



The Negative Impacts of Voter ID on Nebraska Senior Citizens

- 1. Requiring a photo ID to vote could restrict senior citizens' access to the polls.** An estimated 7,000 Nebraskans 65+ do not currently have a driver's license or state ID¹. These individuals would need to pay \$26.50 to acquire an ID, not including the cost of obtaining the necessary identification documents to submit to the DMV.
- 2. No provision protecting senior citizens living on a fixed income will be issued a free ID.** Despite the assurances of the introducer Sen. John Murante, LR1CA contains no provision assuring individuals impacted by the photo ID requirement will be able to obtain a free ID for the purpose of voting. For senior citizens living on a fixed income, the annual financial burden of obtaining an ID could be a real barrier to voting.
- 3. Accessibility of the DMV is a real barrier to rural senior citizens.** Nebraska senior citizens over the age of 70 are generally required to renew their license in person, but an estimated 922,730 Nebraskans do not have access to a DMV 5 days a week. The DMV office in sixteen counties², serving approximately 25,000 Nebraskans, is only open once a month. For Nebraskans. Access to transportation and the limited hours of operation of DMV offices poses a significant threat to the right to vote for senior citizens in Nebraska.
- 4. Experiences in other states prove that requiring photo ID, even if the state provides a free ID, disenfranchises voters.** A recent court case in Wisconsin outlined the many burdens voters faced in trying to get their free ID. A 62-year-old man, Claudell Boyd, went to the Wisconsin DMV twice with his Illinois ID, Social Security Card, and marriage license, but was turned away because of a spelling error on his birth certificate.³
- 5. The cost for a senior citizen to obtain the necessary photo ID could be as high as \$68.50.** In other states with photo ID requirements, many senior citizens with expired licenses have had difficulty obtaining a state ID card or driver's license. Here in Nebraska, a senior citizen may have to pay for copies of their birth certificate and marriage license before they can get an ID. These expenses quickly add up.⁴

¹ According to the 2015 DMV Annual Report, 239,549 individuals 65+ hold a current driver's license or state ID card. The 2010 Census counted 246,556 Nebraskans 65+, a difference of 7,007 – a number that has likely grown as Nebraska's population ages.

² DMV offices are open once a month in the following counties: Arthur, Banner, Blaine, Boyd, Dixon, Gosper, Grant Hooker, Keya Paha, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Sioux, Thomas, Thurston, Wheeler

³ "[Wisconsin is Systematically Failing to Provide the Photo IDs required to Vote](#)", *The Nation*. Last visited 2/21/2017

⁴ In Nebraska, it costs \$17 to obtain a copy of your birth certificate and \$25 for a marriage license. A copy of your social security card is free, but you have to show a birth certificate, passport, or state ID card. If you don't have any of those, you can show a medical insurance card, but not your Medicare card.