GOT ID?

Helping Americans Get Voter Identification

April 2012

Table of Contents

Page

Introduction 3

I. Basic Elements of a Program 5

II. How to Create a Coalition 6

III. Identifying Citizens Who Need Help 7

IV. Helping Citizens Obtain Birth Certificates 10

V. Helping Citizens Get State ID 11

VI..Tracking the Program 13

Conclusion and Summary of Recommended Best Practices 15

Acknowledgments

The authors of this report would like to extend great thanks to Keesha Gaskins, Senior Counsel in the Brennan Center's Democracy Program, for her great assistance in this project.

The authors would also like to thank the people and organizations that took the time to speak about their projects to help voters acquire ID so they can participate in our democracy. Your knowledge and hard work were essential to writing this report. Special thanks to: Dana Schultz, 9 to 5 Milwaukee; Anita Johnson, Citizen Action Wisconsin; Andrea Kaminski, League of Women Voters Wisconsin; Carolyn Castore, League of Women Voters Wisconsin; Gail Bliss, League of Women Voters Dane County; Joyce McCullum & Helen Schwartz, League of Women Voters Green Bay; Jayme Montgomery Baker, League of Young Voters Wisconsin; Mandela Barnes, Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope; Paul Sickel, Milwaukee Grad Assistant Association; Jorna Taylor, Wisconsin Voices; Mary Mancini, Citizen Action Tennessee; Michelle Jackson, Jackson Transit Authority; Harrell Carter, NAACP Jackson City; Krissa Barcla, Office of Congressman James Cooper; Representative JoAnne Favors; Monica Kimball, Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment; Phil Phillips, Tennessee Voter Assistance Coalition and Linda Olson, Colorado Legal Services.

VOTING IS CELEBRATED AS THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL FORM OF CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN A DEMOCRACY, A MEANS BY WHICH ALL VOICES ARE COUNTED ON AN EQUAL BASIS.

Democracy works best when all eligible persons are able to participate and make their voices heard. This ideal is under attack because of restrictive photo identification laws passed recently in many states that will prevent hundreds of thousands of eligible persons from participating in elections.

At the time this report was written, 10 states[1] had passed legislation imposing strict government-issued photo identification requirements for voters to present at the polls in order to cast a ballot. Similar legislation has been proposed by state legislatures across the country. The voting rights community has fought against such unreasonably restrictive photo identification requirements because they prevent eligible voters from participating, impose enormous and unjustified costs on states, and do not serve the goals that are put forward for these laws.

At the same time, in order to ensure that eligible voters can vote, advocates must adapt to the new reality in the states where restrictive photo ID laws have already been enacted, by taking steps to assist eligible voters in obtaining the necessary IDs.

Millions of citizens residing in states with these restrictive laws do not currently possess the requisite photo ID,[2] and may be unable to exercise their right to vote on Election Day. Studies show that those without ID are disproportionately likely to be African American, Latino, low-income voters, young adults, senior citizens, and people with disabilities. For many of these eligible persons, it is no simple matter to obtain the necessary ID – the hurdles involved can make doing so difficult, and in some cases, impossible.

In response to these new requirements, organizations in some affected states have established "Got ID?" programs designed to assist citizens who wish to obtain photo ID in order to vote. However, more of these efforts are needed, and this need will only increase as strict ID laws pass in other states. New programs to assist individuals in obtaining IDs can benefit from the experience and lessons learned from organizations currently undertaking such efforts. Interviews with representatives of some of the organizations with experience running "Got ID?" programs in Wisconsin, Tennessee, and Colorado have yielded a number of "best-practice" recommendations.

Create a diverse, engaged coalition

Programs are most effective when they engage a broad coalition of organizations. A successful coalition ideally includes organizations representing those most affected by photo ID laws – such as communities of color, youth, disability, low-income, seniors, women, and transgendered groups; organizations with established programs aiding people to obtain ID – such as social service agencies, service providers, legal services, local bar associations, poverty groups and homeless shelters; and groups with established and trusted community links – such as faith, labor or community organizations.

Develop relationships with government agencies and elected officials

The program will need to work with social security agencies, the Department of Voter Vehicles (DMV), and state vital statistics offices, so their cooperation is critical. Additionally, friendly elected officials may be able to use political influence to expedite various parts of the process.

Prepare to identify impacted voters

Voters may not be aware of new requirements on ID, so it is important to reach them well in advance of Election Day. To the extent that it is possible to crosscheck DMV records against current registration rolls, this can significantly expedite identifying individuals that need assistance. Where that is not available, an extensive community outreach strategy, using schools, faith communities, labor unions and other community organizations coupled with an earned and free media strategy to local papers, radio stations, television and social networking to raise awareness of changes to the law can also help identify individuals that need assistance.

Facilitate transportation for voters

DMV offices, which provide the largest source of acceptable IDs, often are situated in inconvenient locations and are not open at convenient times. A number of programs, working with other organizations or the local transit authority, have addressed these problems by arranging free or reduced transport to DMV offices.

Identify sources of internet access

In many states, information about getting identification and resources for getting underlying documents such as birth certificates are online. In some states a birth certificate can be requested online, though in many of these states doing so may mean additional fees that do not apply to mail and in-person requests. Providing access to the Internet may help voters access key information and save them a lengthy trip to a government office.

Seek out potential sources to offset costs

States enacting strict ID laws often use rhetoric about IDs being available free of charge. Many times, however, the reality does not match the rhetoric, because the documentation required to qualify for ID – such as birth certificates, passports, or naturalization papers – is not free and indeed may be very costly for persons of limited means. Legislation at the state or local level to provide free birth certificates can be a tremendous help. Where that is not possible, identifying other sources of public or private funding to help offset costs for individuals can be extremely important.

Follow up with voters

It is essential to follow up with voters to ensure that they make it to the polls, especially if they also require assistance on Election Day. A program should create a database which tracks each voter's needs as well as problems they may have encountered in the process.

Voting is a fundamental right. Unfortunately, that right is being threatened in many states around the country. Individuals and groups that want to help those at risk of being disenfranchised by such laws can do so by starting a "Got ID?" program in their community. Following these best practice guidelines will help to ensure that more people who are eligible to vote can continue to do so.

Introduction

In 2011-2012, eight states – Kansas, Wisconsin, Alabama, South Carolina, Texas, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Mississippi (by ballot initiative) – joined Georgia and Indiana in enacting laws that deny the right to vote to anyone who cannot present restrictively defined government-issued photo identification at the polls. Most commonly, these require a driver's license or state-issued photo ID, often with additional restrictions such as requiring the ID to include a current address and have an expiration date.

Research, surveys, and comparisons of Department of Transportation records and voter registration lists undertaken by election officials and independent analysts consistently demonstrate that millions of Americans across these states do not have the identification the government is now insisting they present in order to exercise their right to vote. We also know that those without the requisite identification are more likely to be African Americans, Latinos, low-income voters, young people, senior citizens, women, and people with disabilities.[3]

For many citizens, obtaining the documentation needed will be extremely difficult and for some, impossible.

Local, state and national organizations across the country are fighting these bills in the legislatures and in the courts. The Department of Justice barred implementation of South Carolina's and Texas's voter ID laws because they were found racially discriminatory in violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.[4]

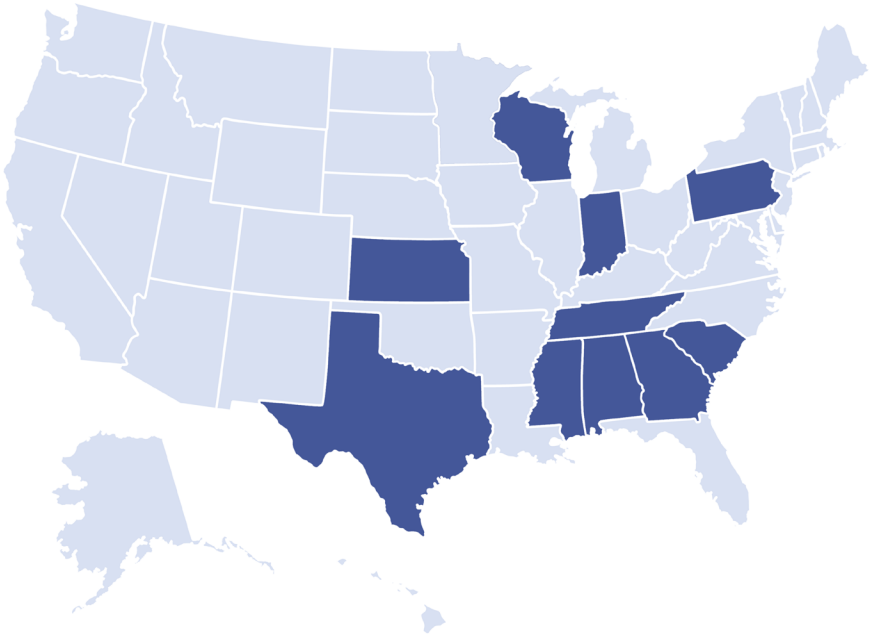
Nevertheless, for the most part, those who care about voting rights must deal with reality. A number of states will have these disenfranchising laws in place for the 2012 presidential and congressional elections. Therefore, **it is now necessary to do everything possible to ensure that people who are eligible to vote are able to do so and are not blocked by these unnecessary restrictions to the ballot box.** This includes helping citizens in the states with harsh laws to obtain the photo ID they need, in many instances on a voter by voter basis.

