

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I ask that legislators from both sides of the aisle give this bill a chance on the ballot, and vote to recommend this important piece of legislation to the voters. Security of our voting process should be a non-partisan issue. If it is, you should wonder if the opposition is currently cheating and worried about their illegitimate gains being interrupted. Only those who have something to hide would be against this.

Our country is soon to require enhanced ID ("REAL ID") to do air travel. Almost anyone here in this country is allowed to use commercial air travel. In fact, many non-citizen visitors likely arrived here with air travel, and we are requiring an enhanced ID to do that. If ID is required for that, how can we turn around and not require it for the most cherished right of voting. A right that is reserved exclusively for citizens.

Even if we claim our elections are going well, and that this really isn't fixing anything other than a perception problem, this is still needed. This is because the trust of elections is critical. Trusted elections allow the peaceful transfer of power. If the peaceful transfer of power is removed by the loss of trust in our election systems, what is left but needless and unnecessary violence? If our system of government is to avoid both tyranny and violence, then the only way is for both sides to fundamentally trust our election systems. That means the election systems must go above and beyond to prove their integrity. They must, even if someone wins or something passes by the slimmest margin, be trusted by the 99%+ of the voters so that those who lost, do so peacefully instead of losing faith in the system and trying to violently "fix" it. (Which will fix nothing, and hurt many.)

If there is any concern at all about the availability of identification documents, the solution is for the government to provide them at no cost, avoiding the need for ID to become a stealth poll tax. If someone needs the state to send a copy of their birth certificate, the state should do that for free if it is in the furtherance of that citizen voting. If the state needs to then accept that birth certificate and issue an ID card (or re-issue an acceptable driver's license if the citizen currently holds driving privileges but doesn't have the card for whatever reason), the state should do that if it enables that citizen to vote. Thus, no poor person should be deprived for a lack of money.

In securing the right to vote, we should adopt the "AAA model" from the world of computing (where it is used for systems like RADIUS). AAA stands for Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting. All three should be addressed to secure voting. Photo ID is step 1: it AUTHENTICATES who is voting. Then, step 2 is authorization, where you take the identity you have verified, and check in real time

that they are allowed to vote. Are they a citizen? Have they not voted already in this election? Are they registered here, and only here to vote? If yes to all those, they are AUTHORIZED to vote. Once they have voted, you must then ACCOUNT: register, in real time that they have voted in this election, and are no longer eligible to vote again (or in another district in the state or part of another state for that matter).