

BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

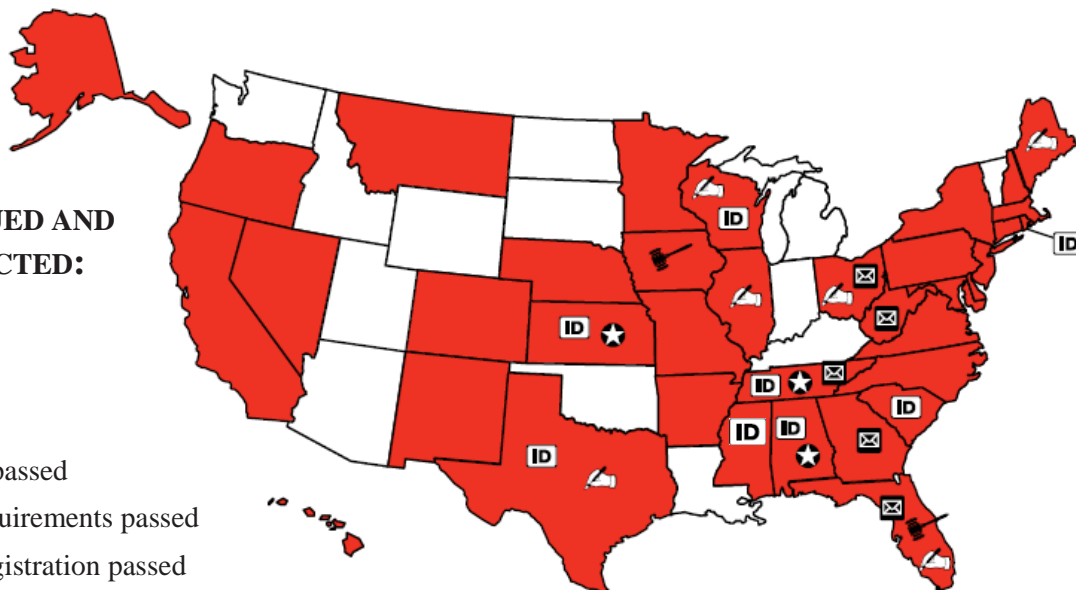
VOTING CHANGES IN 2012: A WAVE OF NEW LAWS

These new laws could make it significantly **harder for more than five million eligible voters to cast ballots in 2012.**

- **Photo ID laws.** 11 percent of American citizens (over 21 million people) do not possess a government-issued photo ID.
- **Making voter registration harder.** At least fourteen states introduced bills to end highly popular Election Day and same-day voter registration, limit voter registration drives, and reduce other registration opportunities.
- **Making it harder to restore voting rights.** Florida and Iowa made it harder for citizens with past felony convictions to restore their voting rights, effectively permanently disenfranchising hundreds of thousands of citizens with past felony convictions.
- **Proof of citizenship laws.** At least twelve states introduced legislation that would require proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, to register or vote.
- **Reducing early and absentee days.** Florida, Georgia, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia succeeded in enacting bills reducing early voting.

VOTING CHANGES PURSUED AND TYPES OF CHANGES ENACTED:

- Legislation introduced
- ID Photo ID requirements passed
- ★ Proof of Citizenship requirements passed
- ☒ Restrictions on voter registration passed
- ☒ Restrictions on early and absentee voting passed
- ☒ Executive actions made it harder to restore voting rights



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VOTING CHANGES IN 2012: STUDENTS

The Twenty-Sixth Amendment gives 18 to 21 year olds a voice in our democracy. Students who leave home to attend college should have the right to choose where they vote. In most states it is possible for students to make this choice, but the laws governing voting eligibility can be tricky, confusing, or downright restrictive. Students can be unfairly targeted by election officials or partisan challengers and often have trouble establishing residency where they live and attend school.

SUPPRESSIVE LAWS AFFECT STUDENTS

- **Texas and Tennessee:**
Concealed-carry licenses *are* accepted;
student IDs *are not* accepted.
- **New Hampshire:**
“Voting as a liberal. You know, that’s what
kids do. They don’t have experience and just
vote their feelings...”
- **Florida:**
Rock the Vote, FL PIRG, and other groups
are limited in their ability to register voters by
unduly burdensome new state laws.
- **Maine:**
Students paying out of state tuition are
intimidated.

STUDENTS CAN EFFECT CHANGE

- **INVESTIGATE**

- **EDUCATE**

- **PARTICIPATE**

For more information on state voting rules affecting students, visit
www.brennancenter.org/content/pages/svg_state_write_ups.

To read the full *Voting Law Changes in 2012* report, visit
www.brennancenter.org/votingchanges2012.