



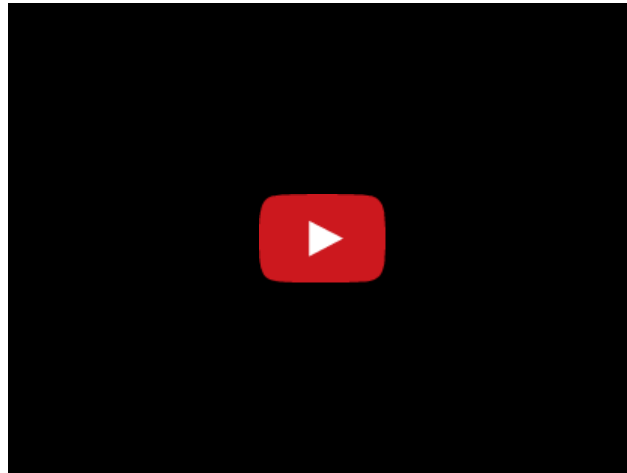
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Pennsylvania GOP: Voter Suppression Law all about Romney

BY HANNAH STEIN ON THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2012 - 3:15PM

"Voter ID, which is gonna allow Governor Romney to win Pennsylvania, done."

Pennsylvania House Majority Leader Mike Turzai (R) made that remark over the weekend, finally admitting that the new restrictive voting laws in Pennsylvania are nothing more than a Republican attempt to help Romney win the state of Pennsylvania:



This law will require all voters to present a strict photo ID before casting their ballot, a law that will most likely make it disproportionately difficult for Democratic-leaning groups, such as young voters and minorities, to vote. About 25% of African Americans, 20% of younger voters, and 18% of voters over 65 years old [lack](#) government-issued photo IDs, statistics that make voter suppression laws like Pennsylvania's a great way for Republicans to prevent these Americans from voting.

Under the new Pennsylvania law, valid photo IDs [must](#):

- Show the name of the individual, which must substantially conform to the individual's name on the precinct register
- Show a photograph of the individual to whom it was issued
- Be issued by the U.S. government, Commonwealth of PA, a municipality of the Commonwealth to an employee of the municipality, an accredited PA private or public institution of higher learning or a PA care facility
- Include an expiration date and not be expired (exception for a military ID with an indication that it has an indefinite expiration date or a PA driver's license or non-driver ID card that is not more than 12 months past the expiration date)

These restrictions are so complex that even Pennsylvania's Republican Secretary of State [failed](#) to meet them in an interview with a local newspaper.

But Rep. Turzai isn't the first Republican to make a comment regarding the suppression of certain demographic groups for partisan gain. New Hampshire House Speaker Bill O'Brien said much the same thing in late 2011, when he [complained](#) about "The kids coming out of the schools and basically doing what I did when I was a kid, which is voting as a liberal. That's what kids do - they don't have life experience, and they just vote their feelings." The implication was that suppressing specific types of eligible voters, in this case younger voters, would make it easier for Republicans to win elections.

What's more, Pennsylvania is only one of several Republican controlled states across the country which have passed arduous voter suppression laws in the last few years. At the beginning of 2011, only Georgia and Indiana had strict photo ID laws, but now more than a dozen additional states have passed laws restricting voter registration and imposing costly new barriers to voting, which are already expected to deny as many as [5 million](#) Americans their constitutional right to vote.

As we suspected all along, these GOP-backed voter suppression laws are just, sadly, ways for Republicans to win elections by denying likely Democratic voters their rights. Rep. Turzai just confirmed that, and hopefully states will begin to realize this is an obstruction of constitutional rights and put an end to it.

Because as Alejandra Salinas, president of the College Democrats of America, [put it](#), "It's not about being a Democrat or a Republican; it's about wanting to be able to vote."

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