

THE WAR ON VOTING IN THE MODERN ERA

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LWVUS 2012

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. OVERVIEW OF SUPPRESSION TACTICS AND OF LAWS PASSED IN 2011
2. WHY THE LEAGUE OPPOSES THESE LAWS
3. HOW THESE LAWS ARE ALREADY IMPACTING VOTERS
4. HOW THE LEAGUE IS FIGHTING BACK

“This unprecedented attack on voting rights is one of the greatest self-inflicted threats to our democracy – our way of governing – in our lifetimes.

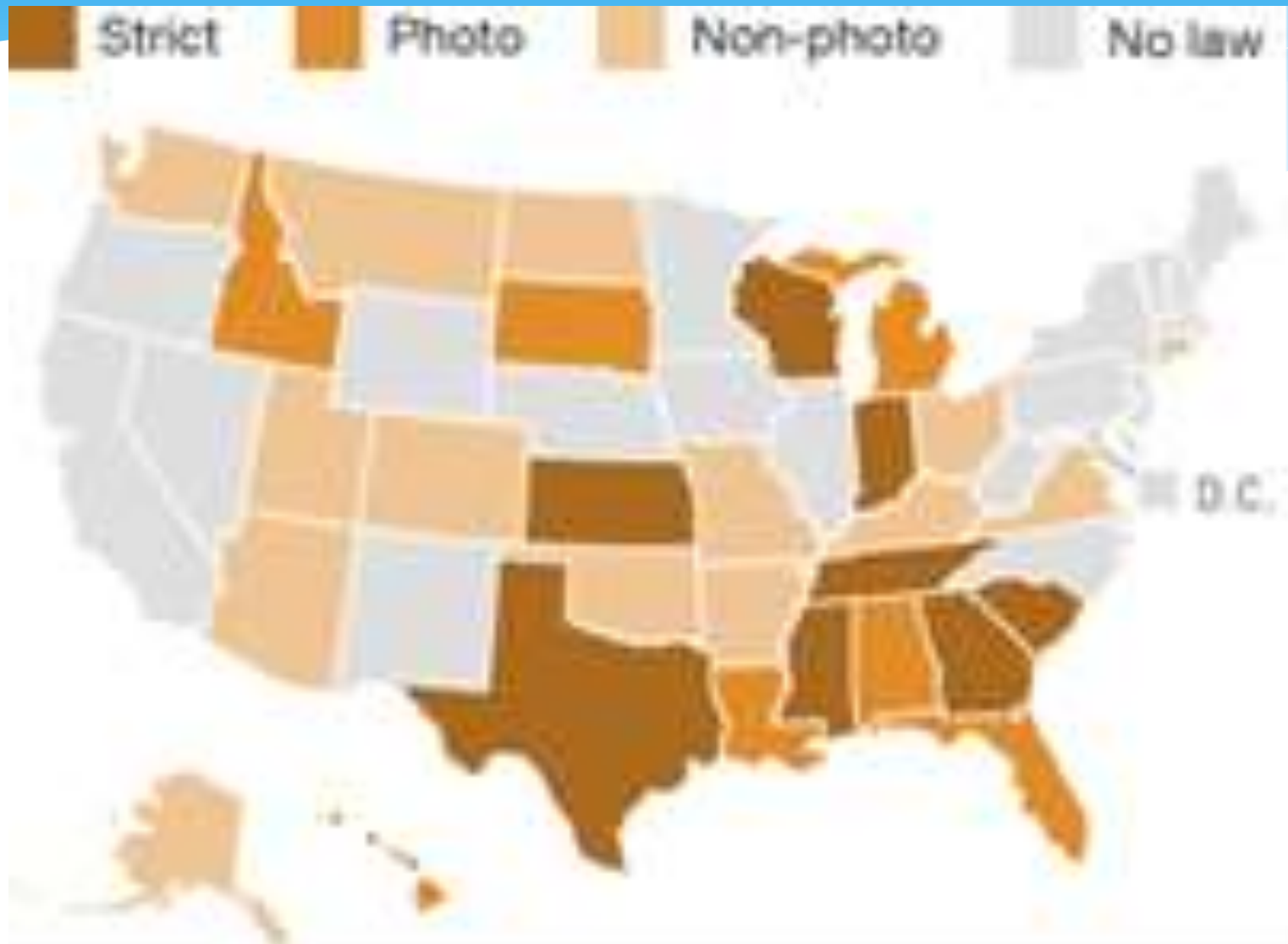
These new laws threaten to silence the voices of those least heard and rarely listened to in this country – the poor, the elderly, racial and ethnic minorities, the young and the differently abled.”

