



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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### **Reps. Born and Schraa to Reintroduce Voter ID in 2015-16**

Ensuring the integrity of our elections through a voter ID law has been a top priority of Republicans in the Wisconsin State Legislature for years, and a law was finally passed in 2011. Unfortunately, the law faced multiple legal challenges almost immediately, and has not been in effect since early 2012. Refusing to sit idly by while the integrity of our elections is compromised, we wrote and passed through the Assembly a new voter ID law last year, but the bill died in the Senate and is now facing attacks from the previous law's author, state Sen. Joe Leibham. Despite the senator's claims, our bill is right for Wisconsin. We will re-introduce it next session because our elections are too important to let a system ripe for fraud to continue any longer.

With the previous voter ID law tied up in courts, we based our bill on Indiana's law, which was deemed constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2008. Our bill would ensure election security while providing reasonable alternatives for those who are legitimately unable to present proper identification at the polls.

Under our bill, a voter who cannot produce proper identification due to indigence, a religious objection to being photographed, or being unable to acquire the original documents for identification could vote after signing an affidavit and verbally affirming their claim to an election official at the polling place. That person would use a specially marked ballot that could be removed later if an issue of fraud was discovered.

The purpose of the affidavit process is twofold. First, it satisfies court objections regarding costs, obstacles, or religious beliefs in obtaining identification. More importantly, though, it creates a paper trail and witnesses if any fraud is committed. Prosecutors can use this clear and convincing evidence in court to convict those guilty of voting illegally. Even the idea of witnesses and signing an affidavit will likely be a strong deterrent to fraud in itself, as a criminal is unlikely to create such evidence voluntarily.

Our approach to the voter ID law is constitutionally tested and would finally allow poll workers to ask voters for identification, something that is currently illegal in Wisconsin. We refuse to wait on the sidelines for the courts to rule in a process that could take years, when we can pass a proven voter ID law.

Election integrity is too important. We will continue our fight to pass and implement a voter ID law in Wisconsin next session.

*Reps. Mark Born of Beaver Dam and Michael Schraa of Oshkosh are serving their first terms in the State Assembly. Contact Rep. Born at [Rep.Born@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Rep.Born@legis.wi.gov) or (608) 266-2540 and Rep. Schraa at [Rep.Schraa@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Rep.Schraa@legis.wi.gov) or (608) 267-7990.*