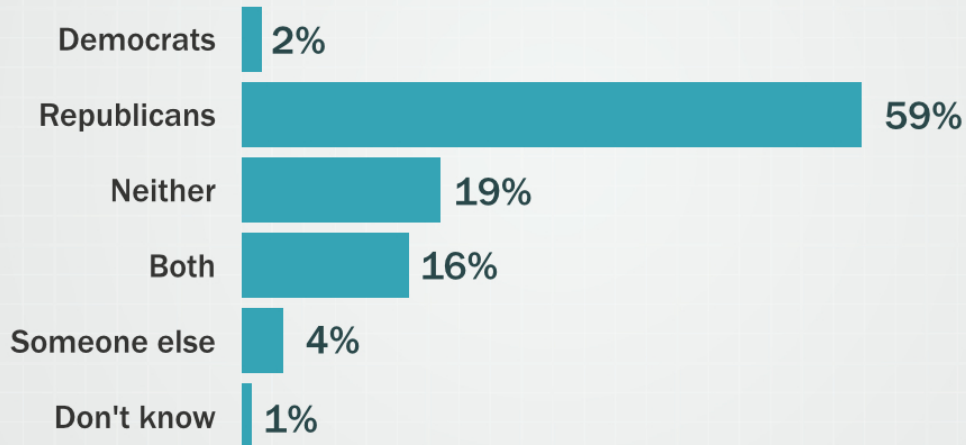


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 26 September 2014*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

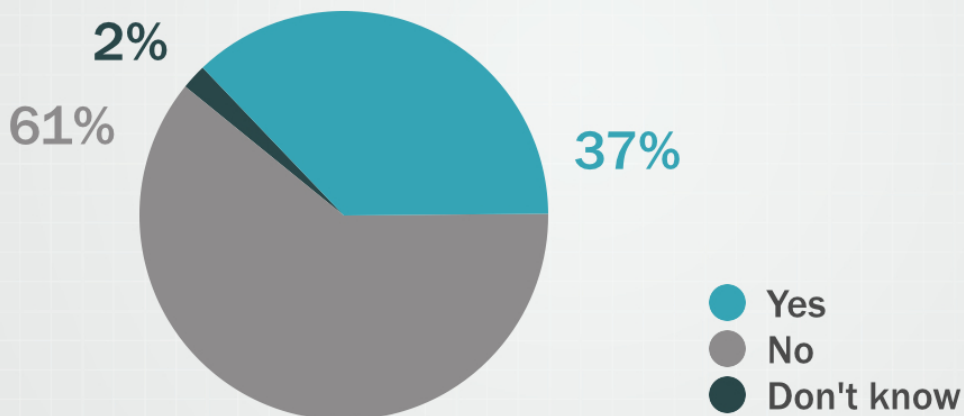
WHO BENEFITS POLITICALLY FROM THE VOTER ID LAW?



Inside Intelligence is an informal survey of political and government insiders in Texas and is not meant to measure public opinion.

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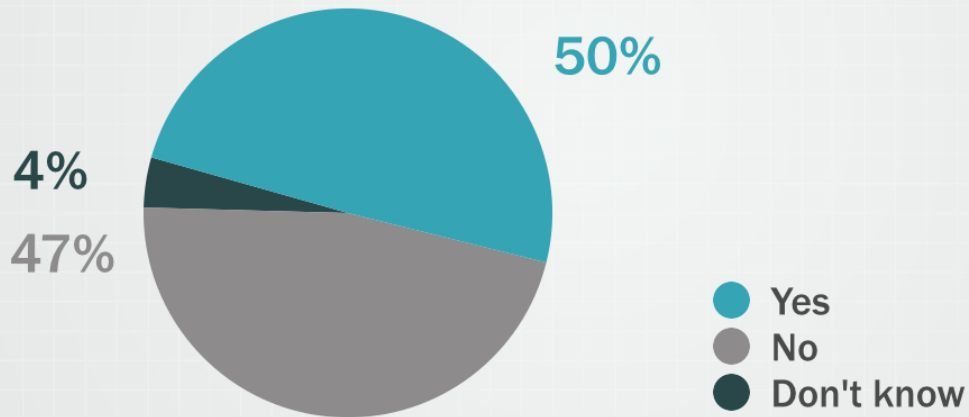
DOES THE LAW ADDRESS A REAL WEAKNESS IN ELECTION SECURITY?



