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# PATRICK SNYDER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 85<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

## Testimony in Support of Assembly Joint Resolution 78 and Senate Joint Resolution 73

Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections  
Senate Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection  
October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Chairman Krug, Chairman Knodl, and members of the Committees:

I authored this amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution to ensure that the people of Wisconsin have full confidence in the security and integrity of Wisconsin elections. This Joint Resolution would amend the State Constitution to require valid photographic identification when voting. Under the amendment, the State Legislature would still be able to create exceptions to the requirement in statutes and qualified electors who lack valid identification on elections day would still be able to cast a provisional ballot. This proposal does not change any current statutory exceptions to existing voter ID requirements.

Ensuring that each voter casts the proper ballot is central to the integrity of any election. Wisconsin's voter ID requirement has been widely successful in preserving election integrity and ensuring that citizens are confident that the ballots cast are legitimate. Polling has consistently shown that voter ID requirements are widely popular with one 2021 poll by Monmouth University showing nationwide support of voter ID at 80%.

As with all amendments to the State Constitution, this proposal requires adoption by two successive legislatures and ratification by the people in a statewide vote. Ensuring that voter ID is required under the State Constitution will go a long way towards preserving confidence in the electoral process.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



# Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

## TESTIMONY ON SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 73

Thank you Chairmen and committee members for today's joint hearing on Senate Joint Resolution 73 and Assembly Joint Resolution 78, which would codify Wisconsin's photo ID requirement for voting, or Voter ID law in the Wisconsin Constitution.

As you know, Wisconsin Democrats are filing lawsuits with the Wisconsin Supreme Court seeking to overturn previous decisions that have already been declared constitutional by the Court. It took less than 24 hours before Democrats filed their first lawsuit of this type following the installment of Wisconsin's newest Supreme Court justice. Just this month, a Super-PAC funded by people outside of Wisconsin filed a lawsuit in the Wisconsin Supreme Court trying to overturn Wisconsin's school choice law – a law that has been declared constitutional by both the Wisconsin and United States Supreme Courts.

Democratic activists on social media are openly asking someone to challenge Wisconsin's Voter ID law in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Like school choice, Voter ID laws have already been declared constitutional by state and federal courts. But we can be sure that a lawsuit challenging its constitutionality is coming to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

I cannot say for certain how the Wisconsin Supreme Court would rule on Voter ID laws. But I'm also not willing to risk the Wisconsin Supreme Court declaring Voter ID laws unconstitutional. The only way to ensure it will not happen is to enshrine this basic election integrity law in Wisconsin's Constitution.

Contrary to claims made when Voter ID was passed, the law has not resulted in voter suppression. In fact, voter participation has actually increased since being implemented in 2014. In November elections in particular, voter participation increased significantly. When the law was passed, the League of Women Voters claimed the law would complicate and make elections harder, but following the 2016 and 2018 elections, the League of Women Voters stated that the elections went smoothly and without problems.

To be clear, this bill does not change any of the current Voter ID laws. What is considered a valid ID would still be considered a valid ID if this amendment would be ratified. Consistent polling show 75-80% support for voter ID laws. This proposed amendment ensures that this basic voter integrity law remains law and constitutional. And it deserves your support.

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