

WHY IS IT SO HARD TO VOTE IN AMERICA?

And What We Can Do to Fix It.

Craig Newmark of craigconnects polled 1,006 Americans over the age of 18 about their perception of voting in this country. The consensus? We can do better.



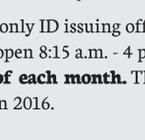
THINK YOU CAN VOTE IN THE NEXT ELECTION?



21 states have new voting restrictions since the 2010 election.

Voting restrictions range from strict photo ID requirements to early voting cutbacks to registration restrictions.

16



states have voting restrictions in place for the first time in a presidential race in 2016.

Example: the only ID issuing office in Sauk City, Wisconsin is open 8:15 a.m. - 4 p.m. on the **fifth Wednesday of each month**. There are only 4 fifth Wednesdays in 2016.



8

states have curtailed early voting since 2011.



8 of the **12** states with the largest Hispanic population growth between 2000 and 2010 passed laws making it harder to vote.

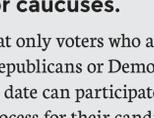
7 of the **11** states with the highest African American turnout in 2008 have new voting restrictions in place.

78%



of the US have not been encouraged to participate in their state's primary or caucus.*

11



states have closed primaries or caucuses.

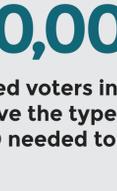
This means that only voters who are registered as Republicans or Democrats prior to the primary date can participate in the nomination process for their candidates.

WHO DO THESE LAWS AFFECT?



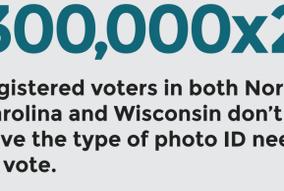
16M+

registered voters in the US don't have a current government-issued photo ID.



600,000+

registered voters in Texas don't have the type of photo ID needed to vote.



300,000x2

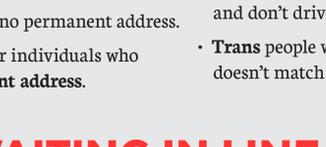
registered voters in both North Carolina and Wisconsin don't have the type of photo ID needed to vote.



50%



Millennials who describe themselves as political independents are unable to vote in a state with closed primaries or caucuses.



"...But who may not have an ID?"

- Senior citizens who no longer drive.
- College students with no permanent address.
- Low-income families or individuals who don't have a permanent address.
- People who only use public transit, and don't drive.
- Trans people whose gender identity doesn't match their ID.

WHO'S WAITING IN LINE TO VOTE?



6x

Six times more Hispanic than White voters report a 30+ minute wait time.*



4x

Four times more African American than White voters report a 30+ minute wait time.*



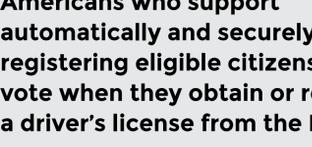
3x-4x

Millennials and Gen Xers are three to four times more likely to have to wait in line to vote compared to Boomers.*



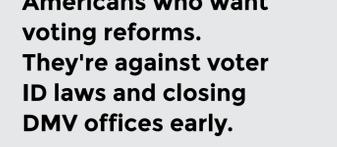
Voters in precincts with higher percentages of minority voters in Florida, Maryland, and South Carolina tended to have fewer voting machines.

BUT, WHAT DOES THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WANT?



60%

Americans who support automatically and securely registering eligible citizens to vote when they obtain or renew a driver's license from the DMV.*



69%

Americans who want voting reforms. They're against voter ID laws and closing DMV offices early.

LET'S DO THIS!

27 states + DC are considering automatic registration measures in 2016. Oregon and California passed this groundbreaking policy in 2015, which has the potential to add 7 million to the rolls in the two states combined.

23

states have passed laws to improve and modernize voting since 2012.

30

states + DC let you register to vote online.

3

states hold elections almost entirely by mail.

States that Improved Voting Since the 2012 Election

(Highlighted in white)



Most Americans support modernizing voting despite a few influential bad actors who are waging war on American citizens' right to vote.

This is a nonpartisan issue.

So, what's next?

Encourage your representatives to support a variety of voting reforms in your state. These include:

- Implementing automatic voter registration which would help sign up several of the 51 million eligible but unregistered voters.
- Adding online registration and expanding early voting is critical.
- Creating a pre-registration system (where 16- and 17-year-olds can sign up to register to vote before they're 18) is important as 75% of Americans think young voter turnout could make a difference this year.*

Register to vote, and actually vote!