While voting rights advocates would rather spend time and resources encouraging Americans to vote on Election Day, too many of our fellow citizens will not be able to vote unless we undertake action to assist eligible voters in obtaining photo ID.

Community leaders in Tennessee and Wisconsin have been at the forefront in recognizing this need to assist voters in obtaining a qualifying photo ID. Since last summer, many have been engaging in a range of activities to help people in their communities acquire photo ID. These organizations, community groups and concerned individuals, who have been helping eligible voters obtain necessary identification, are learning from their ongoing experiences and their programs are evolving accordingly.

The authors of this report conducted interviews with leaders and members of several different organizations doing this work in Wisconsin and Tennessee in order to determine what they are doing, how they are doing it, what they find is working well and what challenges they are confronting.[5] Using this knowledge, this report makes recommendations for other groups that wish to take on this mission.[6]

10 states have passed laws requiring government-issued photo ID to vote.



This report would not be possible without the cooperation and assistance of those we interviewed. Organizations interviewed include:

TENNESSEE

Citizen Action Tennessee, Jackson Transit Authority, NAACP Jackson City, the Office of Congressman James Cooper (D-TN), the Office of Rep. JoAnne Favors (D-TN), Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment and Tennessee Voter Assistance Coalition (Chattanooga, TN)

WISCONSIN

9to5 Milwaukee, Citizen Action Wisconsin, League of Women Voters Wisconsin, League of Women Voters Dane County, League of Women Voters Green Bay, League of Young Voters Wisconsin, Milwaukee Graduate Assistant Association, Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH) and Wisconsin Voices

COLORADO

Colorado Collaborative ID Project

For more information about these organizations and the great work they are doing, please SEE APPENDIX A.

There are undoubtedly many other efforts going on in these states and others in addition to the ones we have been able to document here. We hope to provide the impetus for the beginning of a dialogue and exchange of ideas and information across the states that are confronting the ID obstacle this year.

I. Basic Elements of a Program

The process of obtaining state-issued photo ID can potentially be time consuming, and it is important to start the process well in advance of the state's voter registration deadline. Any program to help individuals obtain IDs should start as soon as possible.

There are several key elements of a program to help people to get necessary voter identification.

1 The first step for a program should be for all staff and volunteers to develop a familiarity with the process and requirements for obtaining the required ID in your state.

2 The next step is for an organization to identify eligible voters in need of photo ID.

3 The third step is to ascertain whether the eligible voter has or needs the necessary underlying documentation to obtain a government-issued photo ID. If not, then an organization must be prepared to assist in or identify resources for voters to obtain the underlying documentation to obtain a photo ID.

4 The fourth step is to assist the voter in navigating the process to acquire a government-issued photo ID.

5 Finally, the organization must have the mechanisms to record the necessary information to follow up with each voter assisted to ensure they are properly registered to vote and have all the information needed to get to the polls on Election Day.

This process requires careful follow-through. Once an individual is identified who does not have the requisite voter identification, it must be ascertained if that person has the underlying documents, particularly a birth certificate, that will be necessary to get voter identification. If that person does not have a birth certificate, which must be a certified copy, he or she will need assistance getting – and money to pay for – the birth certificate.

Eligible voters may need help navigating the bureaucratic maze involved in applying to departments of vital statistics for a birth certificate. In Tennessee the birth certificate can cost up to $15 with an additional $5 fee to expedite the process.[7] In Wisconsin the birth certificate costs $20 with a fee of another $20 to expedite the process.[8] In the best case, this means going through the application process online (where available), which of course necessitates access to the Internet.

Moreover, online applications for birth certificates may require payment of additional fees to third-party vendors that process the internet orders, as is the case in Tennessee.[9]

To do this in person, an individual must show up at the department's office during limited weekday hours. In any event, this process can require persistence, especially in cases in which the individual was born in another state, or was not born in a hospital (not uncommon for elderly citizens) and never had a birth certificate.

A citizen is also required to present other types of identification documents in order to get the birth certificate – sometimes, ironically, a driver's license or a combination of documents that include such items as credit cards, a passport and utility bills.

For citizens who do have their birth certificate the next step is to go to the Department of Motor Vehicles to apply for a photo ID acceptable for voting. Individuals may need help to ensure they understand and bring the necessary documentation, or may need help accessing DMV offices which are often only open on weekdays and may be far away and/or inaccessible through public transportation.

The next step for groups is to do follow-up. A tracking system for individuals assisted is desirable; there should be ongoing contact to ensure that the person acquired the necessary photo ID, is properly registered and is ready to vote in 2012 and beyond.

II. How to Create a Coalition

With millions of voters expected to be impacted by new restrictive voter ID laws, the ability to reach voters most at risk to lose their voting rights will depend on the ability to build and maintain strong coalitions to conduct the outreach and implement the programs to help get photo IDs to voters.

A successful coalition needs one group or person to take the lead to serve as the intermediary between other coalition members and help coordinate the efforts and goals of the coalition. For example, Wisconsin Voices in Wisconsin and Representative JoAnne Favors in Tennessee have served as leaders to provide guidance and build the coalition to help with ID acquisition.

Once those leaders are identified it is crucial to build a diverse coalition that will represent all the communities affected by the government-issued photo identification law. Minority, youth, disability, homeless and senior organizations are natural coalition allies because those communities are often most affected by these ID laws.

Social service agencies, service providers, legal services, local bar associations, poverty groups, homeless shelters and advocacy organizations may have already established programs that have aided people in obtaining IDs to receive benefits or services or register to vote. The

faith community, labor, and community-based organizations are also crucial partners to help organize and reach out to targeted communities because they have trusted relationships with their members.

A diverse coalition will help determine an effective division of labor because each group will bring different abilities and resources. In Colorado, for example, the Collaborative ID Project has multiple partners; in this coalition Metro Caring handles all ID requests when only financial assistance is required. Anything more complicated, such as locating a birth certificate, or applying for a name change, is handled by Legal Services.

Relationships with elected officials such as state legislators, city council members, and election administrations can also help with the ID acquisition process. While this may already be a part of regular organizational programming, new allies may emerge on the issue of voter access for constituents without ID.

Elected leaders can use their official power to communicate with their constituents about the changes to the law and direct them to groups that will help the acquisition process. Local officials, such as city council members, can use their relationships with local transit authorities to secure rides to the DMV as they have in Jackson, Tennessee. These officials also can create programs that provide free birth certificates from departments of vital statistics as they have in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Apart from the help they can provide in the ID acquisition process, getting elected officials involved is important to provide them with hands-on experience as to the challenges people face in obtaining ID. The experience will allow them to better understand the impact of these suppressive laws on their constituents and hopefully help future advocacy efforts to either make changes or repeal the law.

Social security agencies, the DMV, and state vital statistics will provide the documents for ID acquisition, so it is important to also develop relationships with these agencies. Anyone who has waited to get their driver's license in a new state knows the patience sometimes needed in dealing with these types of agencies. Take time to understand the requirements and state procedures and understand that the people at the office window are following their training requirements. Allied agency staff can help streamline the acquisition process.

In Colorado, years of relationship building has enhanced the process of obtaining ID for clients. In the beginning of the Collaborative ID Project, staff and clients would often go back and forth to the motor vehicle offices only to find that they still did not have sufficient documentation to get the ID. By working closely with agency staff, and working together to address problems people were having in obtaining the necessary documents, the Colorado Collaborative ID Project has established a working relationship that has saved time and resources. Now, staff at Legal Services, a coalition partner, can evaluate over email whether or not a client has sufficient documentation to obtain ID rather than making multiple trips down to the DMV office.

