



Be the Media  
Tell the stories the Mainstream Media won't.

# Voter Photo ID: A Solution in Search of a Problem

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*Paid for by the Democratic Party of York  
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[www.yorkdems.org](http://www.yorkdems.org)  
[info@yorkdems.org](mailto:info@yorkdems.org)

717-812-1200


## The Myth of the “Liberal Media”

The rightwing noise machine on talk radio and television would like everyone to believe the mainstream media is run by those “awful, America-hating liberals” and that every story is reported from the liberal perspective. The facts are quite different.

In 2007 The Center for American Progress and Free Press released a report titled “The Structural Imbalance of Political Talk Radio”. One of the key findings showed **91% of weekday talk radio programming is conservative.**

Outside of perhaps two or three hosts on MSNBC few progressive commentators are household names while the list of

nationally known conservatives seems endless. What’s more, there is no progressive equivalent of Fox News which has become an outright propaganda machine for the Republican Party and is the most viewed cable news network today.



**"I admit it -- the liberal media were never that powerful, and the whole thing was often used as an excuse by conservatives for conservative failures."**

William Kristol,  
as reported by the New Yorker.

The majority of Americans held a progressive point of view until shortly after the repeal of the Fairness Doctrine in the late 1980's. Since that time conservative ideology has flourished on broadcast media almost without opposition. The lack of opposing views on the airwaves has allowed conservatism to take root and grow dramatically.

## Sharing the Democratic Perspective

As the mainstream broadcast media is slanted heavily against Democratic candidates, elected officials and policies it's up to us as concerned citizens to tell our stories and present our perspective. That is the purpose of the “Be the Media” effort.

# Pennsylvania Republican's Attack on Voting Rights

The legislation passed by the PA State House and awaiting a vote in the PA State Senate is:

- **Unfair** - Burdensome for seniors, underprivileged, students, people of color, disabled and other vulnerable populations.
- **Unnecessary** - PA State Sentencing Commission found only 4 cases of fraud out of 19.4 million ballots cast.
- **Costly** - First year costs = \$11 million. PA cannot afford the GOP's costly legislation.

## News reports and op-eds from around the state:

### Push for Voter ID Is a Threat to Turnout

Philadelphia Inquirer, 5-23-11

[http://articles.philly.com/2011-05-23/news/29574438\\_1\\_polling-places-latino-voters-poll-tax](http://articles.philly.com/2011-05-23/news/29574438_1_polling-places-latino-voters-poll-tax)

### Voter ID Proposal a Waste of Time

Centre Daily Times, 5/22/11

<http://www.centredaily.com/2011/05/22/2727602/voter-id-proposal-a-waste-of-time.html>

### Oppose Photo ID for Voters

Pocono Record, 5/18/11

[http://m.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110518/NEWS04/105180305-1/WAP05&template=wapart&m\\_section=](http://m.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110518/NEWS04/105180305-1/WAP05&template=wapart&m_section=)

### Vexing the Voters: ID Bills Are the Wrong Signal for the Times

Pittsburgh Post Gazette, 5/17/11

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11137/1146985-192.stm>

## **We Don't Need Expensive Voter ID**

Erie Times News, 5/13/11

<http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110513/OPINION01/305139996/-1/OPINION13>

## **Let's ID What Bill Really Is: Partisanship**

Philadelphia Daily News, 5/11/11

[http://articles.philly.com/2011-05-11/news/29532524\\_1\\_show-government-issued-photo-fight-voter-fraud-ids](http://articles.philly.com/2011-05-11/news/29532524_1_show-government-issued-photo-fight-voter-fraud-ids)

## **Reject Voter ID Bill Targeting Poor**

Delaware County Daily Times, 5/11/11

<http://www.delcotimes.com/articles/2011/05/11/opinion/doc4dc9d3cf1a846186964415.txt>

## **Legislative Fraud Worse than Vote Fraud**

Scranton Times-Tribune, 5/11/11

<http://thetimes-tribune.com/opinion/legislative-fraud-worse-than-vote-fraud-1.1144809#axzz1X6R1r0GM>

## **THE FACTS**

- The Pennsylvania Sentencing Commission said that since 2004 there have been four (4) cases of misrepresentation at Pennsylvania polls out of the 19.4 million ballots cast.
- House Bill 934 – Vote 108 Yes; 88 No. Every Republican but one voted Yes; every Democratic Member of the State House voted No.
- Communities most likely to not possess Photo ID: African American, Hispanic, physically disabled, students/young adults, economically disadvantaged, new citizens, seniors, homeless persons, inner-city residents, etc.
- PennDOT stated 700,000 Pennsylvanians currently do not have photo ID.

