

**Witness:** Katherine Strauch Sullivan  
**Jurisdiction:** Baltimore County

**Bill:** HB0035 Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity  
**Sponsor:** Delegate R. Long

**Position:** FOR

Voter ID is the most basic election reform a state can make to increase the security of their elections. We need to ensure that everyone voting is who they say they are. According to a Monmouth poll, **80% of Americans support requiring voters to show photo identification** in order to cast a ballot. Voter ID is very popular with the American people. ***The opponents of voter ID laws are the outliers.*** Basic common sense leads us to understand, when citizens trust a process, they will be more likely to participate in the process.

Furthermore, there are a few additional facts to round out this argument for Voter I.D. requirement:

1. There is no evidence Voter ID requirements deter citizens from voting.

*A 2012 study by J-PAL North America found that notifying voters of the ID requirements did not negatively affect turnout, and certain messaging actually increased turnout by as much as 1.5 percentage points. **The study also found that citizens who were given the resources and support to get an I.D. still did not vote.***

2. It is an unfounded and ridiculous assumption to claim requiring I.D. to vote is an “unfair and unreasonable requirement for marginalized members of our society”. With this logic, are we to assume these people also cannot get married, fly on a plane, go to a bar, check into a hotel, buy cigarettes, go to concerts, or get a library card? I.D. is required for these and countless other activities in America. Ironically, if you believe an entire class of people do not possess the skills or understanding to complete this basic task, I’m afraid you are the one who is marginalizing and demeaning this group.
3. There is evidence to suggest states with strict voter I.D. requirements enjoy higher voting rates. GA has some of the most strict Voter ID laws (which they extended to Mail-ins after the 2020 election) and Georgia enjoyed record 2022 turnout in Early, General, and Run-off elections.
4. In the event of election crime investigations, it is harder to prove double voting is happening across state line when a state does not require proof of identity.
5. Voter ID also speeds up election check-in and reduces long lines. In Florida, for example, every driver’s license has a QR code that links to the state voter database, requiring a second or two for voters to check in and receive a ballot.

We can all agree that we only want legal votes to count. With photo ID, we can help voters trust that everyone voting is who they say they are while at the same time improve election administration.