III. Identifying Citizens Who Need Help

A fundamental challenge to groups who want to make sure that all eligible voters have the opportunity to vote is locating the people who do not have the acceptable photo ID and need help getting it. Since not all voters who need help will know where to find help, it is important that organizations reach out to the community and find the people who need the most help. Groups have devised a variety of ways to do this with varying degrees of success.

a. Using available data from voter registration lists and DMV lists

One way to identify voters that will need photo ID, is to identify registered voters who do not appear on department of motor vehicle lists as having a state-

issued ID or driver's license. While list-matching is not a perfect methodology, for these purposes it is a good place to start to identify previously registered voters who do not have a state-issued photo ID.

Wisconsin Voices is a good example of a group using this approach. Through relationships developed with a DMV official in Milwaukee, Wisconsin Voices facilitated an open records request that gave them access to 2.1 million records of people with driver's licenses that will be cross-referenced with VAN, a voter contact and management system that many organizations use for their civic engagement programs. Wisconsin Voices was able to match 1.3 million records from their file to help identify individuals that may need government-issued photo IDs.

In some areas, this type of matching effort may be limited by state privacy laws. However, where the relevant data are available, this can be a tremendous resource to effectively target efforts to help individuals obtain ID.

b. Publicize the effort

Another approach to identifying voters in need is to widely publicize the efforts of the NGOs that are helping voters obtain photo ID. This is accomplished in many ways, through both traditional and social media, as well as targeted outreach in churches, community events and individual letters. Again, this method is most likely to attract the attention of likely voters rather than all eligible voters, but thus far it has been demonstrated to be particularly effective where the messenger employed is trusted by the community.

Tennessee

To ensure that eligible voters can meet the new restrictive law on photo ID, the Tennessee Voters Assistance Coalition reaches out to individuals through its individual partners – labor groups, churches, students and teachers at colleges and universities, and the volunteer efforts of individual Tennesseans. The coalition finds people by word of mouth, Facebook, items in free weekly newspapers, weekly church bulletins, and on radio programs.

The coalition updates a half sheet of information about the new ID requirement and how to get involved approximately every two weeks, and people working with the Coalition take that to their churches and other community organizations to be printed in newsletters. After learning about the issue through events and advertising, individuals contact the group asking for assistance. Additionally, Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment in Tennessee is planning on working with Lane College, a historically black college, and its sororities and fraternities to do a major door-to-door outreach operation.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin League of Young Voters (LYV) is focusing its efforts on publicizing its work to help voters obtain photo ID. LYV is targeting the African American community generally, not necessarily youth. Their only youth-specific activity is working with the Milwaukee public schools to reach out to high school seniors who will be eligible to vote.

In June 2011, the LYV began attending community events and festivals, distributing surveys about the election and asking people if they had acceptable photo ID. Out of 1200 surveys distributed, 200 people notified LYV that they were in need of photo ID. While effective in identifying people who need help, LYV found this process too resource intensive and consequently stopped the program.

Since then, LYV primarily employs a strategy of seeking people out through a text message campaign. In addition, LYV has undertaken a door-to-door canvass operation in communities of color. The group distributes flyers in various places with information about the new photo ID requirement, telling people to text LYV with questions about the election (SEE APPENDIX B). LYV also advertises the text number through radio advertisements.

The League of Young Voters also made YouTube videos with young people talking about the importance of voting, ending with a call to text the group if they have questions or need help with ID.[10] If someone indicates in their text message they are in need of ID, the text is converted automatically into an email that goes to LYV staff for follow up.

There are several programs in Wisconsin that are working to educate and help students to get registered and a photo ID to vote. The Milwaukee-based "Be a Voter!" campaign targets the approximately 30,000 students at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Latino community leaders have also begun outreach to the Milwaukee Area Technical College, a 2-year institution that enrolls over 50,000 students that are predominantly lower-income.

Milwaukee Graduate Assistant Association (MGAA) is working to identify a "high risk" population of students that has some interest in politics but is not necessarily drawn to the political process. MGAA is planning to collect a full-list of enrolled students, and then start matching those names against the Civic Engagement File (CEF), the list of voters and their voting records also known as the VAN. The CEF is used to prioritize outreach to those students who are the most likely to need assistance with voter registration and requirements for ID compliance. The target population includes people that have only voted in one presidential election or who have never voted in the past. MGAA intends to use classrooms to target large audiences with two-minute explanations of new ID restrictions.

Once the targets are identified, MGAA plans to make 20,000 phone calls using a predictive dialer, which allows the user to load phone numbers into a database and then press automatic dial for greater speed. The phone call will allow them to survey students to identify who needs photo ID and to serve as a "contact point" to remind students to register to vote if they aren't already registered.

Citizen Action Wisconsin targeted its outreach at churches and senior citizen groups. Citizen Action will expand its reach into senior citizen centers in low-income communities. It will recruit volunteers to go door-to-door in areas with the lowest voter turnout rates to do voter registration and offer help with getting photo ID. It is anticipated that the door-to-door activity will be the most effective way to find the people who do not have photo ID and can benefit from the organization's help. Citizen Action Wisconsin is also planning on working with the teachers' association to do presentations for high school seniors who may be eighteen before the next election.

Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope's (MICAH) target population are members of its inner-city congregations. MICAH intends to set up regular community forums, and will use a variety of flyers in churches and digital communication outreach to publicize its work.

9to5 is focusing its outreach efforts on young adults and low-income women. It is going into workforce centers, speaking with its membership, and speaking to high school seniors in both traditional and alternative high schools to discuss Wisconsin's photo ID requirement and to determine which potential voters need assistance obtaining photo ID. For voters identifying a need for assistance in getting photo ID, 9to5 tracks them in a database and has a follow-up program to ensure the voters get the necessary photo ID.

League of Women Voters Dane County and League of Women Voter Green Bay are assisting voters in low-income housing units, the large Hmong community in Green Bay and in the Latino community through church outreach with voter education efforts and helping to coordinate resources for voters who lack the requisite photo ID. League of Women Voters continues to have forums on photo ID and other voter education issues that draw significant community and press attention.

Colorado

The Colorado Collaborative ID Project has a listserv of social service providers and does regular outreach and communication with this list about changes to the laws and opportunities for training or community presentations.

CHALLENGES CONFRONTED

Finding the people who need assistance obtaining identification

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Obtain DMV records and voter registration lists and cross check them to identify individuals who do not appear to have a driver's license.
2. Advocate for legislation that would mandate the state provide a cross-check between the statewide voter registration system and the Department of Transportation to identify people who are registered but have no state ID.[11]

3. Work with houses of worship, colleges, senior citizen centers, the disabled community, and labor unions. Go door-to-door in areas identified as being more likely to have citizens without the requisite ID.
4. Match student enrollment lists with voter files. Contact students who have limited or no voter participation in the past.
5. Do presentations for high school seniors who may be eighteen before the next election. Work with the teachers' unions.
6. Distribute surveys with contact information at major community events with clear information on how to get assistance.
7. Distribute flyers and advertise on radio to tell people to text the organization if they have questions regarding the election. Simulate LYV's program whereby the text takes one through a series of questions, and if someone indicates he or she is in need of ID, the text is converted automatically into an email that goes to LYV staff for follow up.
8. Build ID questions and information into existing voter registration programs.
9. Not included in the interviews but recommended: reach out to people utilizing homeless facilities, legal aid, and public assistance agencies.

IV. Helping Citizens Obtain Birth Certificates

Having a certified copy of one's birth certificate is usually an absolute prerequisite to obtaining identification from a DMV. However, many people do not have their birth certificate, have lost it, or never had one in the first place. As a result, getting a birth certificate is often the first step that needs to be taken to get ID to vote. The process for doing so can be costly and complex. Many voters will need assistance. Organizations provide this aid in a number of ways:

a. Help to navigate the system

The Tennessee Voter Assistance Coalition is working with the clergy to connect people to parishioners who have internet access and are willing to help them through the process of ordering a birth certificate. The coalition is especially concerned about people who were not born in Tennessee and must request birth certificates from other states which can be time consuming, complicated and costly.

The League of Women Voters Dane County has volunteers helping voters to fill out online registration forms for state vital statistics and figure out what documents are needed to get the birth certificate. Once those are collected, all forms and documents come into the League office and they make three copies (one for the voter, one for League records, and the third gets mailed to the state). Since the League was able to get funding for helping people get birth certificates, the organization writes a check directly to the state and includes it when mailing the application. The return address is the voter's. A volunteer later follows up with the person and offers a ride to the DMV to help get the free ID. So far the League has processed 24 birth certificates.

