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Friday Voter ID Update

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NATIONAL

These laws, like voter identification laws, have been pushed by Republican lawmakers trying to reduce turnout among the poor, minorities, the young and the elderly, who tend to lean Democratic. And, like voter ID laws, they're based on a fiction. There is virtually no evidence of voting by noncitizens, or by people pretending to be someone else. Kansas officials — led by Secretary of State Kris Kobach, a Republican and one of the country's most tireless advocates of other restrictive voting laws — have identified, at most, a few dozen cases of noncitizens who had registered to vote.

[*New York Times Editorial Board: Republicans Hijack an Election Agency*](#)

STATES

Florida

Florida has had a voter ID law in the books for close to 20 years requiring voters to present identification before casting a ballot.

On April 1, Governor Rick Scott signed Senate Bill 666 in law that expands what forms of IDs voters can use. . . . Under SB666 voters can now use Veterans Affairs cards, concealed weapons licenses and government issued IDs as acceptable forms of voter ID.

[Voter ID expansion in Florida](#)

Kansas

The Kansas law requiring documents like a birth certificate or U.S. passport for voter registration, which took effect Jan. 1, 2013, is one of numerous voter ID laws passed by Republican-led state legislatures in recent years. The ACLU alleges that Kansas goes beyond what is required by federal law.

[ACLU asks federal court to block Kansas voter ID law](#)

Missouri

On Monday, Democrats held the floor for two hours before state Sen. Will Kraus, R-Lee's Summit and Senate bill sponsor, asked that the bill again be laid over. The bill would require that Missouri voters show a photo ID before they cast ballots. But Democratic opponents argue that this will mean trouble and confusion for an estimated 220,000 Missouri registered voters who lack a photo ID.

[Democrats stall voter ID bill in the Missouri Senate again, vote delayed once more](#)

Texas

Texas urged the Supreme Court on Monday to [allow its] voter ID laws to remain in effect while under review by a federal appeals court. The Court is considering a plea by a group in *Veasey v. Abbott* to block enforcement of the law while the case is being heard in the federal appeals court.

[Texas defends voter ID laws](#)

Wisconsin

The unanimous decision by the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals panel keeps the voter ID law in place, but provides a potential way for those who can't get IDs to vote. For now, such people can't vote, and the case now returns to U.S.

District Judge Lynn Adelman in Milwaukee for further proceedings.

[*Court ruling opens way for those without ID to vote*](#)

The panel found that the arguments being presented in this challenge are different from the ones offered in 2014. The plaintiffs are now arguing that "high hurdles for some persons eligible to vote entitle those particular persons to relief," rather than saying obstacles for some voters should invalidate the entire law.

The judges noted that some voters might be told they can't obtain a photo ID without a Social Security card, only to find they can't receive a Social Security card without a photo ID. Other examples of significant hurdles included people whose birth certificates were destroyed in fires and people whose names don't match their birth certificates.

"Plaintiffs' approach is potentially sound if even a single person eligible to vote is unable to get acceptable photo ID with reasonable effort," Easterbrook wrote for the panel. "The right to vote is personal and is not defeated by the fact that 99% of other people can secure the necessary credentials easily."

[*What to know about the federal court ruling on Wisconsin voter ID*](#)

Compiled by Andrew Bennett. 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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