



**Prepared testimony in opposition to LR292CA**  
**Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee**  
*February 27, 2020*

Chairman Brewer, members of the committee, my name is Westin Miller, W-E-S-T-I-N M-I-L-L-E-R, and I'm the director of public policy with Civic Nebraska.

I wanted to hop up here first and just try to set a framework for today's discussion, and to encourage you to ask a few questions about the proponent arguments you've heard, both today and in the media.

Five questions I'd encourage you to ask about voter ID laws.

1. Is there a clear problem you are solving?
2. Is there evidence your policy is/will be effective?
3. Are you spending money?
4. Is that expenditure the most effective use of taxpayer dollars right now?
5. Is your bill written in the most effective and responsible form?

I think these are really reasonable questions that this committee can and does ask of almost every issue you discuss.

But for some reason, when it comes to voter ID, we forget to ask those questions and instead say "We have to pass this now because it's a no-brainer and people are nervous about voter fraud!"

I know time is short today, so I literally have time to answer one of these questions, so I choose Question 2. I'd love to discuss the others if you have questions.

*Is there evidence your policy is/will be effective?* I don't question for a second that many people are feeling unsure about our election process. Public trust in elections is, for me, value No. 1 when it comes to supporting legislation. That's why I think it's so important you know that there is exactly zero valid evidence proving that voter ID laws make anyone feel better about the state of elections, or even the existence of voter fraud.

Last year, researchers conducted the largest data analysis of voter ID laws that I've ever seen -- sampling more than 1 billion-with-a-B instances of voter behavior collected between 2008 and 2016, and they concluded, and I'm quoting: "Voter ID laws have no effect on fraud, either actual or perceived." Actual or perceived. They continue, "We do not find any significant effect of the laws on either [the actual number of fraud cases] or [the likelihood that they get detected and reported]." They did acknowledge that "The lack of effect on detected fraud does not preclude effects on voter beliefs on election integrity." So they investigated that too, and found: "We find the laws had no significant effect on the perceived occurrence

of voter impersonation, multiple voting, or non-citizen voting.” In normal person language, that means: people who are worried about voter fraud feel just as worried about it after a voter ID law is passed.”

My three minutes are up, so I hope I get to answer some questions. But if not, I want to acknowledge that I know at this point we're really just having a conversation, but it is a conversation that many of us take very seriously. Voter ID has somehow become exempt from the scrutiny we normally give to public policy questions, and I'd encourage you to ask these questions today.

Thank you for your time.