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Friday Voter ID Update

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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT

Missourians will decide this fall whether to amend the state Constitution to allow lawmakers to tighten voter ID requirements.

The House on Thursday approved a proposed constitutional amendment 110-39, one day after the Senate passed it on a 24-8 party-line vote. The measure will bypass the governor and go on the November ballot.

[Missouri lawmakers send voter ID measure to statewide ballot](#)

STATES

ALABAMA

In a newly released short documentary on Alabama's controversial voter ID law, Secretary of State John Merrill could not provide documented proof of voter fraud while explaining the rationale for the provision.

[Merrill can't come up with proof of fraud in documentary on Alabama voter ID law](#)

INDIANA

The last thing you want to do on Tuesday is wait a long time in line at your local voting center only to find that you don't have the proper identification needed to cast a ballot.

That's why state and county election officials are urging voters to make sure

they bring a photo ID when voting in the primary election.

[*Election 2016: Officials remind voters to bring photo IDs to the polls on Tuesday*](#)

MISSOURI

A measure laying out photo ID requirements at the ballot box won final passage in the Missouri Legislature on Wednesday.

The bill still needs either Gov. Jay Nixon's signature or, if he vetoes the bill, a successful veto override in the Legislature. It would take effect only if voters approve to a change to the state constitution.

[*Voter ID requirement gets final go-ahead in the Missouri Legislature*](#)

The two Republican candidates for secretary of state, Jay Ashcroft and Sen. Will Kraus, have both put photo voter ID policy front and center in their campaigns for the office. However, Kraus intoned Monday that the measure has now become a point of contention between the two.

In a release, Kraus questioned why Ashcroft had not turned in an initiative petition that would place photo voter ID on the ballot this November. The deadline for submission was Sunday, May 8.

[*Secretary of state candidates clash over photo voter ID*](#)

NEW MEXICO

With about 10 minutes of discussion, and an assurance that a vote cast in Clovis should always be free of charge, the Clovis City Commission on Thursday introduced an ordinance that would require photo identification at municipal elections.

The ordinance, introduced on an 8-0 vote, will be up for final approval during the commission's June 2 meeting.

Two months ago, Clovis voters approved creation of the ordinance with 72.7 percent of voters in favor.

[*Commissioners introduce voter ID ordinance; final vote June 2*](#)

NORTH CAROLINA

Primary ballots in 20 North Carolina counties still are being examined nearly two months after the March 15 election vote to ensure a photo identification law

enforced for the first time and other voting laws were implemented correctly.

[*Audit continues to check voter-ID fairness*](#)

NORTH DAKOTA

The North Dakota Secretary of State's office is asking voters to make sure their identification is updated with their current address before the June 14 elections.

. . . Voters could update their ID just before the election, but Secretary of State Al Jaeger said if they wait that long, "there's going to be a verification process that will take a little extra time."

[*ND voters asked to update IDs to avoid complications during primary next month*](#)

TEXAS

The Supreme Court denied a request Friday to block Texas from enforcing its voter ID law into the 2016 election cycle as the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals weighs the controversial measure.

[*U.S. Supreme Court rules Texas can keep enforcing voter ID law*](#)

"The court recognizes the time constraints the parties confront in light of the scheduled elections in November 2016," the Supreme Court's brief, unsigned order said, adding that "an aggrieved party may seek interim relief from this court by filing an appropriate application" if the appeals court did not act by July 20.

[*Justices Leave Texas Voter ID Law Intact, With a Warning*](#)

A lawsuit challenging Texas' voter ID law, filed by a judge on the state's highest criminal court, was abruptly withdrawn Wednesday, only one day after a Dallas appeals court heard oral arguments on whether the lawsuit should be allowed to continue.

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Larry Meyers, the only Democrat in statewide office after switching parties in 2013, was seeking to have the voter ID law thrown out, arguing that it exceeded the power granted to the Legislature by the Texas Constitution.

[*Voter ID lawsuit abruptly withdrawn in state court*](#)

Thirty-three states now have ID laws, at least 17 of them — including Texas — requiring not just written proof of identity, but requiring or requesting a photograph as well.

Most research suggests that the laws result in few people being turned away at the polls. But a study of the Texas ID requirement by Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy released in August found that many more qualified voters, confused or intimidated by the new rules, have not tried to vote at all.

[*Stricter Rules for Voter IDs Reshape Races*](#)

WISCONSIN

People working to obtain state photo identification without the proper underlying documents will be able to vote with a receipt they'll receive within days of submitting their ID request under an emergency rule Gov. Scott Walker signed Wednesday.

[*Walker OKs voter ID receipts at polls*](#)

[*Scott Walker administration tweaks voter ID rules*](#)

Wisconsin's Democratic congressional delegation urged the U.S. Department of Justice on Monday to consider a legal challenge to the state's Voter ID law or joining ongoing litigation against it.

The letter to U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch cites reports of long lines at polling places in Wisconsin's April 5 primary — the first high-turnout statewide election in which the state's voter ID requirement was in place.

[*Democratic lawmakers prod U.S. attorney general on Voter ID court challenge*](#)

Wisconsin's Government Accountability Board (GAB) has asked Wisconsin lawmakers for \$250,000 slated to pay for a series of statewide TV, radio and online campaigns that will educate voters about the state's voter photo ID law, according to Reid Magney with the GAB.

[*GAB seeks \\$250,000 from taxpayers to educate public on voter ID law*](#)

Wisconsin's new voter ID law caused few problems for most voters, though it had "significant impact" in student-heavy areas, according to a new report . . . from the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin

[*Report: Voter ID caused some problems, mostly in student areas, on election*](#)

[day](#)

AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

CALIFORNIA

If you've visited the DMV in the last few weeks, you may have noticed that you can now complete your voter registration at the same time you renew your driver's license — without having to fill out a separate form.

But it's a little more complicated than that.

Unless voters also stop to answer questions at a computer terminal in another room, they will be registered as having no party preference. Voter advocates say this two-step process could disenfranchise thousands of voters, especially those who still want to vote in the Republican Party's closed presidential primary.

[Registered to vote at the DMV? Check again. Many who use the new process miss a vital step two](#)

OREGON

On the eve of a historic primary election in Oregon, Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins released new data from the state's pioneering automatic voter registration program Tuesday that show 51,558 new voters on the rolls since the program took effect on Jan. 1.

[Oregon's new 'Motor Voter' law adds over 50,000 to rolls](#)

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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