



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of KANSAS OPPOSES the KANSAS PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP LAW BEING MOVED UP.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE CITIZENSHIP DOCUMENTATION IS CUMBERSOME, EXPENSIVE AND MAY VIOLATE FEDERAL LAW AND THE US CONSTITUTION. THERE MUST NEVER BE ANY COST TO VOTING.

- This proof of citizenship part of the law is redundant. The birth certificate is already to be shown for getting the KS government issued photo voter ID.
- This law (HB 2067) expands the government of Kansas with cost and bureaucratic scaffolding to implement a heavy handed and undue burden for Kansas voters without evidence of any voter impersonation in Kansas. Moving it up to June, 2012 does not solve these hurdles for voters nor improve our voting system.
- Kansas voter registration applications already have a common sense identification method for voters that ensures that eligible voters are who they say they are. Voters put the last four digits of Soc Sec. or Drivers License on their voter registration and give their signature for comparison at the poll. These four Soc. Security digits have proved very accurate for identifying US citizens.
- Like young mother, Natasha, a woman who has taken her husband's name, her name DOES NOT MATCH her birth certificate (there are approximately one million such married woman voters in Kansas). It costs to get a marriage license to prove the name. The Secretary of State tells us that she doesn't have to show a marriage license (as she does for the photo ID) if she signs an affidavit swearing that she is the one whose name is on the birth certificate. **How is this different than the affidavit on the current voter registration application** that all women AND men sign swearing under penalty of law that it is the truth (Falsifying it is a federal crime with 5 years in prison and \$10,000).
- Costs to a citizen can be a significant barrier to obtaining a birth certificate. Even when the birth certificate itself is free (if she is from Ks), there are hidden costs such as transportation to various agencies. There are fees related to acquiring supporting documents such as out-of-state birth certificates and marriage licenses for women from any state with husbands' last names.
- A copy of a an out-of-state birth certificate costs at minimum \$15 and if you use a credit card and know how to order online it costs above \$46, more depending on how quickly you need it. Poor people are not likely to have the documentation to get a Kansas free birth certificate nor to be able to order any online. Are they to know that they can get special treatment if they personally appeal to the Secretary of State's office?
- The use of the DMV computer ID system will not be ready for months so considering this issue is a waste of the legislature's time as the law already was passed for January 2013.
- Elections cannot be fair if willing, eligible Americans are prevented from voting.



Voting is our constitutional right !

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of KANSAS OPPOSES MOVING THE DATE of THE PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP PART OF THE 2011 ELECTION LAW FROM JANUARY 1, 2013, TO EARLIER..

Any proposal that raises barriers to voting is a fear-based approach instead of a fact-based solution. For these reasons, the League of Women Voters of Kansas hopes members of this Kansas Legislative committee will do the right thing by opposing legislation that would further complicate and compromise the voters as well as the county election offices this year and instead focus on provisions that would help improve voter education, polling place operations, foster effective training and recruitment of poll workers, and make election administration more efficient, secure, accurate and make votes recountable.

The LWVK finds many reasons to think that leaving well enough alone is the best plan:

- The Dept of Motor Vehicles will not have the computer system ready to go for an earlier implementation prior to January 1, 2013.
- What is the rush? To try to speed up implementation will substantially add to the cost, the work burden of county election offices with the computers not ready.
- This is redundant: a birth certificate is already required to get a photo ID to VOTE.
- The cost of out-of-state birth certificates to register to vote smacks of a poll tax on those not born in the Sunflower State. (Ex: From Ohio, it is \$46 plus delivery costs).
- Volunteer groups like the League of Women Voters, the DAR, the VFW, etc. would no longer be able to conduct public voter registration drives -
 - People don't walk around the mall or the state fair with their birth certificate.
 - It is a dangerous, bad policy to encourage allowing strangers at a booth said to be for voter registration to photocopy a "mother's maiden name" document
- Current voter registration forms require Drivers License numbers or the last four Soc.Sec. digits and an affidavit signature of affirmation of truth that carries a penalty of five years imprisonment and \$10,000 fine for falsehood.
- In a recent survey, a number of citizens questioned if this new law was just another example incumbent politicians trying to rig the rules of elections to make themselves better off by limiting who votes.
- Requirements that voters show official proof of citizenship will disenfranchise many eligible citizens.
- Official citizenship documents are expensive and time-consuming to obtain.
- Proof of citizenship requirements are an invitation to discrimination.
- Blocking eligible voters who cannot show documentation violates the Constitution and federal law.
- Proof of citizenship requirements do not address any serious or widespread problem.

Elections cannot be fair if willing, eligible American voters are prevented from voting.