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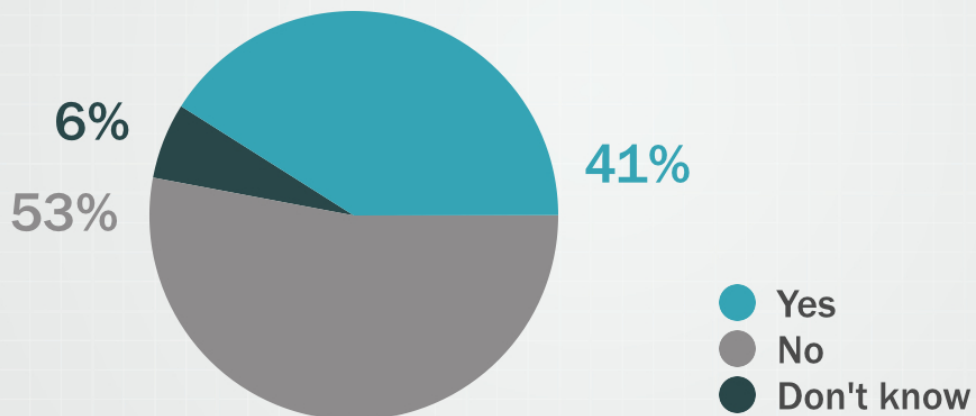
DOES THE LAW PREVENT CITIZENS FROM VOTING?



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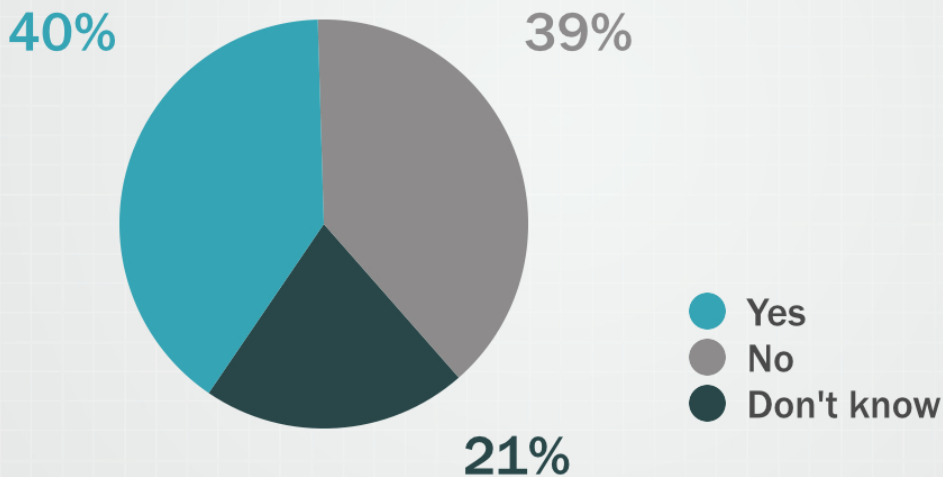
DOES THE LAW VIOLATE FEDERAL PROTECTIONS FOR MINORITIES IN ELECTIONS?



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WILL THE COURTS OVERTURN THE LAW?



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Who benefits politically from the state's voter ID law?

- "No question - the populations that Democrats are most interested in mobilizing are among the least likely to have the most common forms of government-issued photo IDs."
- "Voters want to know that elections are fair. The party that champions the issue will earn the goodwill of the voters."
- "Duh"
- "Republicans because they are rich, white and can afford to get free ID's."
- "Republicans win on this common sense issue, along with more assurance of integrity in the process."
- "Everyone has the confidence that all election returns reflect the choices of legally registered voters."
- "Texas benefits by having as clean an election as possible."
- "Legal voters benefit"
- "Unless the Ds can use the law to whip up resentment at the Rs' tactics."