The Colorado Collaborative ID Project relies on its partner, Legal Services, to help people obtain birth certificates (and other documents necessary for ID if birth certificates cannot be obtained). Staff will assist with completing paperwork, cover the financial costs, and at times submit legal affidavits on behalf of clients which might be the only means to obtain the birth certificate. Staff at times go to Social Security with clients to address any issues with a client's name. For example, someone might need to get his or her name changed or an amended birth certificate because documents have to match. In one instance, a client was raised by his father from the time he was 2-years-old, and all of his documents, including school records, had the father's last name. When he needed to get an ID and a birth certificate

was finally found, it had his birth mother's last name on it. In order to get an ID, a legal name change was necessary.

b. Financial assistance

All of the groups with which we spoke indicated a desire to provide financial assistance to the individuals they work with. As mentioned earlier, even if the ID itself is free, there are often costs associated with obtaining the underlying documentation needed. However, of the groups we spoke with, only Wisconsin Voices, the Dane County League of Women Voters in Wisconsin, and the Colorado ID Project have been able to raise funds to provide financial assistance to clients in need of obtaining ID.

The Milwaukee Board of Advisers passed a measure in the fall of 2011 that would provide 5,000 free birth certificates to Milwaukee County residents who apply for them for the purposes of obtaining voter identification and declare in writing they cannot afford the $20 fee. The Board estimated the cost at $100,000 which would be paid for from other fees the county Register of Deeds collects.[12] (SEE APPENDIX C)The Dane County, Wisc. Board of Advisers has also announced plans to waive the $20 fee for residents who need copies of birth certificates in order to vote. [13]

CHALLENGES CONFRONTED

1. Funding to help people defray the cost of a birth certificate
2. Time: applying and processing times for obtaining a birth certificate can be lengthy. The Colorado Collaborative ID Project pointed out that this is especially a problem for voters born out of state. If a citizen is from California it could take seven months to get an amended birth certificate. Some states are much easier to work with than others. Colorado Collaborative ID Project has collected a notebook of which offices are better than others.
3. Elderly citizens who never had birth certificates
4. Citizens who do not have the documents to get a birth certificate
5. Citizens whose names on their birth certificates do not match the name on other necessary documents

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. State and local legislatures should make birth certificates free for people who need it since this is a necessary prerequisite to getting voter identification.
2. There should be arrangements with each state's department of vital statistics to provide an expedited process for citizens needing birth certificates for the purposes of voting.
3. Waiver of the birth certificate requirement for residents age 70 and older who need an ID and who have other documentation proving citizenship but are unable to get a certified birth certificate.[14]
4. Provide internet access and help voters through the process of getting their birth certificate online.
5. Advocate that states waive requirements to send in a copy of a photo ID in order to get a certified birth certificate if the applicant is requesting one for the purposes of voting.[15]

V. Helping Citizens Get State ID

a. Providing transportation

Given that a driver's license is the most typical form of ID required to vote, it stands to reason that citizens without identification do not necessarily have an easy way to physically get to the offices they need to go to in order to get ID, particularly the Department of Motor Vehicles. This is especially true in those areas in which DMVs are few and far between. For example, some voters in Texas will have to travel up to 176 miles roundtrip to get to an office to obtain identification.[16]

The situation is similar in Tennessee. Tennesseans must get voter identification through the Department of Motor Vehicles.[17] However, DMV offices that can provide this service exist in less than half the counties.[18]

One promising measure is actually being taken by public authorities. In Tennessee, the Jackson Transit Authority has volunteered to provide free bus rides to the Department of Motor Vehicles on the "Technology Center" bus for individuals who need to go there for voter identification (SEE APPENDIX D). Hourly rides will be available on March 19-23; April 23-27; June 25-29; July 2-3 and 5-6; and August 24 and 27-31. To advertise the service, the Transit Authority has sent out a press release and will send out the release prior to the service starting. Two radio programs have advertised the service. The cost of the program is being absorbed by the agency's annual budget.

The Tennessee Voters Assistance Coalition has been able to get local churches to volunteer their buses and vans to take people to the DMV. If the LYV in Wisconsin discovers someone without ID, a representative first asks if the individual has the underlying documents needed. If he or she does, the LYV will schedule a time to take him or her to the DMV as they are able to provide transportation if needed.

Citizen Action Wisconsin is working on getting churches to let them use a van to take people to DMVs to get ID. As of now, it has no resources to provide transportation to the DMV but would like to do so.

According to press reports, in Wisconsin, a Waukesha-based advocacy program for people with developmental disabilities "under the umbrella of a program known as ACAP, or the Adaptive Community Approach Program... is engaged in a voter accessibility project... Since starting the project, they've found potential leads on accessible transportation through Waukesha County's Aging and Disability Resource Center...They're trying to get a handle on how people can find a birth certificate, for example, or find their way to the Division of Motor Vehicles to get a state-issued ID card when they can't drive there."[19]

Churches in the Milwaukee area are also providing transportation to DMVs for the purposes of getting voter identification, including the St. Mark AME Metropolitan Baptist and the New Covenant Missionary Baptist.[20]

Through a grant it received, the League of Women Voters Dane County has volunteers who can drive people to the DMV. The group plans to use part of the grant money to publicize on the sides of buses to reach out to the non-driving community.

b. DMV accessibility

Another issue is the limited hours of service many DMVs provide. In Tennessee for example, many have limited weekday-only hours, stopping services before 5 p.m., adding a particular burden on working men and women. In an attempt to address this problem, the Tennessee Voters Assistance Coalition was able to get 20 DMV offices to open on the first Saturday of every month from December to March, when the first election requiring ID takes place.

Staff of the Colorado Collaborative ID Project and their clients used to sit for hours at motor vehicle and social security offices to wait for staff to get answers and get documents. Through long-term relationship building, now the staff is able to communicate via email, and is recognized when they come into the offices so clients who are elderly or disabled do not have sit for hours to get service. Staff can email their contacts at DMV ahead of time to verify that the underlying identification documents they collected will be sufficient to bring a client in to get ID. If not, the organization can continue to gather what is needed without having the client make the trip to the DMV office.

c. Publicity

Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment in Tennessee and Tennessee Citizen Action are working with the city sanitation department to have sanitation workers leave information on voter identification requirements on doors and stoops during regular waste collection.

Wisconsin Voices has made a series of flyers explaining what is needed to obtain government-issued identification, including a flowchart to show the process of obtaining ID. These documents are made available to the public and distributed through grassroots organizations.

League of Women Voters Dane County is disseminating information through flyers and church bulletins, going on local radio shows, and speaking at community meetings.

d. Individualized outreach

Tennessee Citizen Action will be going door-to-door and staffing tables at local grocery stories and town centers. It will reach outside urban areas into key rural populations.

MGAA hopes to engage in a sophisticated, multilevel campaign. The goal is to introduce a check-list/card of things to do to be a voter. MGAA will also request students to fill out pledge cards that can then be used for follow-up and to ensure students have the necessary ID to vote. Once MGAA discovers students who need ID, MGAA will conduct direct outreach and contact with the students and walk them through the process of getting ID. The organization intends to specifically track and follow up with each student that needs ID.

.

CHALLENGES CONFRONTED

1. Having the proper documentation
2. Getting to a DMV during its open hours
3. Lack of access to DMV due to physical or mental disability; voters with disabilities are not exempt from these laws[21]

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Local transit authorities everywhere should provide and advertise free bus rides to the Department of Motor Vehicles for people seeking ID for voting purposes. Also these transit authorities should work with organizations to get the word out.
2. Get DMVs to expand hours especially close to election times and open up satellite offices where DMVs are not in close proximity to citizens.
3. Organize programs for free rides to the DMV. Work with other organizations, churches, senior centers, unions and schools to do so.
4. Allow persons with disabilities or elderly individuals to schedule appointments at the DMV to avoid the long waits. For homebound or institutionalized individuals, have either a mobile unit to go to their homes, or accept an alternative means of submitting documentation.[22]
5. Work with the city sanitation department to have sanitation workers leave information on voter identification requirements on doors and stoops during regular waste collection.
6. Make presentations at schools, houses of worship, labor unions, senior centers and other forums that may have members who need ID and/or have members of these organizations make presentations with all of the necessary information provided.

