

# Don't Sign Away Our Neighbor's Right to Vote!

Petitions are being circulated in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Duluth that would require a valid, government-issued photo ID from registered voters. This would apply to city elections only, not state or federal. It would also not apply to absentee ballots.

**Minnesota has a long history of clean elections because of strong election laws already on the books.** Photo ID will only turn eligible voters away.

## Photo ID requirements will not stop voter fraud.

- There are no known cases of voter impersonation in Minnesota. This is the fraud that photo ID could prevent. It would, however, stop eligible voters from voting.
- In the 2008 U.S. Senate election recount, lawyers for both candidates looked for fraud in the election. They found none.
- Creating different requirements for city elections will lead to confusion, not integrity.

### Photo ID requirements are an unnecessary expense.

If you don't have a photo ID, it takes time, money – and other ID – to meet the proposal's requirement. Furthermore, the petition says that people who cannot afford a photo ID would be able to get one at no cost. There are, however, many hidden costs.

- Elderly citizens and voters with disabilities who do not drive may have difficulty getting to government offices to obtain a photo ID.
- The supporting documents for getting an ID card – Birth Certificate, marriage licenses, etc. – can be costly and time-consuming to track down.
- The cost of providing photo ID will be paid by the city and, ultimately, the taxpayers. This additional expense would provide no benefit to the community.

### Many eligible voters do not have photo ID.

- **People over 65** – Approximately 18% of older Americans do not have a valid state-issued ID. They may also have trouble getting to a government service center to obtain one.
- **People with disabilities** – 10% of people with disabilities do not have a photo ID that would allow them to vote. Many of these citizens have significant barriers to getting a photo ID.
- **Students** – Many students attending Minnesota colleges and universities do not yet have a Minnesota ID. This would make it more difficult and confusing for students to vote.

*Photo IDs for registered voters fixes no problems, but causes many.*