

FAQs for HB3

Voter ID Bill

Q: What does HB3 do?

A: This bill strengthens the current law in three ways:

- 1) Specifies what types of ID are acceptable when using photo ID for voting*
- 2) Increases the number of non-photo ID from one to two, as well as requires these to be a form of official government ID such as birth certificate, Social Security Card, voter registration card, hunting and fishing license or tribal ID*
- 3) If the voter does not have ID that meets the above criteria, they may vote if two election officials know the voter, and they are both willing to sign beside the person's name in the register.*

Q: How is this different from current law?

A: Currently, all that is needed to be presented to vote is something as simple as a utility bill or bank statement. If you have no form of ID, one election official can waive you through if they “know” you, without having to sign anything or otherwise take responsibility for stating you are who you say you are. These are not adequate security measures for voting.

Q: Will this conflict with HAVA (Help America Vote Act)?

A: No, HAVA is minimum requirements, but states are expressly permitted to be stricter in their ID requirements.

Q: Will this conflict with the VRA (Voting Rights Act)?

A: No. Georgia is another VRA state that has far stricter voter ID laws than this bill proposes. Prior to being implemented, Georgia's law needed to receive preclearance from the Department of Justice, which it did. Other states that have passed stricter laws are Indiana, Kansas and Tennessee. Florida, Louisiana, and South Dakota are also VRA states and have laws similar to this bill, all of which also received DOJ preclearance.

Q: Is voter fraud actually a problem?

A: This bill is not a response to widespread voter fraud, but rather a proactive precaution to protect the sanctity of our elections. Even though the chances of your house being burglarized are low, you still have locks on your doors and use them.

Q: Why is this necessary?

A: Alaska has a long history of elections decided by narrow margins; just last year a race was decided by 32 votes, we've also had elections as close as 1 and 4 votes in very recent memory and some even came down to a coin flip. In Alaska, clearly every vote counts, and ensuring the security of our voting process should be of the utmost concern.

Q: Does this bill disenfranchise rural or native voters?

A: No. The bill strengthens our voting system, while respecting Alaska's unique voting population, such as its rural voters. Voters without photo ID are still allowed to vote with two forms of non-photo ID, or if two election officials are willing to waive the identification requirements. This bill also specifically includes tribal ID cards as being acceptable forms of ID.