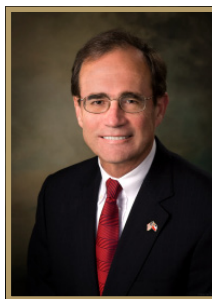


Mississippi's Initiative Process

The Mississippi initiative law affords voters an avenue for addressing important constitutional issues which the State Legislature does not. This year, the three initiatives appearing on the November 8 ballot address basic constitutional issues: the integrity of our vote, the definition of when life begins, and government's right to seize private property for non-public use.



Delbert Hosemann
Secretary of State

After registering the initiative with the Secretary of State's Office, the official ballot title and summary are prepared by the Mississippi Attorney General. Initiatives are only valid for one year, during which time a petition must be circulated to gather signatures to place the measure on the next statewide General Election ballot. According to State law, for an initiative measure to be placed on this year's ballot, a minimum of 89,285 certified signatures must be gathered with at least 17,857 certified signatures from each of the five congressional districts as they existed in the year 2000. Signatures must be certified by county Circuit Clerks. A completed petition is filed with the Secretary of State's Office, along with a \$500 filing fee.

Not only must an initiative receive a majority of the total votes cast for that particular initiative, it must also receive more than 40% of the total votes cast in that election.

Our Agency is currently in the "voter information" stage of the initiative process. According to State law, we are required to publish this pamphlet in addition to holding public hearings across the State in each of the five congressional districts. I encourage you to take advantage of these educational brochures and to attend the hearings prior the election. Be informed when you head to the polls to vote and decide these issues.

As always, if we may be of any assistance, we encourage you to contact our Elections Hotline at 1(800) 829-6786. More information is available on our website at: www.sos.ms.gov/elections/initiatives.

Initiative #27

(1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2), A qualified elector who votes in a primary or general election, either in person at the polls or in person in the office of the circuit clerk, shall present a government issued photo identification before being allowed to vote.

(b) A qualified elector who does not have a government issued photo identification and who cannot afford such identification may obtain a state issued photo identification free of charge from the Mississippi Department of Public Safety. The elector must show appropriate identifying documents required by the Mississippi Department of Public Safety as provided by law.

(2) (a) An elector living and voting in a state-licensed care facility shall not be required to show a government issued photo identification before being allowed to vote.

(b) An elector who has a religious objection to being photographed will be allowed to cast an affidavit ballot, and the elector, within five days after the election, shall execute an affidavit in the appropriate circuit clerk's office affirming that the exemption applies.

(c) An elector who has a government issued photo identification, but is unable to present that identification when voting, shall file an affidavit ballot, and the elector, within five days after the election, shall present the government issued photo identification to the appropriate circuit clerk.

(3) This provision shall not be construed to require photo identification to register to vote. This provision only requires government issued photo identification for casting a ballot.

(4) The Legislature shall enact legislation to implement the provisions of this section of the constitution.

Fiscal Analysis

Prepared by the Mississippi Legislative Budget Office

Based on Fiscal Year 2010 information, the Department of Public Safety issued 107,094 photo IDs to U.S. citizens of voting age. The individuals were assessed \$14 per ID to offset a portion of the \$17.92 cost per ID. The cost is estimated to remain the same, but the assessment will no longer be allowable under the provision of Initiative 27. Therefore, the Department of Public Safety is estimated to see a loss of revenue of approximately \$1,499,000.



DELBERT HOSEMANN
Secretary of State

The Secretary of State's Office is hosting a series of Public Hearings to give Mississippians the opportunity to express their opinions about each of the Initiative measures to be decided in the November 8, 2011 General Election. The public is invited to attend any or all forums.

