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Voter ID Update

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There will not be a voter ID and automatic registration update next Friday, May 6. It will resume the following week, on Friday, May 13.

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT

On Monday, April 25, Judge Schroeder of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina issued a 479-page decision dismissing all challenges to North Carolina's changes in voting laws: voter ID, elimination of same-day registration, shortening of the early voting period, elimination of pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds, and requiring voters to vote in their assigned precincts.

The decision has already been appealed to the Fourth Circuit, which has set expedited briefing deadlines in May and June. See the North Carolina section below for more details.

[*Memorandum Opinion and Order*](#)

STATES

CONNECTICUT

The Secretary of the State's office has referred a complaint about school personnel requiring photo ID before allowing voters to enter polling places for Tuesday's presidential primary to the State Elections Enforcement

Commission for further investigation.

Eight of the town's nine polling places are schools. Unlike Election Day in November, schools remained open for the presidential primary. . . . A photo identification isn't required to vote. . . . "We are following the normal procedures that requires a picture ID since they are entering our buildings to go into another area to vote," [Superintendent] Menzo wrote in an e-mail.

[*Election officials to investigate voter access complaint in Wallingford*](#)

INDIANA

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles announced Wednesday that BMV license branches statewide will extend hours of operation Monday, May 2 and Tuesday, May 3 to issue ID cards and driver's licenses that may be used for identification at a polling place.

[*BMV to extend hours to Hoosier's needing ID's for Election Day*](#)

MISSOURI

Missouri Senate Democrats launched another talk-a-thon Wednesday night in the Missouri Senate in a bid to stop a proposal that would require voters to show photo ID at the polls.

The measure advanced in the House early in the legislative session but has been stalled in the Senate. The Republican majority has brought the bill up on the floor in recent weeks, but it paused debate each time as it became clear the two sides wouldn't reach an agreement.

[*Democrats launch filibuster as voter ID brought up again in Missouri Senate*](#)

Democrats filibustered the bill for about six hours Wednesday night. The Senate paused its business shortly after midnight for lawmakers to meet off the floor, and the chamber adjourned early Thursday around 2 a.m. without resuming debate.

The bill first came to the Senate floor in early April. Republican Sen. Will Kraus said the majority party is open to using a procedural move to cut off debate in order to pass it before the session ends May 13.

[*Voter ID measure stalled in state Senate*](#)

NEVADA

At the polls this election season, voters will have one more requirement to prove their identity. When voting, if your signature does not match the one on file, you will have to respond to a list of questions to confirm your personal data.

[*Nevada's New Voter ID Law*](#)

NORTH CAROLINA

“This ruling further affirms that requiring a photo ID in order to vote is not only common sense, it’s constitutional,” Gov. Pat McCrory said in a statement. “Common practices like boarding an airplane and purchasing Sudafed require photo ID, and thankfully a federal court has ensured our citizens will have the same protection for their basic right to vote.”

[*Federal judge who backed limits on early ballots upholds voter ID requirement*](#)

It marked a legal win for one of the 30 states that currently have some kind of voter ID rule now in force. Nineteen have a photo ID mandate, according to the ruling.

"We've advocated all along that the commonsense voter ID and election integrity reforms that we passed in the General Assembly were constitutional," said Rep. David Lewis, R-Harnett. He helped guide the 2013 law through the legislature and said it bolsters the integrity of the voting system.

[*Federal ruling on N Carolina voting laws bolsters voter ID*](#)

The judge blew up the idea that Voter ID law doesn't have a purpose. He noted that prior to the Voter ID law, poll workers served “as the primary gatekeepers to voter fraud,” yet remarkably they “had very limited means of determining whether the voter was the same person as the registrant.”

[*This N.C. Judge Just Destroyed the Left's Attack on Voter ID Laws*](#)

After an exhaustive review of the evidence, Judge Schroeder concluded that the plaintiffs failed to prove their claims under the Voting Rights Act or the

Constitution. In fact, the evidence showed that voter ID “will not impose a material burden on minority voters or deprive them of an equal opportunity to participate in the political process.” . . . The judge’s most important conclusion is that the state had “legitimate, non-discriminatory justifications” for its election reforms that were consistent with “achieving integrity, uniformity, and efficiency in the political process.”