- Cost to implement the program:

<b>Pennsylvania Voter ID Cost Estimate</b>	
Free Voter ID Cards	\$1,945,944
Lost Revenue PennDOT	\$1,182,975
Public Education	\$4,200,000
Voter Notification (Households)+	\$2,719,680
Photo ID Equipment	\$376,540
Election Day Staff*	\$576,840
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,002,029</b>
* Election day staff costs incurred by localities	
+ Cost rises to \$4.6 million for individual notification	

Source: Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center,  
<http://www.pennbpc.org/sites/pennbpc.org/files/Cost-of-Voter-ID-Law-to-PA.pdf> retrieved on 09-18-2011

<b>Total Cost to Implement Voter ID</b>	<b>\$11,002,029</b>
<b>Tom Corbett's Education Funding Cuts to 9 Local School Districts</b>	<b>\$10,921,393</b>
York Suburban SD	\$363,569
Hanover SD	\$570,314
Central York SD	\$1,075,212
Southern SD	\$1,264,352
Eastern York SD	\$1,269,908
Dallastown SD	\$1,324,732
South Eastern SD	\$1,552,149
Dover SD	\$1,729,975
Spring Grove SD	\$1,771,182

- The Brennan Center for Justice has calculated the odds of being killed by lightning are GREATER than voter fraud occurring.

Source: [http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/policy\\_brief\\_on\\_voter\\_identification/](http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/policy_brief_on_voter_identification/)

## The following organizations oppose HB 934:

AARP  
ACLU of Pennsylvania  
Advancement Project  
And Justice for All (AJFA)  
Black Political Empowerment Project  
Common Cause PA  
County Commissioners Association of PA  
Democracia Inc.  
Democracy Rising PA  
Demos  
Dignity Housing  
Fair Elections Legal Network  
Homeless Advocacy Project  
Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania  
Human Rights Coalition  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law  
League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania  
Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania  
NAACP  
PA Alliance for Retired Americans  
Pathways to Housing PA  
Penn Action  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Pennsylvania Immigration & Citizenship Coalition  
Project Home  
Rock the Vote  
SEIU Pennsylvania State Council  
SeniorLaw Center  
The Advancement Project  
The Brennan Center  
The Pennsylvania Prison Society  
The Time Is Now To Make A Change  
Vote for Homes!  
Why Not Prosper?  
Women's Law Project  
WomenVote PA

Source:[http://www.pahouse.com/action\\_2011/VoterID.asp?MemberID=11&TargetGroupID=165&Section=company](http://www.pahouse.com/action_2011/VoterID.asp?MemberID=11&TargetGroupID=165&Section=company) retrieved on 09-19-2011.

- The U.S. Justice Department conducted a five year probe (2002-2007) into voter fraud yet **failed to prosecute a single person for impersonating an eligible voter**. More than 300 million ballots were cast during this time frame.

- Obtaining a so-called “free” photo ID comes with significant obstacles for many residents:
  - Transportation issues to get to and from a photo license center
  - Mobility issues for elderly and physically disabled
  - Scheduling conflicts with work and/or child care
  - Cost to obtain a passport or birth certificate which are needed as proof of identification to get the voter photo ID
- A key element of the Obama Campaign strategy in 2008 was to expand the electorate by registering new voters. Approximately 70% of new voters cast their ballot for Barack Obama. The Republican strategy in 2012 is to deny poll access to voters, particularly those who overwhelmingly supported Obama in 2008.
- Eighteen percent of Americans over the age of 65 do not have a photo ID.

Fully a quarter of African-Americans and 15 percent of low-income voters don't have a photo ID.

One in five young voters don't have a driver's license, the most commonly accepted form of photo ID. Nationwide a substantial percentage of individuals 18 to 29 years old do not have a valid driver's license.

Source: <http://demos.org/publication.cfm?currentpublicationID=523A7CE4-3FF4-6C82-555D3C52689565C4>

- **Voters expect the economic crisis to be the first order of business in 2011, *not* voter ID.** Instead of focusing on creating jobs and saving homes, the real problems citizens confront, legislators are prioritizing a measure that will not solve any problem.

