

# VOTER ID FAST FACTS

Problems with California's Proposed [Voter ID Constitutional Amendment](#)  
As of March, 2026 Awaiting Qualification for the November 2026 Ballot

From: League of Women Voters of CA, CA Common Cause, Disability Rights CA, ACLU Northern CA & ACLU Southern CA

**California's elections are secure.** The proposed initiative would require voters to show government-issued ID every time they vote - creating privacy risks, barriers for eligible voters, ballot rejections, and targeting communities that already face obstacles to voting. Mandatory citizenship checks using flawed databases would lead to purges of eligible voters from the rolls. All this to solve a problem that doesn't exist. Public trust in elections is built by making elections accessible and rules clear and stable - not by adding new hoops for eligible voters.

## CALIFORNIA'S CURRENT SAFEGUARDS

- **Registration:** Voters certify eligibility under penalty of perjury; officials verify voters' identities
- **In-Person:** Voters state name/address and sign the roster
- **Vote-By-Mail:** Signature verification confirms identity
- **Criminal Penalties:** Illegal voting is a felony and noncitizens face deportation risk

## WHO THIS INITIATIVE HURTS

- All Vote-by-Mail voters risk identity theft and rejected ballots due to ID matching problems
- All In-Person Voters - ID checks slow check-in, creating longer lines, delays, and more mistakes that can wrongly lead to rejected ballots
- Communities where fewer people have IDs including communities of color, seniors, students, low-income voters, and people with disabilities
- People navigating name changes
- Anyone who has moved
- People experiencing housing instability
- Naturalized citizens (false "noncitizen" flags)

## PROBLEMS THE INITIATIVE CREATES

- **Privacy/identity-theft risk** from putting ID numbers on mailed ballot envelopes
- **More rejected ballots** from data-entry errors
- **Hidden costs for voters** (time off work, travel, document fees to obtain ID)
- **False citizenship flags** from flawed database matching
- **Slower vote count** from more flagged ballots

## WHO LACKS VALID ID (National Data)

Eligible voters without a current driver's license:

- Black voters: 28%
- Hispanic voters: 27%
- Asian/Pacific Islander voters: 21%
- Ages 18-24: 41%; Ages 25-29: 38%
- Black voters 18-29: 47%
- Voters with disabilities: 9%.

Eligible voters without a driver's license:

- Black voters: 18%
- Hispanic voters: 15%,
- Asian/Pacific Islander voters: 13%,
- Black voters ages 18-29: 30%
- Voters with disabilities: 20%

MYTH	FACT
"It's just showing ID."	Not everyone has an ID, and complex rules get misapplied - blocking eligible voters and increasing ballot rejections, especially for vote-by-mail.
"We need citizenship checks to stop fraud."	California already has processes in place to ensure that only eligible citizens can vote. Non-citizen voting is extremely rare (only 77 cases nationwide in over 20 years). Checks rely on flawed data and wrongfully flag eligible citizens.
"There's a free ID, so it's fair."	Hidden costs include time off work, travel, childcare, and fees for birth certificates or other documents to get ID - a modern-day poll tax.

**The Real Issue:** California's challenge isn't voter fraud, it's voter participation. Our focus should be on bringing more voices into the process, not erecting new obstacles. Multiple studies, from the [Brennan Center](#) to the [Cato Institute](#), confirm voter impersonation and non-citizen voting are exceedingly rare.