Elisabeth MacNamara - President, LWVUS
Testimony before a Congressional Hearing
October 2011

Suppression Tactics

1. Voter Photo ID
2. Proof of Citizenship
3. Shortening/Eliminating Early Voting
4. Targeting Voter Registration Groups

1. PHOTO ID



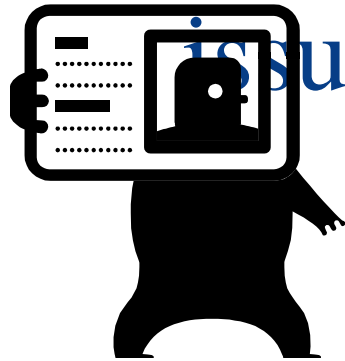
VOTER PHOTO ID

- * In 2011 Eight New States (AL, KS, MS, RI, SC*, TN, TX and WI) passed new restrictive photo ID laws.



Not just any Photo ID will work

In Texas and Mississippi you can
use a concealed carry permit to
vote but you may not use a state



issued university photo ID



Not so Free ID

Underlying Documentation Cost

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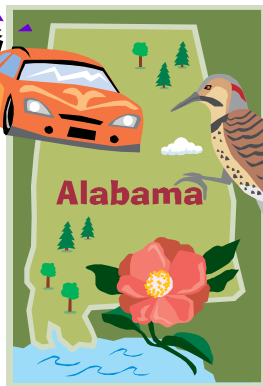
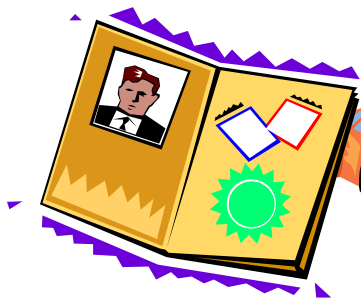


Poll Tax



2. PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP

In 2011 Three new states (AL, KS and TX) passed laws requiring proof of citizenship as a prerequisite to voting.



3. TARGET VOTER REGISTRATION GROUPS



Two states (FL, TX) have made it more difficult for groups like the League of Women Voters to register voters.



4. Eliminate/Shorten Early Voting

Five states (FL, GA, OH, TN and WV) have passed legislation that would eliminate or shorten the period of early voting.



MORE TO COME IN 2012

In addition, we could see new suppression laws passed in Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota and Pennsylvania before the 2012 elections.



The League of Women Voters opposes these new laws and legislation because:

1. They risk disenfranchising millions of eligible voters
2. They will cost millions of dollars to implement
3. There is no evidence that there is a need for such draconian measures

Disenfranchising Millions of Eligible Voters

- * **Five Million Eligible Voters** could be disenfranchised by new laws passed in states in 2011 alone.
- * **More than 21 Million individuals,** do not have the required government-issued photo identification

Millions of Dollars to Implement

- * Virginia: estimate 22.5 million (high end) (commonwealth institute study)
- * Indiana = \$12.2 million over four years
- * Georgia: 1st year = \$840,000
- * South Carolina estimate 1st year = \$1,345,000
- * Missouri estimate 1st year = \$6,429,990.00

No Need for Draconian Measures

Americans are twice as likely to get hit by lightning as to have their vote cancelled out by voter impersonation



VOTER SUPPRESSION LAWS ALREADY IMPACTING VOTERS

Long lines
Forced to pay for ID
Run a round
Catch 22

TN: Dorothy Cooper

Denied Voter ID because she didn't have her marriage license :



