



# Voter Photo Identification Fact Sheet

## *S.B. 362 Prevents Fraud in Texas Elections*

Texans expect and deserve secure and fair elections that ensure eligible voters cast only one ballot and that every person eligible to vote is not overly burdened by the voting process.

**Secure Elections: Making sure that Texans who vote have the right to vote.**  
**Fair Elections: Making sure that Texans who have the right to vote are able to vote.**

A critical means to secure and fair elections in Texas is by requiring a photo ID to vote:

### **Why Texas Needs Voter Photo ID Legislation:**

- The Attorney General's office has received over 50 cases of voter fraud since 2004.
- Voter fraud is difficult to detect and prove under current laws.
- Requiring voter photo ID is a proven way to deter ineligible voters from casting a ballot and will help to catch and prosecute those who fraudulently vote.
- Texas currently does not require a potential voter to verify their identity at the polls – a would-be voter only has to show a voter registration card.

### **Most Comprehensive Voter Photo ID States Saw Increased Voter Turnout in 2008:**

- Georgia experienced record-setting voter turnout in the 2008 election.
  - Overall turnout increased 6.7 percent; Democratic turnout increased 6.1 percent
- Indiana has the most comprehensive voter ID law.
  - Overall voter turnout was the fifth highest in the country; Democratic turnout increased 8.32 percent
- Comparable states without voter photo ID had markedly lower turnout increases.

### **Texans Strongly Support Voter Photo ID:**

- 88 percent of likely Texas voters – 95 percent of Republicans and 80 percent of Democrats agree voters should be required to have photo ID to vote. (October '08 Rasmussen survey)
- 73 percent of Caucasians, 68 percent of African Americans, and 65 percent of Hispanics agree Texas voters should be required to show a photo ID to vote. (July '08 Texas Politics Project, Univ. of Texas)

### **Senate Bill 362 (Voter Photo ID) will help to prevent voter fraud in Texas:**

- Modeled on Indiana's voter photo ID law which was upheld 6-3 by the U.S. Supreme Court, including liberal-leaning Justices John Paul Stevens and Anthony M. Kennedy.
- Common sense solution that allows a voter to show two, readily available, non-photo documents if they do not have a photo ID, and balances the need for security in the voting process with minimal burden.
- Deters people from misrepresenting their identity or fraudulently voting with someone else's registration card.