

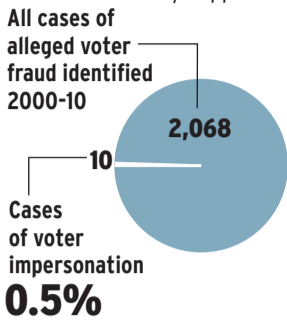
Focus | POLITICS



THE TURNOUT FACTOR

IS IT A PROBLEM?

According to a News21* survey, alleged voter impersonation fraud rarely happens.



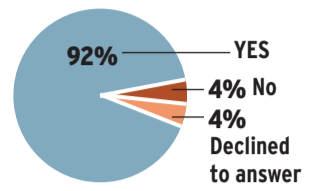
*News21 is a Carnegie-Knight investigative-reporting program at Arizona State University

Americans will soon decide who will lead the country for the next four years. But this year the makeup of the electorate could be markedly different from previous elections. For starters, several states across the country have instituted new voter ID laws they

claim will reduce fraud, legislation that is being challenged as discriminating against older, poorer voters. Additionally, younger voters aren't nearly as enthusiastic as they were in 2008, but more unemployed voters are expected at the polls.

IS IT A HARDSHIP?

Registered voters were asked after the 2008 election: **Do you currently have an up-to-date driver's license or state-issued photo ID card?**



WHY IT MATTERS

Any change in who votes because of new voter ID laws, low young voter turnout or high unemployed turnout could be a deciding factor in the election.

VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS

Thirty states have enacted some form of voter ID law. Proponents say the measures are necessary to combat voter fraud. Opponents argue in-person voter impersonation does not occur often enough to risk suppressing potential voters. Federal law requires first-time voters who registered by mail to bring a photo ID or copy of a current bill or bank statement

when voting. Some states encouraged voters to bring ID, but before 2006 no state required a government-issued ID in order to vote. By 2011 only three states did not have and did not consider a voter ID law. Some states need preclearance before changing voters laws, a requirement created in the Voting Rights Act for states with a history of voter discrimination.



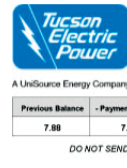
STRICT PHOTO ID

Voters must have specific ID (license, passport). Voters without approved ID can use a provisional ballot, but must return within a few days with ID for ballot to count.



VARIOUS PHOTO IDs

Many IDs allowed, such as student ID cards. Some states have a process for voters without photo ID to still vote.



NON-PHOTO IDs

Photo ID not required. Some states may require people without ID to return with valid ID, such as a driver's license.

NO VOTER ID LAW

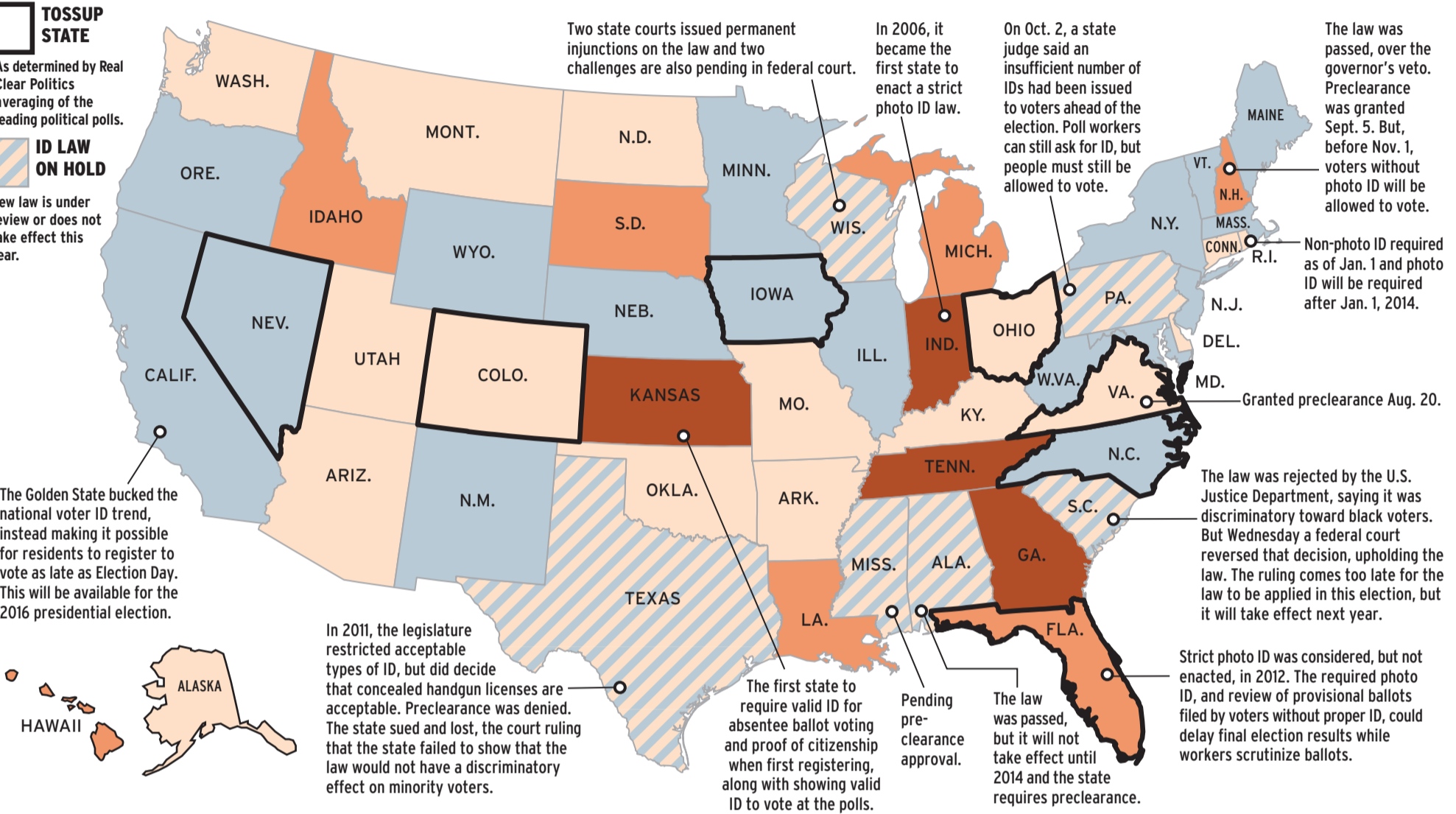
Voters are not required to show ID to vote. They may be required to sign their name as proof of identity.