- "The purpose is NOT to benefit a party, but to bring integrity to elections."
- "The public is generally in favor of it. But partisans on the left are very opposed, and partisans on the right are very supportive. So, both sides get to rally their base."
- "Democracy benefits the most from state ID law."
- "The issue benefits both. RS get to say 'We're protecting the ballot box!' Ds get to say 'They're suppressing the vote.' Good hollow rhetoric for each side."
- "All non-partisan analyses I've seen show that creating more barriers to voting suppresses voting among the poor and minorities by as much as 10 percent."
- "The voter benefit when the state voter ID law determined unconstitutional."
- "Democracy suffers when this type of law is enacted."
- "Republicans benefit by having delivered on a platform commitment. It could also benefit Democrats by creating an issue that focuses attention and the need to contribute to the cause."
- "The voting public does by ensuring that the power legal votes are not diluted by illegal votes."
- "Increasing public confidence in elections is beneficial to everyone."
- "Duh"
- "It is not a real issue but instead a wedge issue used to motivate each party's base."
- "The people of Texas. All voters. Are you kidding me? The liberals use this as a wedge issue. One of the most sacred responsibilities and privileges we have and we don't show ID? We have to have IDs to write and cash checks, to use health insurance, to get into a bar, often times when using a credit card, get a job, get kids registered and to enter into schools... This is such a non-issue and the liberals are making it look like it is racism and someone is holding someone down and preventing them from voting. Well, if you are not a citizen then you should not vote. If the law does that then good!!!!"
- "The controversy around voter ID has given each side an opportunity to rally the troops."
- "There is no reason that the ballot box should be any less secure than an airport or a federal building."
- "In the beginning the Republicans benefit. Over time it will level out. There is no reason you shouldn't have to show an ID and there probably would have been much less push back if it had been rolled out over one or two election cycles."
- "Why is this still a debate?"
- "The public! Having elections decided by valid voters benefits the public!"
- "So many people previously voted by showing their ID, rather than trying to find their voter registration"

card, the arguments against requiring it seemed ridiculous."

- "The nail in the coffin of the GOP"
- "For the Democrats, this is an issue they use to excite their base and gives them great talking points to accuse

Do you think the law addresses a real weakness in election security?

- "Without requiring photo identification, it is easier for those who wish to undermine the system to do so."
- "This has been rehashed so many times empirically, I don't know why it's still an issue. It's obvious that it has no practical benefit, but enormous costs to participation."
- "This question is the voter fraud/campaign mechanics version of 'do you believe in climate change?' There are real FACTS available here. It is pitiful statement about our press corps and our overall democracy when 'both sides' truthiness drives the public discourse about measurable facts.
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/08/06/a-comprehensive-investigation-of-voter-impersonation-finds-31-credible-incidents-out-of-one-billion-ballots-cast/>"
- "But it makes it more efficient and can protect against future misuse."
- "Yes, but at about the same rate as preventing 18 year-olds from buying beer."
- "Yes, but how do we know if there's fraud or not? No one's been checking

Republicans of racism. But it has no effect on who is actually permitted access to the ballot box. Anybody who is legally eligible to vote will be able to comply with Voter ID."

until recently. 'If a tree falls in the forest . . .'"

- "Of course. Folks who oppose Voter ID are Luddites. Had to show a photo ID to get into Trib Fest."
- "If dead people used to be able to vote in Texas, it's possible."
- "Hahaha. Good one."
- "One illegally cast vote is one too many, and this addresses one means of illegally casting ballots. It (illegal voting) happens today and it has happened in the past. Raise your hand if you know the name George Parr."
- "How else do you prove who you are without a photo ID?"
- "As has been said before, it is a solution looking for a problem."
- "Voter fraud is no more of a problem than Sadaam's weapons of mass destruction."
- "Indeed. Voter fraud is a real issue. Anyone who's worked the polls or done poll watching can vouch for that."

