



## **Legislation Summary:**

### **An Act mandating the posting of identification requirements at polling places**

Initial bill number(s): S.405

Sponsors: Sen. Michael Barrett

#### **What the bill does, why LWVMA supports or opposes it, and the League position relative to this bill.**

The bill would require that a summary of the reasons that a voter may be asked to show identification and the acceptable forms of identification be posted in every polling place for every election. That information would also be posted on the Secretary of State's website. The bill would ensure that voters know whether a request for identification is legitimate and how they can meet that request.

The bill would make it clear to voters under what circumstances they can be asked for identification at the polling place when they are faced with the situation. Illegitimate identification challenges to voters are rare, though certain political groups have urged their members to become poll workers and watchers and to challenge voters. This is a simple way to lessen the impact of any such challenges and to make it clear to voters when a challenge is valid and how to answer it.

LWVUS promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive. We encourage electoral methods that provide the broadest voter representation. League supports electoral methods that:

- Encourage voter participation and voter engagement.
- Encourage those with minority opinions to participate, including under-represented communities.
- Are verifiable and auditable.
- Promote access to voting.
- Maximize effective votes/minimize wasted votes.
- Promote sincere voting over strategic voting.
- Implement alternatives to plurality voting.
- Are compatible with acceptable ballot-casting methods, including vote-by-mail.

[LWV ImpactOnIssues2022-2024.pdf](#) p.51