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1821 Green St., Durham NC 27705 • 919-489-1931 or 286-6000 • democracy-nc.org

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Contact: Bob Hall, 919-489-1931

New Research Shows Impact of Photo ID on Black Voters

A new State Board of Elections [analysis](#) pinpoints who will be most harmed by a photo ID law. It says 318,643 out of 6.4 million voters don't appear to have a driver's license or identity card from the NC Division of Motor Vehicles. African Americans are a disproportionate share of this group. They're 23% of all registered voters but 34% of those without a NC photo ID.

People without ID tend to be poorer and less involved in politics. But 115,291 of the 318,643 without ID were motivated enough to vote in 2012. African Americans are an even larger 36% of this group.

An ID requirement won't hurt most voters. But it will push away the infrequent, lower-income voter with many other worries who still deserves respect. The numbers show it will hit black voters hardest and especially affect their participation in a hot presidential election.

Add the history of voting discrimination and you'll understand why the photo ID push feels like a partisan, racial attack. The refusal to accept a back-up for voters without ID exposes the ugly purpose. Why not let that voter sign a sworn statement with a verifiable identity number, like a birth date or social security number? Most states allow a back-up, but not the NC bill.

VOTERS WHO DON'T HAVE NC PHOTO ID, APRIL 2013						
Type of Voters	All Registered Voters 3/23/2013		Registered Voters Without NC Photo ID		Voters Without NC Photo ID Who Voted in 2012 Gen. Elec.	
	Number	% Total	Number	% Total	Number	% Total
STATE TOTAL	6,425,625	100%	318,643	100%	138,425	100%
White	4,561,375	71%	172,613	54%	74,246	54%
Black	1,446,054	23%	107,681	34%	49,261	36%
Other	418,196	7%	38,349	12%	14,918	11%
Men	2,897,447	45%	106,713	33%	49,716	36%
Women	3,449,315	54%	202,714	64%	85,263	62%
Republicans	1,980,606	31%	67,639	21%	30,114	22%
Democrats	2,767,134	43%	176,091	55%	81,008	59%
Libertarians	20,416	0%	1,126	0%	527	0%
Unaffiliated	1,657,469	26%	73,787	23%	26,776	19%

Source: State Board of Elections voter registration data and "April 2013 SBOE-DMV ID Analysis," April 17, 2013