VI. Tracking the Program

a. Value of/need for tracking mechanisms

In addition to finding and assisting citizens in need of photo ID for voting, there is an additional need to track the voters after contact is made. Studies show that voters need to know not only the technical requirements to vote, but information and support to navigate the election process. Once an organization invests the considerable time and energy into assisting a voter to obtain a photo ID, it is extremely helpful to follow up with the voter to help ensure that each one makes it to the polls.

b. Tracking who is in need

Tracking assisted persons requires some sort of database system. While an established system such as Catalist, Voter Activation Network or the Voter Vault is preferred, any system that allows an organization or a coalition to have a mechanism to find key information about persons who need assistance will meet the minimum needs. Where possible, names

and contact information – including phone numbers, address and email address – should be kept on file.

c. Tracking types of need

It's also important to consider what type of information is being tracked about each voter and for the contact organization to understand the deadlines to ensure that each voter has the necessary information and documentation to vote in time. For example, we know that many organizations do not have access to funds to assist voters in obtaining underlying documentation but increasingly there are other sources to assist. Once re-directed to those sources, organizations should be following up to ensure that the underlying documentation was ordered, received and that the voter has used them to get the necessary photo ID.

Supporting these citizens may include only phone calls or emails, but could also include connecting would-be voters with transportation opportunities to get photo IDs. This all requires keeping track of timing. Follow-up to make sure a voter has requested underlying documentation must be done with enough time for the documentation to be received and the photo ID to be received from the government office providing the identification. As previously noted, a birth certificate can take weeks or sometimes months to obtain and then a photo ID must be ordered.

CHALLENGES CONFRONTED

1. Step by step tracking is typically not part of a traditional voter registration, voter education, voter outreach or GOTV program. While information is frequently collected for future contact, there is rarely a need for feedback from the voter going forward. Communication following first contact tends to be one-way unless a citizen is seeking to volunteer or is in need of specific information. As a result, setting up an infrastructure for tracking in this context may be costly and labor intensive.
2. Tracking is a time-consuming process that, when a group has limited resources, takes away from the work of identifying additional voters who may need assistance obtaining photo ID.
3. The process of creating or having access to a database can be costly.

RECOMMENDATIONS (SEE APPENDIX E)

1. Keep the tracking process simple. Use a simple spreadsheet or database that you are familiar with – do not invest in a costly database system solely for this purpose.
2. Use electronic means whenever possible. Email and text messages should be sufficient for follow-up outreach.
3. Keep track of how many attempts it takes to reach each individual or "client."
4. The tracking process should follow a simple "map" or "flowchart" that allows individuals to answer questions quickly and organizational team members can quickly assess the needs for each individual.
5. If your organization is referring individuals or "clients" to outside services, make sure that you have a way to follow up with that service and that you have a regular contact within the organization to ensure that you are able to track the progress from both directions.
6. Resolve as many issues with each individual at first contact i.e. give information about obtaining photo ID, ascertain whether they need financial assistance and register them to vote all at the same time, in order to minimize necessary follow-up.

.

VII. Conclusion and Summary of Recommended Best Practices

Organizations large and small throughout Tennessee and Wisconsin, and no doubt other states, are doing extraordinary work to help mitigate the damage done by new state laws that restrict the right to vote. Recognizing that the usual methods were not going to be sufficient in the face of this very challenging situation, they have come up with and are implementing innovative strategies to help individual Americans retain their voting rights.

Nonetheless, clearly these strategies need to be expanded and replicated to reach voters in all the states that have passed laws that seek to make voting difficult. As can be seen here, state and local elected officials, grassroots organizations, state and local agencies, labor unions, schools, houses of worship and concerned individuals all have an important role to play and need to work together to make the effort most effective.

We hope this report will open up the lines of communication among stakeholders within and across states, generate more ideas and increased resources, and that working together we can serve to preserve our most fundamental right, the right to vote.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Identifying ctizens who need help

1. Obtain DMV records and voter registration lists and cross-check them to identify individuals who do not appear to have a driver's license.
2. Advocate for legislation that would mandate the state provide a cross-check between the state-wide voter registration system and the Department of Transportation to identify people who are registered but have no state ID.[23]
3. Work with houses of worship, colleges, senior citizen centers, the disabled community, and labor unions. Go door-to-door in areas identified as being more likely to have citizens without the requisite ID.
4. Match student enrollment lists with voter files. Contact students who have limited or no voter participation in the past.
5. Do presentations for high school seniors who may be eighteen before the next election. Work with the teachers' unions.
6. Distribute surveys with contact information at major community events with clear information on how to get assistance.
7. Distribute flyers and advertise on radio to tell people to text the organization if they have questions regarding the election. Simulate LYV's program whereby the text takes one through a series of questions, and if someone indicates he or she is in need of ID, the text is converted automatically into an email that goes to LYV staff for follow up.
8. Build ID questions and information into existing voter registration programs.
9. Not included in the interviews but recommended: reach out to people utilizing homeless facilities, legal aid, public assistance agencies.

Helping citizens obtain birth certificates

1. State and local legislatures should make birth certificates free for people who need it since this is a necessary prerequisite to getting voter identification.
2. There should be arrangements with each state's department of vital statistics to provide an expedited process for citizens needing birth certificates for the purposes of voting.
3. Waiver of the birth certificate requirement for residents age 70 and older who need an ID and who have other documentation proving citizenship but are unable to get a certified birth certificate.[24]
4. Provide internet access and help voters through the process of getting their birth certificate online.
5. Advocate that states waive requirements to send in a copy of a photo ID in order to get a certified birth certificate if the applicant is requesting one for the purposes of voting.[25]

Helping citizens get state ID

1. Local transit authorities everywhere should provide and advertise free bus rides to the Department of Motor Vehicles for people seeking ID for voting purposes. Also, these transit authorities should work with organizations to get the word out.
2. Get DMVs to expand hours especially close to election times and open up satellite offices where DMVs are not in close proximity to citizens.
3. Organize programs for free rides to the DMV. Work with other organizations, churches, senior centers, unions and schools to do so.
4. Allow disabled or elderly individuals to schedule appointments at the DMV to avoid the long waits. For homebound or institutionalized individuals, have either a mobile unit go to their homes, or accept an alternative means of submitting documentation.[26]
5. Work with the city sanitation department to have sanitation workers leave information on voter identification requirements on doors and stoops during regular waste collection.
6. Make presentations at schools, houses of worship, labor unions, senior centers and other forums that may have members who need ID and/or have members of these organizations make presentations with all of the necessary information provided.

Tracking the program

1. Keep the tracking process simple. Use a simple spreadsheet or database that you are familiar with – do not invest in a costly database system solely for this purpose.
2. Use electronic means whenever possible. Email and text messages should be sufficient for follow-up outreach.
3. Keep track of how many attempts it takes to reach each individual or "client."
4. The tracking process should follow a simple "map" or "flowchart" that allows individuals to answer questions quickly and organizational team members can quickly assess the needs for each individual.
5. If your organization is referring individuals or "clients" to outside services, make sure that you have a way to follow-up with that service and that you have a regular contact within the organization to ensure that you are able to track the progress from both directions.
6. Resolve as many issues with each individual at first contact. For example, give information about obtaining photo ID, ascertain whether they need financial assistance and register them to vote all at the same time, in order to minimize necessary follow-up.

ENDNOTES

1. Such requirements are already in place in Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Tennessee, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, will be in effect in Alabama, and are pending clearance by the Department of Justice before implementation in Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas.

2. See Wendy Weiser and Lawrence Norden, "Voting Changes in 2012," Brennan Center for Justice, 2011

3. See, for example, Letter from Assistant Attorney General Thomas E. Perez, U.S. Department of Justice, Division of Civil Rights, to C. Havird Jones, Esq., Assistant Deputy Attorney General, South Carolina, December 23, 2011, re: Act R54 (objecting to South Carolina's ID law); Letter from Assistant Attorney General Thomas E. Perez, U.S. Department of Justice, Division of Civil Rights, to Keith Ingram, Director of Elections, Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of State of Texas, re S.B. 14, March 12, 2012 (objecting to Texas' voter identification law); Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, "Results of Voter Registration and Department of Public Safety Data Comparison," demonstrating 215,000 Minnesotans either don't have identification with a current address or any identification at all, as also reported in Catherine Richert, "Other States Offer Clues on How Voter ID Would Work in Minnesota," Minnesota Public Radio, April 4, 2012; Missouri Committee On Legislative Research, Oversight Division, Fiscal Note, L.R. No.: 4082-02, Bill No.: HJR 64, February 8, 2010; John Pawasarat, "The Driver License Status of the Voting Age Population in Wisconsin," Employment and Training Institute, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, June 2005; Matt A. Barreto, Stephen A. Nuno, Gabriel R. Sanchez, Voter ID Requirements and the Disenfranchisements of Latino, Black And Asian Voters, Prepared for presentation at: 2007 American Political Science Association Annual Conference, September 1, 2007; "Voter Mandates Costly to Taxpayer,"Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center, May 10, 2011.