Source: <http://demos.org/publication.cfm?currentpublicationID=523A7CE4-3FF4-6C82-555D3C52689565C4>

## March 2011 Testimony Against HB 934

[ACLU-PA's testimony against HB 934](#)

[Senior Law Center's testimony against HB 934](#) (374K pdf)

[County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania's testimony against HB 934](#) (pdf)

[Brennan Center's testimony against HB 934](#)

[Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights testimony against HB 934](#)

Source: <http://aclupa.org/issues/votingissues/>

## Local Newspapers

### **York Daily Record/ Sunday News**

[news@ydr.com](mailto:news@ydr.com)

York Daily Record/Sunday News

1891 Loucks Road

York PA 17408

### **York Dispatch**

[letters@yorkdispatch.com](mailto:letters@yorkdispatch.com)

205 N. George St.

York, PA 17401

### **Hanover Evening Sun**

[news@eveningsun.com](mailto:news@eveningsun.com)

135 Baltimore Street

P.O. Box 514

Hanover, PA 17331

### **The Patriot News**

[letters@patriot-news.com](mailto:letters@patriot-news.com)

2020 Technology Parkway

Suite 300

Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

**Governor Tom Corbett**

225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120  
Phone: (717) 787-2500

**State Senator Richard Alloway**

187 Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
Phone: 717-787-4651  
E-mail: [Alloway@pasen.gov](mailto:Alloway@pasen.gov)

**State Representative Eugene Depasquale**

1 Marketway West  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Suite 12A  
York , PA 17401  
Phone: (717) 848-9595  
E-mail: [Repdepasquale@pahouse.net](mailto:Repdepasquale@pahouse.net)

**State Representative Keith Gillespie**

4188 Lincoln Highway  
York , PA 17406  
Phone: (717) 840-4711  
E-mail: [kgillesp@pahousegop.com](mailto:kgillesp@pahousegop.com)

**State Representative Seth Grove**

1550-C Kenneth Road  
York, PA 17404  
Phone: (717) 767-3947  
E-mail: [sgrove@pahousegop.com](mailto:sgrove@pahousegop.com)

**State Representative Ron Miller**

6872 Susquehanna Trail South  
Jacobus , PA 17407-0277  
Phone: (717) 428-9889  
E-mail: [rmiller@pahousegop.com](mailto:rmiller@pahousegop.com)

**State Representative Scott Perry**

725D North US Route 15  
Dillsburg, PA 17019  
Phone:(717) 432-0792  
Email: [sperry@pahousegop.com](mailto:sperry@pahousegop.com)

**State Senator Jeffrey Piccola**

916-B North River Road

Park Plaza

Phone: (717) 896-7714

E-mail: [JPiccola@pasen.gov](mailto:JPiccola@pasen.gov)

**State Representative Stan Saylor**

15 South Main St. (2nd Floor)

Red Lion, PA 17356

Phone: (717) 244-9232

E-mail: [ssaylor@pahousegop.com](mailto:ssaylor@pahousegop.com)

**State Senator Lloyd Smucker**

Lower Windsor Township

Municipal Building

2425 Craley Road

Wrightsville, PA 17368

Phone: (717) 246-7534

E-mail: [lsmucker@pasen.gov](mailto:lsmucker@pasen.gov)

**State Representative Will Tallman**

Hanover Station

1157 Eichelberger Street

Hanover, PA 17331

Phone: (717) 633-1721

E-mail: [wtallman@pahousegop.com](mailto:wtallman@pahousegop.com)

**State Senator Patricia Vance**

3806 Market Street

Camp Hill, PA 17011

Phone: (717) 975-1985

E-mail: [vance@pasen.gov](mailto:vance@pasen.gov)

**State Senator Mike Waugh**

218 North George Street

York, PA 17401

Ph: 717-846-2828

E-mail: [mwaugh@pasen.gov](mailto:mwaugh@pasen.gov)

# Tips on Writing an Effective Letter

- 1) Be brief and be polite. Typically three or four paragraphs totaling 150 to 200 words when submitting to newspapers; 300 to 400 words maximum when writing a legislator.
- 2) Start strong and get to the point quickly.
- 3) Focus on one or two points at most.
- 4) Use several clear examples to back up your point.
- 5) Write a draft. Let all of your thoughts and all of those catchy phrases pour out of you. It doesn't have to be grammatical. Just let it flow for 15-20 minutes.
- 6) Walk away from your work. Let the words simmer on the page and in your thoughts for a little while.
- 7) Edit what you wrote. Focus on your key messages. Eliminate redundant words and phrases.
- 8) Check the facts. Google your subject.
- 9) Have a spouse or a friend look at what you wrote. A fresh set of eyes will find those little errors you've overlooked.
- 10) Polish it one last time.

(Special thanks to Greg Colburn for drafting the tips.)



We give you three easy ways to contact the Democratic Party of York County:

- Visit us on the Web [www.yorkdems.org](http://www.yorkdems.org)
- Email us at [info@yorkdems.org](mailto:info@yorkdems.org)
- Call us at 717 812-1200

Democratic Party of York County  
275 W Market St.  
York, PA 17401

Thank you for your support.