



Issue: Voter Suppression

Voter Suppression

BACKGROUND

Seven strategies to deny citizens the right to vote: Voter photo ID requirement, database matching, restricted absentee voting, no early voting, disenfranchisement of former offenders, polling place closures, and off-year elections.

REPUBLICAN POSITION

Virginia Republicans

- Passed voter photo ID law in 2012
- Support use of highly error-prone software programs to check Virginia's voter registration database against databases of other states to identify potentially ineligible voters and remove their names from the voter rolls
- Oppose restoration of voting rights to former offenders, which affects 1 in 5 African Americans in Virginia
- Oppose early voting
- Oppose no-excuse absentee voting; must meet one of the state's approved excuses and must apply for absentee ballot in every election

DEMOCRATIC POSITION

Virginia Democrats:

- Oppose voter ID requirement
- Support early voting
- Support permanent, no-excuse absentee voting
- Support restoration of voting rights to former offenders who have successfully completed sentences

OTHER INFORMATION

- Long lines and wait times at polling places, especially in minority neighborhoods, suggest too few polling places.
- Elections for state legislature are held in odd-numbered years when voter turnout is much lower and those most likely to vote are older Republicans.
- Democratic bill to allow automatic voter registration when applying for DMV license or ID was killed in committee by Republicans.