4. On February 7, 2012, the State of South Carolina filed in the D.C. District Court (http://www.scag.gov/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/2012-02-07-Complaint-Voter-ID.pdf) exercising its right to seek a declarative judgment for preclearance of its South Carolina strict no-photo, no-vote voter ID law following the Department of Justice's objection under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

5. 17 January 2012 Interview with Dana Schultz of 9to5 Milwaukee by Chris Fields of Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; 24 January 2012 Interview with Anita Johnson of Citizen Action of Wisconsin by Tova Wang of Demos; 27 February 2012 Interview with Gail Bliss of League of Women Voters Dane County by Chris Fields of Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; 21 February 2012 Interview with Joyce McCullum of League of Women Voters Green Bay by Tova Wang of Demos; 1 March 2012 Interview with Helen Schwartz of League of Women Voters Green Bay by Tova Wang of Demos; 20 February 2012 Interview with Andrea Kaminski of League of Women Voters Wisconsin by Tova Wang of Demos; 25 January 2012 Interview with Jayme Montgomery Baker of League of Young Voters by Tova Wang of Demos and Keesha Gaskins of Brennan Center for Justice; 17 January 2012 Interview with Mandela Barnes of MICAH by Stephen Spaulding of Common Cause; 11 January 2012 Interview with Paul Sickel of Milwaukee Graduate Assistant Association by Stephen Spaulding of Common Cause; 9 February 2012 Interview with Jorna Taylor of Wisconsin State Voices by Chris Fields of Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; 20 February 2012 Interview with Mary Mancini of Citizen Action Tennessee by Keesha Gaskins of Brennan Center for Justice; 24 February 2012 with Michelle Jackson of the Jackson Transit Authority by Dara Lindenbaum of Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; 2 February 2012 Interview with Krissa Barclay of the Office of Congressman James Cooper by Keesha Gaskins of Brennan Center for Justice; 13 December 2011 & 7 February 2012 Interview with Representative Favors of Tennessee General Assembly by Ben Hovland of Fair Elections Legal Network; 4 February 2012 Interview with Monica Kimball of the Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment by Stephen Spaulding of Common Cause; and 7 February 2012 Interview of Phil Phillips of Tennessee Voter Assistance Coalition by Ben Hovland of Fair Elections Legal Network. All interview notes are on file and available from Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

6. We also interviewed the Colorado Collaborative ID Project which was established in 2007 to assist citizens and legal immigrants applying for public benefits obtain identification after a state law passed requiring it.

7. http://health.state.tn.us/vr/Fees.htm

8. http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/vitalrecords/birth.htm

9. http://health.state.tn.us/vr/Certificate.htm

10. See From the Blogs to the Blocks: 10 Reasons You Should Vote, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXPrLYqpMi4; From the Blogs to the Blocks: Havenwoods, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtFl6ApuS00&feature=results_video&playnext=1&list=PL1C005BD547D2DC8A; From the Blogs to the Blocks: Tay Gutta, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7XETi2FUuo

11. 16 February 2011 Interview with Carolyn Castore, consultant, League of Women Voters Wisconsin ("Castore Interview") by Chris Fields of Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and Tova Wang of Demos. Interview notes on file and available from Lawyers' Committee for Civil Right Under Law.

12. Steve Schultze, "County Panel Endorses Free Birth Certificates for Voting," Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, October 26, 2011

13. "Dane County Leaders Propose Waiving Birth Certificate Fee For Voters Seeking IDs," Wisconsin State Journal, February 17, 2012

14. Collaborative Id Project, Obtaining A Colorado Identification Card: Issues And Proposed Solutions, October 2011

15. Castore Interview

16. U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Letter to Keith Ingram, Director of Elections, Office of the Texas Secretary of State, March 12, 2012

17. Some county clerks were given the machines to provide IDs to people. It is not every county. The locations can be found here: http://www.tn.gov/safety/driverlicense/dllocationmain.shtml. These offices also have extremely limited hours.

18. See http://www.tn.gov/safety/driverlicense/dllocationserv.shtml#full

19. Laurel Walker, "Disabled Residents Educating Others on Voting Rights," Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, January 20, 2012

20. "Churches Offering Rides to Get Voter ID Cards," Milwaukee Courier, November 3, 2011

21. TN does have an exemption for voters with disabilities. With a note from their physician, they can obtain a state ID. http://state.tn.us/sos/acts/107/pub/pc0208.pdf

22. Collaborative Id Project, Obtaining A Colorado Identification Card: Issues And Proposed Solutions, October 2011

23. Castore Interview

24. Collaborative Id Project, Obtaining A Colorado Identification Card: Issues And Proposed Solutions, October 2011

25. Castore Interview

26. Collaborative Id Project, Obtaining A Colorado Identification Card: Issues And Proposed Solutions, October 2011

APPENDIX A

Further Information on Organizations Interviewed

We are aware that there are a number of organizations – local, state and national – that plan to do work around the challenge of complying with voter ID laws, especially in the Latino and youth communities, but have not gotten their programs underway yet. We hope that this report will provide them with some ideas and will start a conversation across groups about how to make sure the fewest number of people are disenfranchised by these restrictive laws as possible.

1. **Wisconsin Voices**, an organization created to help with coordination and sharing amongst civic engagement groups working with historically underrepresented and socially responsible communities, took the leadership to reach out to their state partners and ask if they would join a coalition to assist voters in getting photo ID. These state partners then used their connections within the communities they work with to find more organizations to join the coalition, bringing in service providers, city and county agencies, faith leaders, and churches.

   The individual outreach was crucial in creating a diverse coalition that could work with all the communities affected by the new government-issued photo identification law. Once the base coalition was organized, the organization quickly learned that buy-in from the labor community was another important factor and the coalition enlisted the help of the National Education Association and Working America, a community affiliate of the AFL-CIO.

   Importantly, Wisconsin Voices raised money from a variety of funders for the purpose of re-granting to organizations within the coalition committed to assisting voters in obtaining photo ID. Organizations submitted proposals that were reviewed by Wisconsin Voices and granted funds based upon the needs identified by the requesting organizations. Those groups receiving maximum grant amounts are required to enter information into the voter file to aid in tracking and serve as a resource for other groups hoping to create ID acquisition programs. Without these grants many groups would not have the time and resource capacity to build these programs.

   Through the coalition, groups have been able to coordinate and share information on what they have learned as they begin to implement these programs. While there is some duplication of effort, for the most part the groups have concentrated on different communities such as students, work force development centers, church members, etc.

2. **The Milwaukee Graduate Assistant Association (MGAA)** is a labor union that represents graduate student assistants at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UW-Milwaukee). It is part of the American Federation of Teachers. MGAA is a sponsoring organization of the "Be a Voter!" program. "Be a Voter!" is a coalition of leaders made up of groups and individuals that seek to ensure that UW-Milwaukee students have the ability to vote. Other members of the coalition include student government leaders, faculty members, and teaching assistants in their capacity as instructors.

3. **Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH)** is an interfaith congregation-based organization, with 35 inner-city congregations and suburban congregations. It is interfaith and includes some mosques outside of Milwaukee. MICAH works with the ACLU, Voces de la Frontera, and the League of Women Voters to recruit anyone interested in assisting with voter ID work.

4. **9to5 Milwaukee** is a grassroots membership organization made up of low-income women, women transitioning from welfare to work, and women who have experienced discrimination or harassment on the job. 9to5 is focusing on assisting young adults (18 and older) and low-income women who do not have or have never had an ID or who need to get a new ID.

5. **The League of Young Voters in Wisconsin** is working collaboratively with a Milwaukee-based coalition called "Ready, Set, Vote." The League of Young Voters is working hard on street outreach to assist in identifying voters who need photo ID for voting.

6. Tennessee State Rep. JoAnne Favors is spearheading much of the effort in the area she represents. There is little question that having a powerful, outspoken elected official leading the charge is extremely helpful. The power of her bully pulpit has been used to good effect and helps to reduce barriers that grassroots groups concerned about the issue might otherwise encounter. Representative Favors coordinates a loose coalition of labor, clergy, students, teachers, nurses, sororities and fraternities and, importantly, concerned citizens. The group is not formally associated but is called the Tennessee Voter Assistance Coalition. The coalition meets about twice per week in community spaces. It is purely a volunteer effort. The coalition has recruited additional partners and volunteers by word of mouth, Facebook, items in free weekly newspaper, weekly church bulletins, and on radio programs.

7. Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment is a community organizing nonprofit dedicated to improving the quality of life in Tennessee. It has chapters throughout the state. Each chapter works on issues it cares about. The Jackson chapter has identified voter ID and voter registration as a major concern because its constituent base is impacted by poverty, poor public transit, and low voter turnout.