- "You need an ID to cash a check. It makes little sense that it's not needed to vote."
- "The reality is that those who currently game the system will try other means necessary to accomplish their goals."
- "Your question implies that our elections are insecure. That isn't the case, unless you wish to focus on the threat posed by digital manipulation of the ballot box."
- "Asking for an ID is simply a step in the process. I make a credit card purchase at some stores, I'm asked for my ID. Are you saying a \$5.99 tank top is worth that security step but my vote isn't?"
- "The real security weakness is in mailed ballots."
- "Not at all. The weakness that needs to be addressed is the historically low turnout in Texas. Using the math for the 2010 elections, using a 100% turnout as the goal, each vote in that election counted for 2.64 votes. Where are the laws to help educate voters and increase turnout?"
- "Abuse of the system may be rare, but it does occur."
- "Part of it."
- "People who are in this country illegally DO NOT want to draw attention to themselves by showing up on a voters roll! This was simply a manufactured problem to allow republicans to again erode away at the voting rights for which so many fought, bleed and died!"
- "While the number of unqualified voters may be small in gross terms, it is real. And, in close elections, it can make a difference. I'm neither a D nor an R. The rhetoric from the Ds on this issue about this being voter suppression is utterly ridiculous."
- "Can't board a plane (domestic or let alone international), cash a check, buy liquor, or get a traffic tix without an ID."
- "While I doubt the problem was epidemic, I am confident there were abuses. There no doubt will continue to be abuses, but this makes it harder."
- "Rand Paul is right. Voter ID is a racist power grab by people who know their ideas will not secure an electoral majority."

Do you think the law prevents legitimate voters from voting?

- "A savvy politically motivated election judge can deny a voter for expired license and name not changed. It can affect the elderly and women."
- "We'll see..."
- "Absent the occasional octogenarian featured on the local news, Texans have grown used to having to provide positive ID in any number of settings (pharmacies, airports, payday lenders...), what's one more?"

- "I KNOW it does. For a fact."
- "We don't know yet. But it's hard to imagine good faith reasons why Republicans in the Texas legislature have opposed proposals like allowing college IDs as acceptable forms of voter ID, and even printing a voter's picture on their voter registration card."
- "Voter ID stops people who don't want to be part of the government from telling the government what to do."
- "How does someone NOT have a government issued picture ID these days? Really?"
- "Might prevent older voters who could be intimidated by one more step."
- "It doesn't matter what anyone 'thinks'. The facts prove it to prevent legitimate voters from voting. It's like not believing in gravity."
- "Who doesn't have a drivers license or ID card of some form? We're in 2014 not 1914."
- "It shouldn't. IDs are provided for free"
- "It might prevent a few folks from voting, but the damage the Democrats are complaining about is not much worse than the non-existent problem the Republicans are trying to fix."
- "Intimidation and fear."
- "There no cost. There's no extraordinary burden. It's much tougher to board a plane or to enroll for government services."
- "Seriously? No way."
- "This argument is nothing more than class warfare being waged by the left at the expense of democracy."
- "Although I may not be a member of a group who fears the authority, I have been an elections inspector. Many tactics are used in minority precincts to hinder voting. This is the latest most far-reaching and cost effective method of voter suppression. There are many people without knowledge of their rights and will turn away from the polls out of fear. Look back at the posters in Dallas County at the turn of the nineties that were designed using large letters and frightening words simply with the intent of turning African American voters away from the poll. They were posted by a young judge that later ended up on the Texas Supreme Court."
- "Most of the 'legitimate' voters are sitting at home watching American Idol."
- "Practically, there are a few people who just won't carry an ID, and I'm not sure we want them voting. Timothy McVeigh types."
- "If you are legal then you should have no problem voting. Rule of law is rule of law."
- "I think that people who are registered to vote, likely have ID, and it is unlikely that they feel intimidated by the process of having to show their ID. You must show ID to cash a check, use a credit card, catch a flight, receive healthcare at a doctors office/hospital/clinic, have healthcare paid for by insurance (private

insurance and Medicaid). I think that it is a common part of our everyday lives."

- "Yes. I know republicans don't want to believe it but there actually are some people who DO NOT have a photo id! And yes, they live, work and conduct business without a photo id - they do not fly, they have had an account at the same bank for DECADES and they are well known in their communities."

- "But not many and probably not for many cycles."