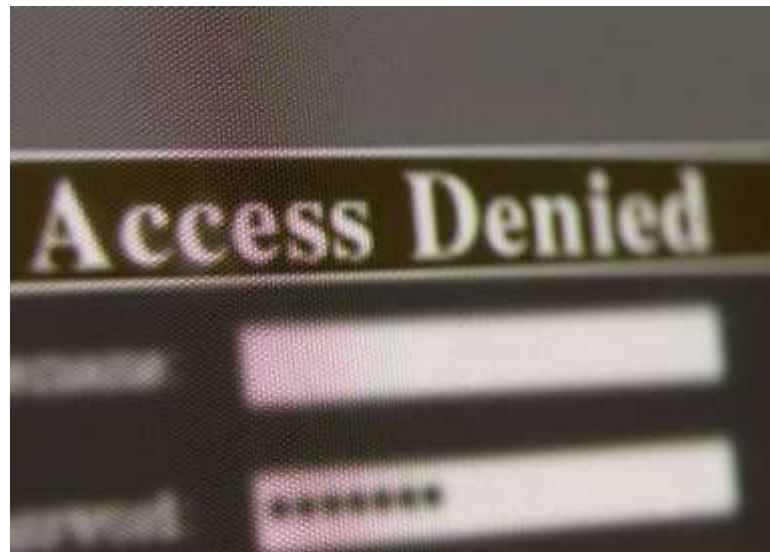
Virginia Lasater

Long Lines



CATCH 22

Kansas: 19 year old man unable to get ID because he needs an ID to get his birth certificate and needs a birth certificate to get his ID



Ricky Lewis

Honorably discharged U.S. Marine, unable to
obtain photo ID :



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS FIGHTS BACK

Against Legislation and New Laws



Leagues Beat Back Suppression in 13 states!

