

Supporters Want New Rules They Say Will Prevent Election Fraud, But Critics Argue Legitimate Voters Will Be Unfairly Suppressed.

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### TODAY'S ISSUE

The Republican-controlled state Legislature has passed a bill requiring Wisconsin voters to present some form of government-issued photo identification, such as a driver's license or state ID card, in order to vote. Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle has promised to veto it.

### BACKGROUND

There were several reported cases of voter fraud in last November's election, mostly in the Milwaukee area.

### VIEWPOINTS

\* Republicans say requiring photo IDs at the polls is necessary to end voter fraud. They say photo ID cards are required by many businesses, in order to buy liquor, cash a check or sign up for telephone service; why should voting be different?

\* Democrats say requiring an ID would discourage people from voting, which is called voter suppression. They say voter turnout is already too low, and the state should not place barriers between citizens and their right to vote.

### **ID bill too onerous**

The GOP-led voter ID bill is the early Halloween vote: Masked as a reduced voter fraud bill, it reduces voters -- not fraud. We know reduced poll numbers mean the GOP stays in power. Can we afford to keep these slimy creeps in government?

The GOP-led voter ID bill is the first step in an orchestrated campaign to eliminate voting by the elderly, poor, student and disabled populations. It is reputed to disenfranchise more than 123,000 Wisconsin citizens at the polls who may not have a state driver's license or state-issued ID. How easy will it be to obtain the required ID? Trying to vote on a work day is already a hurdle for too many people. This bill is another hurdle to reduce the turnout.

Wisconsin would go from having one of the most open to one of the most strangled election systems in the United States. Are we citizens going to stand for that?

Don't be fooled: This bill is the precursor to dumping same-day registration at the polls as well. Talk about undemocratic chicanery! The right-wing GOP buffoons in our Legislature merit our utter contempt and our fury. Get mad -- get rid of these power-mad, incompetent dolts who refuse to do the peoples' business, but do their own on our dime. Tell the governor ASAP to veto their crackpot laws.

-- Kristen Zehner, Marshall