

PICTURE PERFECT

Should states require voters to show photo identification to vote?

The Supreme Court this term is expected to decide whether states may require voters to present some form of ID at the polls. At

issue is an Indiana law that requires all voters to present a government-issued photo ID to vote.

In this presidential election year, the issue divides Democrats and Republicans, who disagree on what rules should apply to elections. Proponents of voter ID laws, mostly Republicans, maintain they are needed to prevent voter fraud and insure free

and fair elections. Opponents of voter ID laws, mostly Democrats, argue that these laws unfairly limit access to the ballot, reducing voter participation.

Currently, 27 states have ID requirements for voting, but Indiana's are the strictest. Lower courts that have considered the issue have been divided. With the 2008 presidential election right around the corner, the Supreme Court's decision is

highly anticipated and could be very significant.



Should states require voters to show photo identification to vote?

YES

- Preventing voter fraud is essential to maintain the integrity of the voting process and the fairness of elections.
- The overwhelming majority of registered voters have valid IDs and requiring that they present them to vote is not an undue burden.
- There have been no cases where the Indiana law has been shown to violate a specific voter's rights. The importance of preventing illegitimate voting outweighs any vague and undocumented risks.

NO

- These regulations disenfranchise many voters by imposing an unnecessary burden on the right to vote.
- Voters least likely to have valid IDs tend to be poor people, people of color, women and the elderly, so voter ID laws unfairly fall hardest on these groups.
- No one has ever been tried for impersonating another voter, which shows that voter fraud is not a significant problem and ID laws are unnecessary.