



## The Negative Impacts of Voter ID on the Budget

- 1. There are Nebraskans without a photo ID.** According to a national study conducted by the Brennan Center, an estimated 11% of voting age adults do not have a photo ID.<sup>1</sup> In Nebraska, based on 2016 census estimates, that number would be about 157,756.
- 2. Providing Nebraska State Identification Cards at no cost.** Senator Murante has noted in interviews that he expects to provide a free ID to ensure no voter is turned away. When comparing US Census Data and Nebraska DMV reports, it is estimated about 10% individuals do not currently have a Nebraska driver's license<sup>2</sup>. Providing a free state ID to each of these individuals would result in the State of Nebraska losing \$3.7 million in revenue.<sup>3</sup>
- 3. Based on other states, Nebraska is likely to lose more revenue than initial projections.** When Indiana passed its voter ID law, the fiscal note estimated annually about 77,000 free IDs and a fiscal impact of \$700,000 in lost revenue annually from the free IDs provided. In 2010, Indiana provided 168,264 IDs and lost \$2,187,432 in revenue, not including \$333,162 in materials cost, and \$1,309,093 in man-power, transaction time, and manufacturing costs.<sup>4</sup>
- 4. Secretary of State John Gale needs over \$300,000 to educate voters.** This cost would need to be included in any future voter ID bill and would most likely need to continue over several budget cycles. However, other states that have allocated education funds have discovered the amount initially allocated was insufficient to cover all education expenses. Missouri is currently having trouble funding their voter ID bill.
- 5. Cost to the counties will increase and counties will lose revenue.** Some county clerks have predicted an increase in use of provisional ballot, resulting in an increase in the amount of money counties will need to pay for elections.<sup>5</sup> In providing free IDs, counties will lose revenue collected from licensing fees.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, counties will incur additional expenses to train and hire more poll workers to accommodate the longer process and increased number of provisional ballots.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Citizens without Proof”, Brennan Center for Justice, 2006

<sup>2</sup> In the 2010 Census, the population of Nebraskans over the age of 18 was estimated to be 74.9% of its current population of 1,826,341, roughly 1,367,929 Nebraskans of voting age. In its 2010 Annual Report the DMV reported 1,235,457 Nebraskans over the age of 18 held a driver’s license (including a Class O, Class M, Class O/M, and provisional operator’s permit), a difference of 132,471 Nebraskans, or about 10%, without a driver’s license. A similar percentage was found when comparing 2016 numbers (1,434,151 Nebraskans 18+, 1,292,927 licensed drivers; a difference of 141,224 Nebraskans, roughly 10%)

<sup>3</sup> This number does not include costs associated with materials, man-power, transaction times, and manufacturing of the ID. A Nebraska identification card costs \$26.50, the revenue collected is distributed to state and county cash funds. \$3.50 of the fee goes to the county cash fund, \$10.25 to the State General Fund, \$12.75 to the DMV Cash Fund. Providing a free ID to the 141,224 estimated Nebraskans without a driver’s license would result in an estimated \$3.7M in lost revenue. This does not include lost production cost to the state or county. Nebraska would lose \$1.45M to the General Fund and \$1.8M to the DMV cash fund. Nebraska counties, collectively, would lose \$494K in lost revenue. It is important to note that Indiana initially estimated about 77K individuals would need a free ID, in 2010 they issued over 168K.

<sup>4</sup> *The Canvass: States and Election Reform* “Elections and the Economy”, Number 17, February 2011.

<sup>5</sup> It is estimated to cost about \$33 to administer and process a provisional ballot. The process associated with administering a provisional ballot includes additional time for the poll worker to provide the voter with the provisional ballot (an estimate 15 minutes), additional time opening the provisional ballot envelope, performing diligent research to determine if the individual is registered at the address they voted at and if the registration is valid, staff determination of whether to accept or reject the ballot, presentation to the canvassing board and their deliberation on whether to accept or reject the ballot. A canvassing board of 6 gets aid minimum wage for the duties performed, for each hour they meet the county spends \$48, almost \$400 for an 8 hour day. Election officials by federal law must have provisional ballots counted within 7 days, meaning the county will have to meet longer than 8 hours a day to count all provisional ballots if more are utilized. It is estimated in Lancaster County it takes 3-4 days for a municipal or primary election, 5-6 days for a general election and the full 7 days for a general election in a presidential year.

<sup>6</sup> From every \$26.50 collected by the DMV, \$3.50 is directed to the county’s cash fund. For 2015, counties would have seen \$1.1M in lost revenues from Class O license and state ID card fees. Revenue loss over a 5 year period (2011 – 2015) would have been approximately \$5,047,565

<sup>7</sup> It is also important to note that counties will also bear the cost for putting the constitutional amendment on the ballot, incurring expenses for the ballot design and printing.