TOSSUP STATE

As determined by Real Clear Politics averaging of the leading political polls.

ID LAW ON HOLD

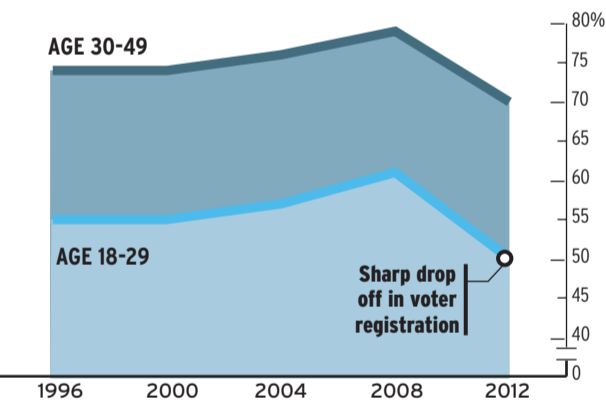
New law is under review or does not take effect this year.



Young turnout declining?

Youth participation in the 2008 presidential election reached new highs, but research shows fewer young people are prepared to vote this November. In most of this election cycle Obama maintained a lead with the young, 56 to 39 percent in September. But Romney pulled ahead in October at 49 to 46 percent in the same voter group.

PERCENT OF PEOPLE CERTAIN THEY ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE



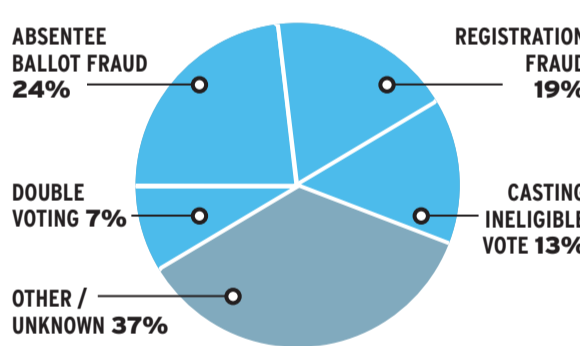
"Americans between 25 and 54 years old are much more likely to vote in presidential elections than younger adults. But though they'll probably decide who occupies the Oval Office in January and who sits in Congress, it's the young who have much more at stake."

KEITH HALL
SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Voter fraud cases

A News21 report, based on public records requests and review of official documents and media reports, found 2,068 reported election fraud cases since 2000. A New York Times analysis of all types of voter fraud in 2007 found 120 cases filed by the Justice Department over five years.

ALLEGATIONS OF VOTER FRAUD, 2000-10



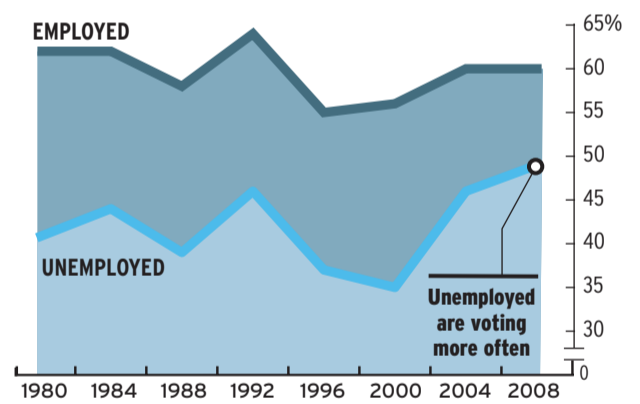
"They (state of Indiana) recite various examples of problems that the challenged law would not solve. They fail, however, to provide any evidence that in-person impersonation fraud – the only misconduct that photo ID rules could possibly prevent – is a problem, let alone one justifying the burdens of a restrictive photo ID rule."

BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE
BRIEF FILED FOR CRAWFORD V. MARION COUNTY ELECTION BOARD CASE, A DISPUTE OVER INDIANA'S PHOTO ID LAW

Voices of the unemployed

Most traditional analysis suggests economic hardship decreases voter turnout. But new research shows that sour employment statistics can invigorate participation, lessening turnout disparity between the employed and unemployed.

PERCENT WHO VOTED, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS



"Other things being equal, higher unemployment increases the vote shares of Democratic candidates. The effect is greatest when Republicans are the incumbent party, but Democrats benefit from unemployment even when they are in control."

JOHN R. WRIGHT
POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR, OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Sources: National Conference of State Legislatures; Pro Publica; News 21; Brennan Center for Justice; New York Times; Associated Press; Kansas Secretary of State; Pew Research Center; U.S. Census Bureau; University of Wisconsin-Madison and Marquette University study; Washington Post; Los Angeles Times; 2008 Collaborative Multiracial Post-election study

Reporting by **SONYA QUICK**, graphic by **SCOTT BROWN** / The Register

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