8. Tennessee Citizen Action (TNCA) is a statewide organization working in the public interest as a consumer rights organization. TNCA has not begun its photo ID outreach, focusing now on passing legislation to rollback the new strict voter ID law. It intends to participate in assisting voters to obtain photo IDs as part of its citizen engagement movement-building work.

9. Congressman James Cooper is the Democratic representative for Tennessee's 5th District in Davidson, Wilson and Cheatham Counties. In January 2012, Congressman Cooper's office sent out more than 12,000 letters to registered voters over 60 without photos on their licenses, to let them know his office would assist them in getting a photo ID if needed to vote. The office has also been working with other voters who do not have ID at all to assist in getting IDs. The work done by this office is on a one-on-one basis and it is not working in coalition with other organizations.

10. An example of effective community outreach to help obtain government issued documentation is in Colorado. Although Colorado does not have a photo voter ID requirement, the state legislature passed a law in 2006 requiring all citizens and legal immigrants applying for public benefits to prove lawful presence before they could be determined eligible for public benefits. In response to the immediate need to assist individuals in need of public benefits have access to the necessary documentation, the Collaborative ID Project was formed in 2007.

    This joint project between Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Denver Human Services, Metro CareRing and Colorado Legal Services has helped nearly 10,000 people obtain ID. It has an advisory board which includes health organizations as well. It focuses on problems in getting birth certificates and state IDs. The organization reports that building agency relationships was difficult. Over the years, the ID project has built a good relationship with the Department of Motor Vehicles office. The Colorado Collaborative ID Project is included in this report because of their years of experience navigating the real challenges people face in obtaining identification.

APPENDIX B

New ID laws could silence 4.5 million young voters in 2012.
THAT COULD CHANGE THE COURSE OF THE ELECTION.
for Election Help:
txt ID to 69866

the league of young voters education fund

#gotID

Don't Be Shook By The Book!

In 2011 Elections, you are NOT required to show photo ID, but you WILL have to sign the poll book.

To Vote In 2012, You Need One Of These:

- **Driver's License:**
  - Wisconsin DMV-issued, OK if suspended
  - Expiration date after 11/2/10
- **Student ID:**
  - From a Wisconsin-accredited college
  - Must have date received, signature, and must expire within 2 years of issue date
- **State ID (or Free Voter ID - see below):**
  - Wisconsin DMV-issued
  - Expiration date after 11/2/10
- **U.S. Passport: Expiration date after 11/2/10**
- **Military ID: Expiration date after 11/2/10**
- **Wisconsin Tribal ID card**
- **Certificate of naturalization**

You Can Get A FREE ID At The DMV

Tell them "I want a FREE Voter ID" and bring ALL of these:

1) Birth certificate OR passport OR proof of citizenship
2) Document with your signature OR photo
3) Social Security Number
4) Proof of a WI address: bill, bank statement, or transcript
5) A snack. This might take awhile.

Questions? Text ID To 69866

The Milwaukee League | youngvoter.org/wisconsin | 414-231-9208

APPENDIX C

Procedures and Forms to Order a Free Birth Record
Milwaukee County Residents Only

Applicants for a free birth record will need to fill out two forms (attached):

Form #1 - The new form to **REQUEST FOR FREE BIRTH RECORD (page 3).**
Form #2 - The same **BIRTH CERTIFICATE APPLICATION (page 4)** that is normally filled out by everyone.

- Register of Deeds (ROD) staff will accept the applicant's form for a free record without imposing additional requirements/questions.
- The applicant must also meet the criteria in the BIRTH CERTIFICATE APPLICATION to receive a record, just like everyone else.
- Since the purpose of obtaining a free birth record is for voting, applicants shall be 18 years of age by the date of the fall election, which is November 6, 2012.
    - Therefore we will not issue free records to persons born after Nov. 6, 1994.
- During interaction with the applicant, if ROD counter staff observes the applicant display a valid driver's license or valid state identification card (that are valid for voting), then ROD will not provide the birth record for free.
- Only one free birth record will be given per applicant.
- Form #1 will be stapled to form #2 and will be stored separately from the forms of paying customers.
- ROD will create a database of applicants who have received a free birth record.
- The name of the applicant will be checked in the database. If it is determined that an applicant already received a free record, he/she will not be issued another free record.
- Free birth records will be only given to persons who are residents of Milwaukee County (not to non-residents).

-

To qualify to receive a certified copy of a birth certificate, the applicant will be treated the same as any paying customer who does not have primary identification.

Acceptable forms of Secondary Identification to obtain a certified vital record include:

Secondary Identification requires TWO of the following:

- Government issued employee ID Badge with photo
- U.S. Passport
- Check / Bank Book
- Major Credit Card
- Health Insurance Card
- Recent dated, signed Lease
- Utility Bill or traffic ticket

In Person Applications

If an in-person applicant at the counter does not meet the above mentioned identification requirements but has a friend with her/him who does have a valid ID card and that second person will vouch for the identity of the first person (the applicant), then we will issue the record in-person. Otherwise the birth record will be mailed to the applicant's street address (no P.O. boxes).

Mail-in Applications

We do not require an Identification Card for applications mailed to our office as long as we mail the record to a street address, not a post office box. The State Vital Records Office (SVRO) requires that applications for vital records that have been sold be kept by the Register of Deeds for two years. They explain that having a record of the street address to which the record is mailed is important for any investigation of fraud.

If you wish to receive your certificate by mail please complete the two forms and return them to the following address with a self-addressed stamped envelope and a cashier's check or money order (NO PERSONAL CHECKS) payable to:

Register of Deeds – Vital Records
901 N. 9th Street
Milwaukee WI 53233

1/9/12

Milwaukee County Register of Deeds

Request for a Free Birth Record needed to Obtain an I.D. Card for Purposes of Voting

BIRTH RECORD INFORMATION		
	YOUR Name (Please Print)	
	YOUR Street Address Apt. No.	
	City / State / Zip	

I hereby request one birth certificate at no cost for the purpose of obtaining an operator's license* or an identification card** for purposes of voting.

I attest (declare) that I have not previously received a state issued identification and have not previously received a free birth record from the Milwaukee County Register of Deeds.

_____ _____/_____ /2012
Signature (of person named on birth record) Date

*Issued under Chapter 343 of the state statutes
**Issued under section 343.50 of the statutes

WISCONSIN BIRTH CERTIFICATE APPLICATION 11/07

If you wish to receive your certificate by mail please complete this form and return it to the following address with a self-addressed stamped envelope and a cashier's check or money order (NO PERSONAL CHECKS) payable to:
Register of Deeds – Vital Records, 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee WI 53233. 414-278-4003

PENALTIES: Any person who willfully and knowingly makes false application for a birth certificate is guilty of a Class I felony [a fine of not more than $10,000 or imprisonment of not more than three years and six months, or both, per Chapter 69.24(1), Wisconsin Statutes].

BIRTH RECORD INFORMATION

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name at Birth

Sex	Birthdate (Mo/Day/Yr)	City	County

Mother's MAIDEN Name	First Name	Middle Name

Father's Last Name	First Name	Middle Name

RELATIONSHIP TO PERSON NAMED ON THE CERTIFICATE

According to Wisconsin Statute, a CERTIFIED copy of a BIRTH certificate is only available to a person with a "Direct and Tangible Interest." If you do not meet any of the criteria for boxes A – F, please refer to the information on page 2.

Check one box which indicates YOUR RELATIONSHIP to the PERSON NAMED on the certificate.

☐ A. I **am** the PERSON NAMED on the certificate.

☐ B. I am the **parent** of the PERSON NAMED on the certificate, and my parental rights have not been terminated. (**Note**: In the case of a non-marital birth, the father's rights must have been established before he may obtain a copy of the certificate under this category.)

☐ C. I am the **legal custodian or guardian** of the PERSON NAMED on the certificate.

☐ D. I am a **member of the immediate family** of the PERSON NAMED on the certificate. (Only those listed below qualify as immediate family.)
CHECK ONE: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Brother ☐ Sister ☐ Grandparent

☐ E. I am a **representative authorized**, in writing, by any of the aforementioned (A through D). *(The written, **NOTARIZED** authorization must accompany this application.)*
Specify whom you represent. _____

☐ F. I can demonstrate that the information from the birth certificate is necessary for the **determination or protection of a personal or property right** for myself/my client/my agency.
Specify interest. _____

☐ G. Other: Uncertified copy only. Copy will not be valid for identification purposes. (Please refer to the information on page 2.)