[ICYMI, The DOJ Got Owned by This Federal Judge on Voter ID](#)

We asked some Pitt county residents their thoughts and Alice Cotten said she might not fully agree with the law but since it is required she encourage people to go get an ID. "We have a right to vote now which a good thing. Go ahead and get the ID, it takes two minutes. If that is what we need and if that is what they need, go ahead and get the ID," Cotten said. Janeth Cerra said she is for the law but understands people do need to be educated in how to make sure they have a valid ID. "I mean as long as people are informed on how to get a valid ID I don't see why you couldn't," Cerra said.

[Locals react to federal judge’s ruling on state’s voter ID law](#)

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, ordered Thursday an expedited review of Monday's decision by U.S. District Judge Thomas Schroeder. He determined voter ID, scaled-back early voting and other changes didn't discriminate against minority voters.

[Appeals court orders expedited review in NC voter ID case](#)

TEXAS

Last week, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and the entire Texas Republican congressional delegation filed a critical amicus brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit in *Veasey v. Abbott*. The brief supports Texas’ Senate Bill (SB) 14, which requires Texas voters to present government-issued photo ID before voting and provides for free election ID cards.

[Sen. Cruz Rallies Support for Texas Voter ID Law](#)

WISCONSIN

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos says he wants to review state elections officials'

request for money to educate the public about Wisconsin's voter photo identification law.

The Government Accountability Board plans to ask lawmakers for \$250,000 to re-start an education campaign it dropped in 2012 after a legal challenge put the requirements on hold. The mandate is now back in effect.

[*UPDATE: Vos wants to review request for voter ID outreach money*](#)

The GAB voted 4-2 during its Tuesday meeting to submit a formal request for \$250,000 to the Joint Finance Committee to fund an informational campaign before the 2016 presidential election.

"We look forward to seriously considering the request," said Rep. John Nygren, R-Marinette, who co-chairs the JFC. "Election integrity is something you cannot put a price on. The ability to ensure every vote is counted is a goal we all share, regardless of party."

[*Wisconsin budget committee co-chair will 'seriously' consider funding voter ID education*](#)

In a 4-2 decision, the board voted Tuesday to ask for money from the state Legislature to fund a statewide campaign to educate voters on what forms of ID are acceptable at the polls. Walker addressed the funding request on Tuesday, saying that the high turnout during the April 5 primary demonstrates the funding is unnecessary. Moreover, the governor said the state has already spent too much money defending the law in court.

"The fact is, the state had to spend a whole lot of time and money defending the (voter ID) law, and we continue to do so today," Walker said. "If people were really serious about that, they wouldn't have allowed the state to use all that money to fight courts and to use that in promoting the system."

[*GAB Director Calls Walker's Comments On Voter ID Law 'Disingenuous'*](#)

Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel said he is optimistic about the outcome of legal challenges to Wisconsin's voter ID law.

Last week, a three-judge panel from the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals said the American Civil Liberties Union could revive part of a lawsuit against the law. The ACLU wants to invalidate the law for certain voters who have a

very hard time getting the photo ID now required to vote, like those who might not have access to their birth certificate.

[*Attorney General Says He's Optimistic About Fate Of Challenged Voter ID Law*](#)

Wisconsin's voter ID law was thrown back into U.S. District Court last week, but state Attorney General Brad Schimel said the issue at hand may be moot if state officials change procedures on how they issue IDs.

He said Wisconsin officials were looking at ways to implement a process similar to one in place in Indiana, which had its law upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. There, people who have difficulty getting a photo ID because of a lack of documents can sign an affidavit to be exempt from the requirement.

[*Voter ID challenge may be moot if state allows for affidavits, Brad Schimel says*](#)

AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

OREGON

As of March 31, 76% of voters registered through Oregon's new automatic voter registration system had not declared a party affiliation. Unless they registered a party affiliation by April 26, they will not be able to vote in Oregon's closed presidential primary on May 17.

[*Oregon Motor Voter Cumulative Program Statistics Through March 31, 2016*](#)

VERMONT

The Vermont law streamlines voter registration at the Department of Motor Vehicles with a system that identifies eligible Vermont residents and automatically sends their information to the town or city clerk for addition to the checklist, unless they opt out.

Vermont's law will go into effect July 1, 2017. Oregon, California and West Virginia have similar laws. The Brennan Center reported that Oregon's rate of new registrations per month quadrupled after that state's law took effect.

[*Automatic voter registration becomes law*](#)

Compiled by Lisa Dixon. If you have an item for a future voter ID update, please email lawyersdf@gmail.com. For the latest news on election integrity issues, check the [LDF website](#) or [LDF Twitter feed](#).

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