

STATE VERSUS INDIVIDUAL VOTER FRAUD

Purpose of Photo ID Law It's my understanding that the photo ID voter law's purpose was to stamp out widespread individual voter fraud. It appears this was not met—one individual voter fraud case has morphed into widespread State defrauding of voters.

When I voted on February 28, my concern was that I might be defrauded of my vote then or in the future. I was hoping to make a smooth vote as always in the past 56 years, but to no avail.

My Experience in the Last Election At my usual polling place, I walked up to the voter screening person behind a desk displaying a sign indicating a photo ID is required. I was asked for my driver's license and handed her my Wichita State University-issued "Associate" photo ID card. She said it would be a lot easier if I used my driver's license. I told her I wanted to use this card to test if, when I no longer drive, I will still be able to vote and also test to see if college students' votes are also suppressed, not just old folks like me.

She called for a supervisor who declared my Shocker Card a credit card after reading the motto "The Metropolitan Advantage" under the name "Wichita State University". I assured the supervisor it was not a credit card; after looking again, she said the card was from a "city school". After I explained the history of Wichita University and Wichita State University, she declared it invalid anyway and insisted I use a driver's license or use the provisional voting booth. I asked how I would know if my vote was counted if I used the provisional voting booth. She responded "it may or may not be counted. You'll have to call after two weeks to find out." At that point I gave the person behind the desk my CDL (commercial driver's license) and she said "State your name." When I told her, "It's on my license" she looked up at the supervisor and asked if I had to respond verbally with my name.

Obviously frustrated, the two cut short their standard procedure of being handed a driver's license, asking for your name, asking for your address, and then reading in the bar code on the back of the license, and asking you to sign your name. I only had to sign my name after delivering my CDL.

Problems with Current Law Now that this law has been enacted, the State is committing fraud against any voter who does not have and cannot afford the money or the time to get an acceptable photo ID or birth certificate.

It was my observation in the February 28 election that only a current valid driver's license was acceptable. I was told that even an expired license would work. Would an expired license with an obsolete address also work if I move after my license expires?.

Next, the State wants each voter to show their birth certificate before voting. Free birth certificates won't be available until next year. For old folks like me who were born at home, I may or may not have a birth certificate. This represents additional money and time spent by me before the State allows me to exercise my constitutional right to vote—causing additional potential State voter fraud.

Suggested Solution for Voter ID Law If we're honest about wanting to stop individual voter fraud, it can be done in a way that doesn't cause the State to also commit fraud. Take my picture at the time of voting and add that to my voter registration information. This eliminates both State and individual voter fraud. Cameras are cheaper than bar code and magnetic strip readers. For all subsequent elections, the State has the photo on record to use as it likes. If an attempt is made to vote fraudulently, this should make it easy to prosecute.

With this method, there is no cost to the voter, far less cost to the State, and no votes suppressed by the State, eliminating both State and individual voter fraud.

As my testimony describes, we all still have a lot to learn about voter ID. Election workers need to be better trained and voters need additional education. Let's not rush into more stringent voter registration requirements when there is still much that is unknown about voter ID.