For public forum guidelines, please visit:
www.sos.ms.gov/elections/initiatives

All forums will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Southaven - July 7

Desoto Civic Center

Starkville - July 12

Bost Conference Center Theatre

Pearl - July 20

Hinds Community College - Clyde Muse Center

Gulfport - July 21

MGCCC Jeff Davis Campus Fine Arts Auditorium

Hattiesburg - July 26

Lake Terrace Convention Center

Meridian - July 28

MSU Riley Center

Tupelo - August 9

The Link Centre

Natchez - August 25

Co-Lin Community College Auditorium

Cleveland - September 6

Delta State - Bologna Performing Arts Center

This pamphlet is published by the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office as required by, and in accordance with, state law - Miss. Code § 23-17-45.

Initiative #27

Voter Identification

Should the Mississippi Constitution be amended to require a person to submit government issued photo identification in order to vote?



DELBERT HOSEMANN
Secretary of State

401 MISSISSIPPI STREET
P.O. BOX 136

JACKSON, MS 39205

ELECTIONS HOTLINE: 1(800) 829-6786
WWW.SOS.MS.GOV/ELECTIONS/INITIATIVES

BALLOT TITLE:

Should the Mississippi Constitution be amended to require a person to submit government issued photo identification in order to vote?

BALLOT SUMMARY:

Initiative #27 would amend the Mississippi Constitution to require voters to submit a government issued photo identification before being allowed to vote; provides that any voter lacking government issued photo identification may obtain photo identification without charge from the Mississippi Department of Public Safety; and exempts certain residents of state-licensed care facilities and religious objectors from being required to show photo identification in order to vote.

YES

Argument FOR the Initiative

Why should you vote "Yes" for Voter Identification?

Because the right to vote is too important to allow dishonest people to steal elections by voting in the name of other people; often times in the name of dead people or folks who are out of state on Election Day. The integrity of our entire election system is at stake. For too many years, as nearly every other state in the nation has strengthen the protections of their election procedures, Mississippi once again trails behind as one of only a handful of states that does not require any form of photo identification before casting a ballot on election day.

In a culture when you are required to show photo ID to fly

out of an airport, cash a check or even rent a movie from a video store, surely it make sense to ask citizens to show a form of government-issued photo ID before they vote.

Voter ID will not cure all problems with the elections in Mississippi but it will go a very long way to ensuring that dead people do not vote - as has happened in Mississippi within the past few election cycles - and it will ensure that people only get one vote per election. This makes ultimate sense to people of all political backgrounds.

The proponents of this initiative do not buy into the argument forwarded by the opponents, which is that this would drive down turnout among

Mississippi voters. What it would accomplish, however, is to guarantee that every vote cast is done so legally. Please join the thousands of Mississippians in voting "Yes" for Voter ID and in doing so, helping us clean up Mississippi's election system.

NO

Argument AGAINST the Initiative

The Voter ID initiative should be decided on the basis of "dollars and sense."

Implementing Voter ID amounts to a 21st Century poll tax. Those who do not have the documents required to obtain an ID will have to spend money to get documents such as birth certificates. These documents are not free, so some persons will be forced to "pay to vote." The 14th and 24th amendments prohibit any costs or fees associated with voting. In the 1966 case *Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections*, the U.S. Supreme Court prohibited the use of poll taxes as a prerequisite to voting in local and state elections.

Voter ID laws in other states provide for provisional ballots

that require voters without ID on election day to show proof of ID within two days after the election to have their ballots counted. However, the use of such provisional ballots violates the Federal Voting Standards and Procedures Act of 2003; that act requires states to streamline registration, voting, and other election procedures.

Finally, Mississippi needs to funnel more money into job training and education; Voter ID should not be at the top of its funding priorities. Confirmed cases of individuals impersonating another voter at the polls in this country are so low that there are no successful studies of the extent of such acts of fraud.

Should Mississippi spend money on something that is not an issue? It will be quite expensive for both the state and the citizens affected to implement Voter ID. The Legislative Budget Office estimates that the state's share alone will be \$1,499,000 in taxpayer dollars, and additional IDs will need to be issued every year from now on.

There is not enough sense in the idea of Voter ID to justify the investment of all those tax dollars.

Pro Argument by Joey Fillingane, Initiative Sponsor

Con Argument by Sue Harmon, MoveOn.org