➤ CO

➤ MO

➤ OH

➤ DE

➤ MT

➤ OR

➤ IA

➤ NC

➤ SC

➤ ME

➤ NH

➤ MN

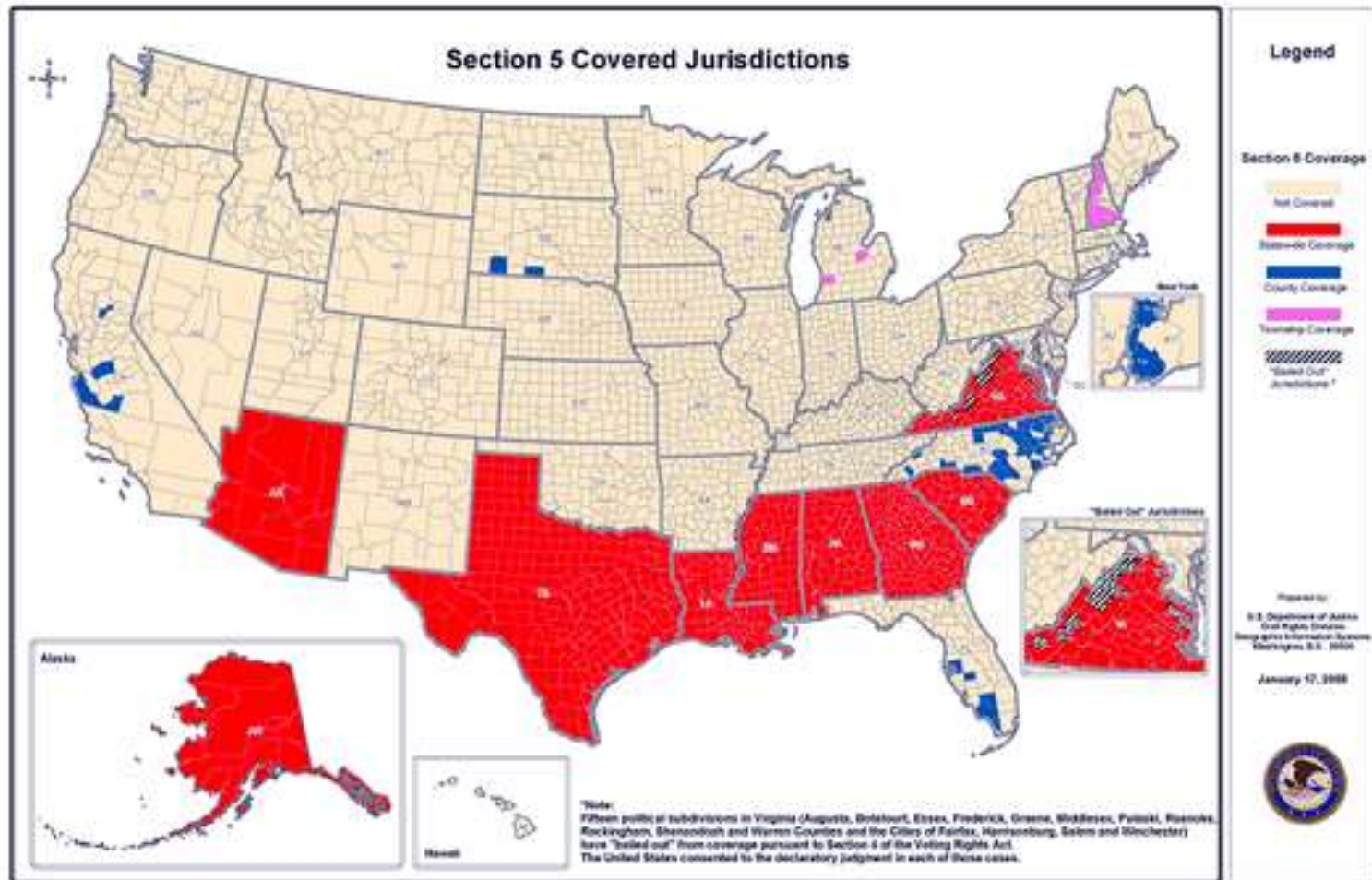
➤ NM

STATE LEAGUE ACTIONS

prior to passage

- * LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
- * OP-EDS
- * PRESS RELEASES
- * WORKING IN COALITIONS
- * ACTION ALERTS
- * MEETINGS WITH EDITORS
- * TOWN HALL MEETINGS
- * UNIFIED MESSAGING
- * EARNED MEDIA
- * MEETINGS WITH LEGISLATORS
- * PAVP FUNDING

Urging the DOJ to Deny Preclearance Post Passage:



VICTORY IN SC

DOJ Denies Pre-Clearance



STATES CHALLENGE THE VRA – SEC. 5

- * FIRST AN APPEAL BY TO THE THREE JUDGE COURT IN DC
- * THEN AN APPEAL TO THE US SUPREME COURT?
- * TX and SC



LAW SUITS

Post Passage

- * Florida League sues to overturn voter registration restriction
- * Wisconsin – files suit to overturn Voter Photo ID law as unconstitutional under State law.

EDUCATE AND ASSIST

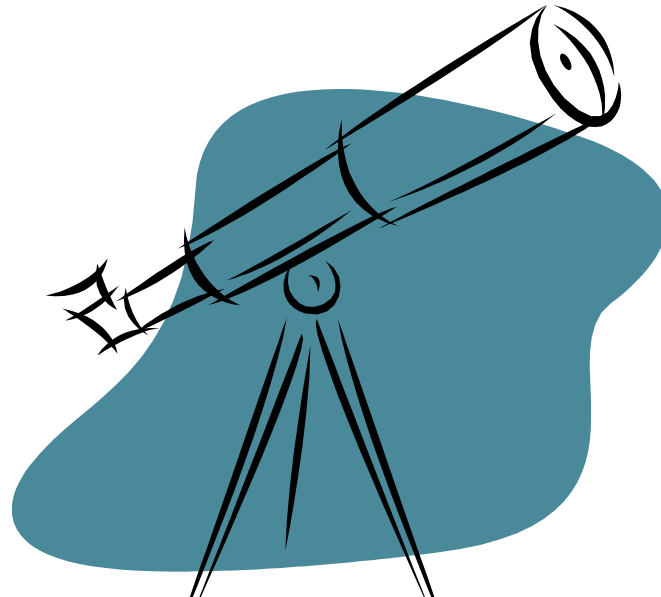
Post Passage

- *Educating the public
- *Assisting those who are having a difficult time getting ID

OBSERVING THE POLLS

Post Passage

WI and TN have set up observer programs to identify problems at the polls related to newly passed photo ID laws



“These new laws threaten to silence the voices of those least heard and rarely listened to in this country – the poor, the elderly, racial and ethnic minorities, the young and the differently abled. **Now is the time to act.**

We must work together to repeal these unjust and prejudicial laws and implement new laws that will lower the barriers to voting and ensure that every eligible citizen will have the ability to vote and have their votes counted.”

*Elisabeth MacNamara – President of **LWVUS***