

Oppose HB 30 and HJR 1, 2015 (League of Women Voters of Missouri)

The League of Women Voters of Missouri supports an electoral process that is fair, accurate, efficient, accessible, accountable and uniform. The League opposes HB 30 and HJR 1 because it would make voting more difficult for a number of Missouri citizens who are currently legal voters, who successfully cast ballots using the ID methods currently in use, and discourage voters who might have difficulty obtaining photo IDs for a number of reasons.

The League notes the attempts by the sponsor of the bill to address many of the objections expressed in previous iterations of the bill and, in fact, the bill this year is much improved. Concerns still existing include:

This bill's requirement that fee offices provide, at no cost, the identification needed still does not address the underlying documents needed (nor does the bill address what documents would need to be presented to obtain the photo ID) as well as setting up an unfunded mandate on the fee offices without providing a mechanism to cover the cost.

Allowing an individual to vote by casting a provisional ballot still places an additional burden upon that voter of returning in three days, a hindrance that would discourage many voters, requiring them to incur additional cost to "validate" a ballot that they are entitled to cast, as well as causing additional, unnecessary work for county election officials. Making provisional ballots available for all elections presents another set of problems (and expense) for election officials. And the use of provisional ballots is not uniform throughout the state and they are not counted in many cases.

To spend millions of tax payer dollars to solve a problem that does not exist does not seem financially wise. There has been no evidence of voter fraud that necessitates this move, it serves to discourage universal voting rather than encouraging it, and makes it more difficult for many citizens to exercise their right to vote.

LWV MO Board member to Testify: Nancy Copenhaver

Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2015

Time: 8:15 AM

Location: House Hearing Room 5