Do you think the law violates minority protections in the federal Voting Rights Act?

- "What law? Didn't we strike that down?"

- "Unless it is coupled with an effort to prevent minorities from obtaining IDs available to all Texans, how can it?"

- "Yes, it's crazy racist, not to mention sexist, ableist, and what not."

- "Probably. But I'm not a federal judge."

- "Hello, minorities from Dec. 31, 1999 are calling and want you to know the 21st century has started."

- "As a minority, it's offensive to think this law violates 'protections' intended for me. If anything, it strengthens my 'protections' to ensure my vote counts and isn't diluted by an illegally cast ballot."

- "This is much ado about nothing! Oh wait, it politics for the democratic base."

- "Maybe somebody, who due to an odd occurrence of events, might find it impossible to vote at the last minute."

- "Disrespectful to seniors among so many others."

- "By intimidation--not by actual content of law"

- "If the Voting Rights Act still applies to Texas"

- "Especially because of the remoteness of DPS offices."

- "Race is NOT the issue. Voter integrity is and it benefits everyone."

- "Seriously? No way. It doesn't require just minorities to get an ID; everyone must."

- "Those fighting against voter id believe that Hispanics and African Americans are too incompetent to get and id. They are wrong."

- "When I picked up my credentials for the Texas Tribune Festival, I was first asked to show my ID. Why is the Tribune oppressing the rights of the poor and minorities???"

- "Any time obstacles are placed between the voter and their

constitutionally protected right to vote is a violation of both the US Constitution and the Voting Rights Act."

- "It would be irrational to think that it didn't violate minority voting rights, but legality is another thing, altogether."

- "C'mon, now. Who doesn't have an ID? Just get one."

- "Since we are on the VRA let me ask this? Is there only racism south of IH 40 and from Texas east? This is a joke. Racism exists all over the country. Heck it is all over the world. To me the VRA is not constitutional. Not one bit. Not in the slightest. The VRA is wrong. Dead wrong. It is a crime. It is an evil."

- "Voting is a privilege for the citizens of our country. In order to protect this right, an ID should be required. Today, an ID is required to receive treatment at an ER, a doctors office, to cash a check, use a credit card, ride on an airplane, etc. this should be no different."

- "Well of COURSE it does, that was the intention of the law! It was a 'legal' way to suppress minority voting!"

- "The law upholds minority protections by ensuring their vote is not diluted by the vote of those who are not eligible to vote."

- "No, minorities and non-minorities alike have to show their ID."

- "It's racist to assume that minorities won't be able to comply."

Do you think the federal courts will overturn the law?

- "It won't be impossible to find a crack-pot district court judge to overturn it in the first instance, but the law will ultimately stand."

- "They should, but who knows?"

- "A Federal judge can be found for any spotlight."

- "I learned long ago to not predict an outcome with a federal court."

- "This is a loser for the left and the media. 85% of Texans support photo ID."

- "One thing we all have to acknowledge is that the majority party is fairly sloppy when writing these

laws. Almost everything they do gets overturned."

- "At the end of the day, SCOTUS will again uphold these types of voter integrity laws (ours and similar laws from around the country). Voting is a sacred right. The State is right to protect it."

- "Good chance as once again the Republicans are over reaching when they don't need to."

- "Maybe the district court will throw it out. Then the 5th Circuit will reverse. And the Supremes will go 5-4. One way or the other."

- "There is NO evidence of undue burden."
- "No one knows what the hell these courts will do; flip a coin."
- "Seems likely..."
- "This particular court may try to overturn it. Venue shopping trip may have been successful."
- "Obama can't allow this. How are dead people going to vote now?"
- "For the sake of what is right and Constitutional I sure as hell hope so."
- "...Not ultimately. (Who can predict a district court judge these days.)"
- "Eventually, yes."
- "Obama appointee can't help herself."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Victor Alcorta, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Michael Grimes, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Kathy Miller, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Keir Murray, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Bill Pewitt, Jerry Philips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Karen Reagan, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Jeff Rotkoff, Tyler Ruud, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Woody Widrow, Christopher Williston, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.