

January 23, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chairman and Members of the Ways and Means Committee

RE: HB0091 Elections – In person Voting – Proof of Identity

SUPPORT

Requiring a voter to present a photo ID preserves the integrity of every voter's vote and protects the integrity of the election itself.

- Currently, anyone who knows a registered voter's name, address, and month/day of birth can walk-in and vote as that person on a regular ballot. No one is verifying signatures on the VACs (Voter Authority Cards). When an individual votes on a regular ballot, it is permanent. There is no way to remove this vote once it has been cast.
- By requiring a voter to present photo ID, the integrity of the election is also preserved. At least 12 other states require some form of ID and 23 states requiring a photo ID in order to vote a regular ballot. Maryland is among 15 states that require **NO ID** to vote.

When Valid IDs Are REQUIRED:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Driving• Boarding an Airplane• Purchasing a Car• Getting a Car Registration• Renting a Car / Boat / Jet Ski / etc.• Buying Insurance• Buying Train Tickets• Obtaining a Passport• Picking up mail from FedEx, UPS, Post Office, etc.• Renting Tools / Furniture / Equipment• Visiting a Doctor's Office / Hospital• Getting Outpatient Testing• Donating Blood• Getting a Prescription• Buying Certain OTC Cold Medications, and products like nail polish remover• Applying for a Job• Applying to School• Applying for a Professional License• Getting Married• Check Out a Book from the Library• Joining the Military• Adopting a Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transacting with a Bank• Sending a Wire Transfer• Applying for Online Banking• Applying for Store Credit• Establishing a Utilities Account (Water / Light / Electric / Cable / Gas / etc.)• Cashing a Check• Getting a Credit Card• Opening a Retirement Account• Applying for a Mortgage• Buying a House• Applying for Apartment Rentals• Renting a Hotel Room• Buying a Cell Phone• Going to Court• Entering Federal Buildings• Getting a Business License• Getting a State ID• Cashing In a Large Lottery Ticket Win• Obtaining Medicare / Medicaid• Applying for Food Stamps• Applying for Welfare• Applying for Unemployment• Using Social Security Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applying for Section 8 Housing• Applying for a H-1B Visa, or Green Card• Holding a Rally or Protest• Buying a Firearm• Adopting a Pet• Applying for a Hunting License• Applying for a Fishing License• Joining a Gym• Using Pawn Shops• Buying Annual Tickets to Amusement Parks• Entering Night Clubs• Volunteering at Non-Profit Organizations• Voting in a Union Election• Buying Cigarettes• Buying Liquor• Visiting a Casino• Buying an "M"-Rated Video Game• Going to Jail• Participating in Outdoor Activities Like Sky diving, Bungee Jumping, etc• Participating in Political Events
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When Valid IDs Are NOT Required:

Voting

- The above chart lists over 60 instances where a valid Identification Card is required, yet not for Voting.
- As an Election Judge for several election cycles I can affirm that voters actually **want to show their ID** and most certainly let us know that they think it ridiculous that to show an ID to vote is NOT required in Maryland.
- Requiring a voter ID ensures that voters' rights are protected. Disenfranchisement of voters' rights only fosters distrust of our election system and reduces voter confidence.
- No one is blocked by requiring an ID as they are easy and free to obtain through the Motor Vehicles Administration.
- Many employees already have a photo ID as even all elected officials and state and federal employees, as well as anyone who drives any type of motor vehicle do.

A 2024 Pew Research Poll showed that 81% of those surveyed supported voter ID laws that required proof of identity in order to vote. The breakdown by party is overwhelming favorable with 95% of Republicans, and 69% of Democrats favoring voter ID (an increase from 61% in 2023).

Maryland needs to join with nearly half of all 50 states that require a voter ID to vote.

Therefore, I respectfully request a **Favorable Report for HB0091** because this Bill is necessary to preserve, protect, and respect the rights of all registered voters.

Respectfully submitted,

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