



# League of Women Voters of Charlotte-Mecklenburg

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To the Editor:

The North Carolina legislature is preparing to take up a bill requiring voters to show even more identification when they go to the polls to vote. The League of Women Voters of Charlotte-Mecklenburg believes that this is unnecessary, will create longer lines at the voting booth, and may even impact voter turnout negatively.

Verification of a voter's eligibility to register and cast their vote is already built into the process in numerous ways. It is a process that North Carolina has refined over time to be effective and efficient, insure confidentiality and protect the right of *one- person, one- vote*

The League urges people to review the many safeguards already in the process (see below) and urge lawmakers to reconsider the issue.

## 1) Mail-In Voter Registration Application

- Voter applicant is asked to verify that he/she is a citizen of the United States and will be at least 18 years of age on or before Election Day, or that he is at least 16 years old and understands that he must be at least 18 years old on election day of the general election in order to vote.
- The applicant must provide the number of his driver's license or Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) -issued identification card, or, if the voter does not have these items, he must provide the last 4 digits of his social security number. The Board of Elections verifies this information.
- Applicant verifies that he has been a resident of North Carolina, the county, precinct, or other election district for 30 days before the election in which he intends to vote.
- Applicant states he will not vote in any other county or state after submission of this form and if he is registered elsewhere, he is canceling that registration at this time
- Applicant states that he has not been convicted of a felony, or if he has been convicted of a felony, he has completed his sentence, including any probation or parole.
- By signing the form, the applicant verifies that all information he has provided is correct. Knowingly providing false information is a **Class 1 Felony**.

## 2) At the Polls

- A first- time voter must show identification.
- In front of a poll worker, each voter must complete and sign a voter authorization card, which states the voter's name and current address.

- The voter takes this authorization form to another table and must re-state his name and address to the second poll worker.
- This poll worker checks the authorization form against the election book, which has the name and address of people registered to vote in that precinct.
- Using this list, the poll worker verifies that the person has not voted in early voting nor by absentee ballot in this election.
- If the address on the authorization form does not match the address in the election book, the voter is asked if he has moved to the new address more than 30 days ago. If so, the voter is directed to vote at the precinct in which his new address is located.
- A person may enter the voting booth only if all these requirements are satisfied.

The right to vote is a constitutional right and something the League of Women Voters has worked to encourage since the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment in 1920 when women won that right. We urge lawmakers to make voting more accessible not less and make democracy work better here in North Carolina.

Bettie Anne Hayes, President  
League of Women Voters of Charlotte-Mecklenburg

*The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences policy through education and advocacy.*