phone Call
Staff: Linda Winder
Description: Home Phone: (979) 345-2642

Priority: Status: Closed
File Location:
Cell Phone: (832) 423-7600

Date Written:
Response Required: No
No. of Responses:

March 21, 2012 (12:17PM)
Summary: From: jcroix1@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2009 10:22 AM
To: District 25 Bonnen
Subject: Photo ID

Name: Mr. John Croix
Address: 2303 County Road 284
City: Alvin
State: TX
Zipcode: 77511
Phone: 281-585-4158
E-mail: jcroix1@comcast.net

Message:
I write to ask you to support all legislation requiring a photo identification for voting. I believe this will prevent a lot of voter fraud. I believe organizations like ACORN jeopardize the voting booth.

Thank You,

ComputerIP: 72.54.56.126
January 26, 2009

Mr. John Croix
2303 County Road 284
Alvin, TX 77511

Dear Mr. Croix:

Thank you for writing to express your support for legislation to require photo identification to vote. The election process is one of the cornerstones of our democracy and protecting Texas voters from disenfranchisement is a priority to me and my fellow legislators.

I strongly agree that a voter should be required to present a photo i.d. card in addition to their voter registration certificate before casting a ballot. To that end, I voted in favor of House Bill 218 during the 2007 legislative session that specifically called for a voter at the polls to present to an election officer the voter's registration certificate and a form of identification.

Unfortunately, H.B. 218 did not pass the Senate. However, I will continue my efforts to make this legislation a reality this session. A number of bills regarding this issue have already been filed for this session and I can assure you I will support any that I feel can restore integrity to the electoral process and make certain that the vote of every honest citizen counts.

Once again, thank you for contacting me; I appreciated hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance with any state matter.

Sincerely,

Dennis Bonnen
State Representative, District 25
Dear Rep. Bonnen,

Once again, I solicit your vote AGAINST the pending so-called Voter Identification legislation. It is an obvious (not veiled) attempt to disenfranchise a segment of the Texas voting population. That this legislation is being considered under the gerrymandered "special" legislation category is a shameful attempt by certain legislators to bypass the historical 2/3 vote procedure—but that's another issue. Any attempt by a State to require voter photo ID is unconstitutional as well as unethical. Your voice & vote will speak volumes. Many of us will be closely following actions and votes on this unethical legislation. I urge your transparent support against this bill.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Barbara McGaffey

ComputerIP: 99.157.64.84

Type: Email

Staff: Jennifer Pierson

Priority: Closed

Date Written:

Response Required: No

No. of Responses: 1
February 6, 2009

Mrs. Barbara McGaffey
3249 C.R. 536
Alvin, TX 77511

Dear Mrs. McGaffey:

Thank you for contacting me to share your concerns for legislation that would require voters to provide photo identification.

Reducing voter fraud is a top priority of mine and the rest of the Texas Legislature. Finding the appropriate means to do so without disenfranchising any legal voters, is a challenge I take very seriously. I can assure you that I will look closely at all sides of this issue and carefully consider your thoughts, should this legislation come to a vote on the House floor. Also, please know that as a State Representative, I had no influence over the actions taken by our State Senators last month to adopt rules to eliminate the 2/3 requirement for this specific piece of legislation to be brought up for a vote on the Senate floor.

Once again, thank you for contacting me with your concerns; I appreciated hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance with this or any other state matter.

Sincerely,

Dennis Bonnen
State Representative, District 25