



The Negative Impacts of Voter ID on Rural Nebraskans

- 1. Accessibility to DMV is an issue for rural Nebraskans.** LR1CA requires a voter show a photo ID, presumably a Nebraska driver's license or state ID card. Rural Nebraskans are limited on when and how they can update or renew their driver's license.¹ This limitation would place an undue burden on Nebraskans in rural communities who want to exercise their constitutional right to vote.
- 2. More than 1/3 of Nebraskans do not have daily access to a DMV.** Only 10 counties in Nebraska have daily access to a DMV, these include the metropolitan counties of Lancaster, Douglas and Sarpy. The remaining counties, all rural, have limited access to their DMV, some as little as once a month. This lack of accessibility will make it hard for rural Nebraskans to keep their licenses updated to comply with a photo ID requirement.
- 3. 70% of the counties in Nebraska have access to a DMV less than once a week.**² About 250,000 Nebraskans only have the ability to visit a DMV once a week or less. 18,709 Nebraskans in 16 counties can only go to the DMV once a month. The valid and current provision could prevent legally registered voters from receiving a ballot at the polls.³
- 4. Rural DMV hours are shorter and inconvenient.** DMVs open daily in metropolitan areas are typically open the standard 8am-5pm work day and, for the convenience of residents in that county, stay open over the noon hour. A majority of counties, almost exclusively rural, are not open over the noon hour. An overwhelming number of Nebraska counties, 67 of 94 counties, are not open over the noon hour.⁴ Of those counties with DMVs open once a month, none are open for 8 hours and only two are open longer than 6 hours.
- 5. LR1CA may require rural voters in all-mail precincts to mail personal information with their ballot.** Those counties with smaller populations may opt to hold an all-mail election. The language of LR1CA makes it unclear whether mail ballots will or can be exempted from the photo ID presentation requirement. Investing in technology and unifying our process for updating Nebraska's voter rolls is the better option for preventing potential voter fraud in rural elections, not voter ID requirements.⁵
- 6. Nebraska's Constitution has the strongest protection of voter's rights in the country.** Article I-22 of the Nebraska State Constitution states simply that Nebraska voters shall have the right to vote free of hindrance or impediment. Limited access to DMVs in rural Nebraska and the current address requirement is a hindrance and impediment to a rural Nebraska voter's right to cast a ballot.

¹ Nebraska law does not permit an individual to carry both a driver's license and a state ID card. Therefore those that currently have a license would need to update it for purposes of voting more frequently at a DMV location, open less frequently than their county clerk where they may register to vote. Individuals that move or change their name typically must go to the DMV in person, unless the individual has the capacity to scan and upload documents, a recent option.

² Breakdown of DMV County Offices: 16 open once a month, 18 open twice a month, 33 open once a week, 14 open twice a week, 2 open three times a week, 1 open 4 times a week, 10 open 5 times a week.

³ Under state law an individual has 60 days to update their license after moving, but under photo ID requirement an individual who moves to Thurston in April would be barred from voting in a primary election when they re-registered because the DMV wasn't open before Election Day for them to update their driver's license.

⁴ Only 27 of the 94 are open at some point from 12pm – 1pm, only 19 are open the full hour.

⁵ Under Nebraska law, counties with populations under 10,000 may elect to conduct their elections entirely by mail. Based on the 2010 census 74 counties currently have populations under 10,000.