FEES

☐ Search Fee (includes one copy of the birth certificate, if found) …… $ 20.00 __20.00__

☐ Each additional copy of the same record, issued at the same time as the first copy _____ X 3.00 _____
No. of Copies

TOTAL _____

APPLICANT INFORMATION

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS ABOUT THE PERSON COMPLETING THIS APPLICATION

YOUR Name (Please Print)		YOUR Daytime Telephone Number ( )
YOUR Street Address Apt. No.	MAIL TO Address (if different) Apt. No.	
City / State / Zip	City / State / Zip	

I hereby attest that the information provided on this application is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and that I am entitled to copies of the requested certificate in accordance with the categories checked above.

SIGNATURE - Applicant (Person Completing Application)	Date Signed

OFFICE

Below is FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

File Date	Mother's County	Certificate No.

APPENDIX D

JACKSON TRANSIT AUTHORITY
38 EUTAH STREET
PO BOX 102
JACKSON TN 38301

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Michele T. Jackson
Marketing/Planning Coordinator
(731) 423-0200

Pages: 2

December 8, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEMPORARY BUS SERVICE
TO HELP VOTERS
OBTAIN STATE REQUIRED ID

The Jackson Transit Authority (JTA) will begin in March 2012 to provide temporary bus service for voters who need a state issued ID to be eligible to vote. The Technology Center bus will be available to the Driver's Testing Center on Benchmark Circle. The bus service will be available on a "request only basis" to the Driver's Testing Center when the Technology Center is not in session.

Service days will be: March 19-23, April 23-27, June 25-29, July 2-3 and 5-6, and August 24 & 27-31.

Times will be: Tech Center

	Main Street	Testing Center	Main Street
AM	7:35	7:45	8:00
	8:30	8:45	9:00
	9:30	9:45	10:00
	10:30	10:45	11:00
	11:30	11:45	12:00 PM
PM	12:30	12:45	1:00
	1:30	1:45	2:00
	2:30	2:45	3:00
	3:30	3:45	4:00
	4:30	4:45	5:00
	5:30	5:45	6:00

Riders returning from the Driver's Testing Center will receive a free trip. JTA's regular fare is $1.00 with transfers being free.

For more information about this route change or route schedules call JTA at 423-0200, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., weekdays.

(END)

When tracking in this context, the priority is ensuring that there is sufficient contact information for each voter and that there is a clear understanding of what is needed at each desired decision point. Second, tracking is minimized when each contact is maximized.

Voter Information
Name
Cell
Landline
Email
Address
Unique Identifier

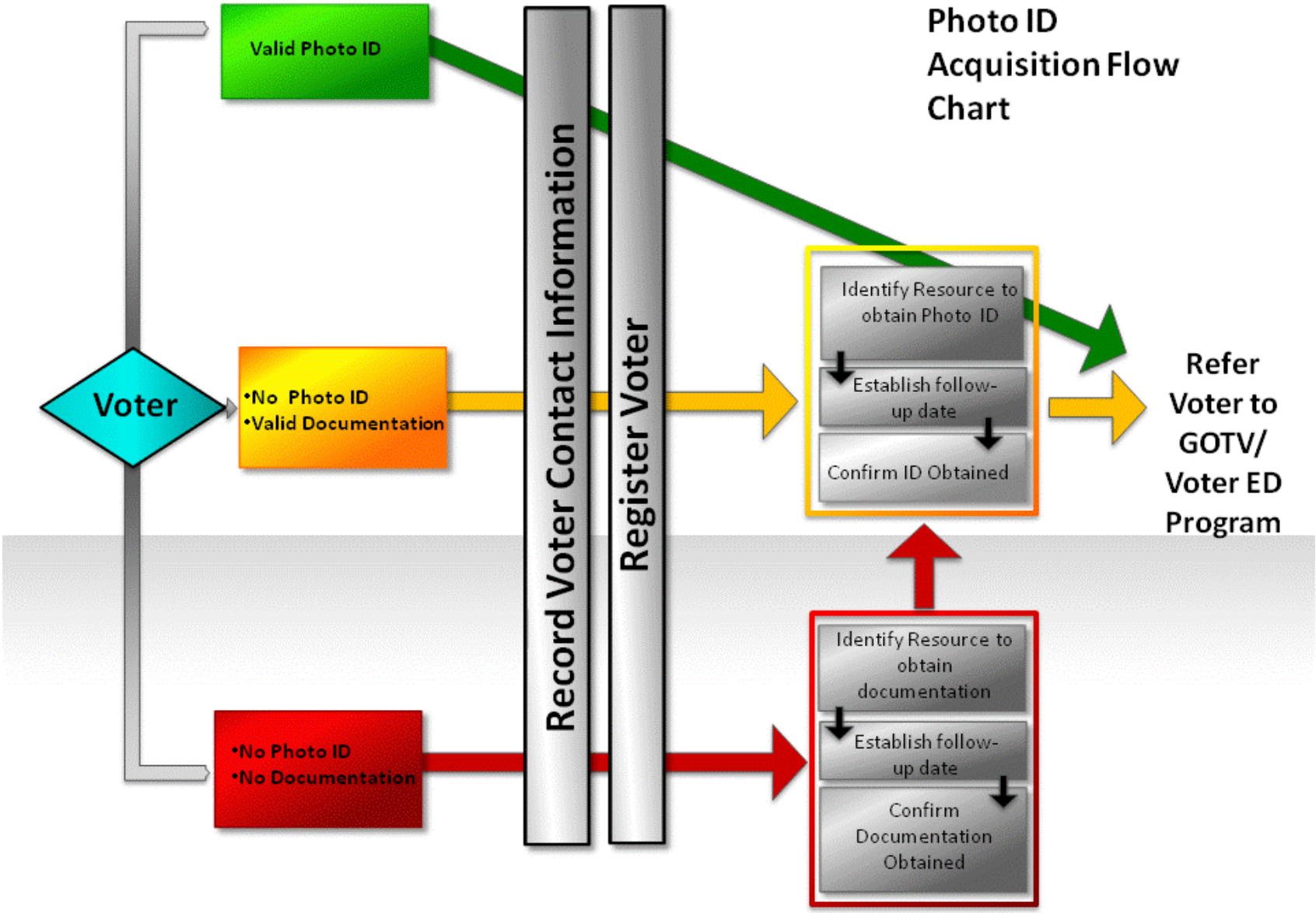
This information can be tracked separately as this is a different operation than voter education and/or GOTV and once a voter is confirmed to have gotten underlying documentation, photo ID and is registered - they should be referred to whatever system or organization is working on voter education for the upcoming election and beyond.

	First Contact Date	Photo ID Y/N	Birth Certificate or Equivalent Y/N	Social Security Card Y/N	Voter-Directed	Support Identified	Registered Y/N	Date Documentation Confirmed	Date ID Confirmed	Date referred to GOTV/ Voter ED
Name/Unique Identifier										

This information can be tracked manually on a spreadsheet or in a database but this is the recommended information that should be acquired for each voter.

First Contact Date - Date when voter identified by organizational efforts or self-identified
Photo ID Y/N - if a voter has conforming photo ID, it shoud be marked here as "Yes" and the voter immediately registered and referred to GOTV/Voter ED process
Birth Certificate or Equivalent - while all states accept a birth certificate as underlying documentation for a photo ID, some will accept alternative as well. It needs to be determine exactly what documentation a voter has that serves as sufficent ID in a state. If a voter does not have the underlying documentation the record should indicate next steps
Voter-Directed - if a voter confirms that she has the means to acquire underlying documentation then note what information the voter was given and when, a trigger date should be identified for follow-up to confirm that documentation was obtained
Support Identified - if a voter confirms that she needs assistance (financial, legal or advocate-level) in obtaining underlying doucmentation then note how support was identified or provided, when and a trigger-date for follow-up to confirm documentation was obtained.
Date Documentation Confirmed - Date when it is confirmed that the voter acquired the underlying documentation
Date ID Confirmed - Date when it is confirmed that the voter acquired the proper photo ID
Date referred to GOTV/Voter ED - Date when "photo ID acquistion" is complete and the voter becomes part of the regular voter education effort

Photo ID Acquisition Flow Chart



COMMONCAUSE.ORG | FACEBOOK.COM/COMMONCAUSE | @COMMONCAUSE

DEMOS.ORG | FACEBOOK.COM/DEMOSIDEASACTIONS | @DEMOS_ORG

FAIRELECTIONSNETWORK.ORG | FACEBOOK.COM/FAIRELECTIONSLEGALNETWORK | @FAIRELECTIONS

LAWYERSCOMMITTEE.ORG | FACEBOOK.COM/LAWYERSCOMMITTEE | @LAWYERSCOMM