



The Negative Impacts of Voter ID on Low Income Nebraskans

- 1. In Lincoln, an estimate of 1 out of 5 low-income individuals do not have a state issued ID.¹** According to the Center for People in Need's 2013 *Faces of Poverty* report 80% of those served by the Center do not have any form of state issued identification.
- 2. Many low-income Nebraskans do not have their current registered address on their state issued ID.²** Of the 2,089 individuals surveyed in *Faces of Poverty*, 80% responded that they had some form of state-issued ID card, but only 65% of those individuals reported the address listed was current. Any subsequent voter ID proposal that requires a photo ID to include the voter's registration address may disenfranchise these individuals.
- 3. A majority of low income individuals cannot afford to update their ID.³** Over half of those surveyed in *Faces of Poverty* said that the cost of a new ID, \$26.50, prevented them from updating their information and obtaining a replacement license.
- 4. Under a photo voter ID law low-income voters will be disenfranchised.** Based on the numbers collected by the Center for People in Need, just under half of respondents would be disenfranchised by identity and address verification requirements that have been included in past voter ID proposals.⁴
- 5. Including the language "photo ID" in LR1CA prevents the Legislature from allowing for a more expansive list of identification that may be held by low-income Nebraskans.⁵** Public assistance programs in Nebraska do not provide photo ID cards to benefit recipients. Current forms of identification with a photo include a driver's license or state ID, military ID, student ID, tribal ID, or a passport. If a matching address is required under a later proposed bill only a Nebraska ID and possibly a tribal ID would qualify.

¹ *Faces of Poverty* report is an annual survey of individuals in Lincoln receiving benefits from the Center with an

² Of those surveyed in *Faces of Poverty* that are citizens and that have a form of ID, only 65% of respondents stated the address on their ID was current. That number decreases as the household income decreases – barely 50% of those making \$500 or less have a current address on their ID.

³ According to the Center for People in Need's 2013 *Faces of Poverty* report, in every age demographic studied, over 50% of respondents of them said they could not afford a new ID.

⁴ Past proposals, like LB 111 introduced in 2015, offered a free state ID for those claiming to be indigent, however that term is not defined and may not cover all those being served by the Center for People in Need. Furthermore,

Nebraska law forbids individuals from holding both a driver's license and state ID, therefore the 65% of those currently holding a state ID or license may not benefit from the free state IDs.

⁵ Public assistance programs in the state of Nebraska include Nebraska Children's health Insurance Program (CHIP), Nebraska Head Start, Nebraska Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Nebraska Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program, Nebraska Medical Assistance Program, Nebraska School Breakfast and Lunch Program, Nebraska Special Milk Program, Nebraska Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Woman, Infants and Children (WIC), Nebraska Summer Food Service, Nebraska Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Nebraska Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Nebraska Unemployment Insurance. A majority of these programs are administered and the food or service provided by local, non-profits, like the Center for People in Need, which are not government entities and many of these programs do not provide photo-identification cards.

Excerpt from *Faces of Poverty*, Center for People in Need, November 2013

Have a State Issued ID by Income

	\$0 TO \$500	\$501 TO \$750	\$751 TO \$1000	\$1001 TO \$1250	\$1251 TO \$1500	\$1501 TO \$2000	\$2001 TO \$3000
YES	249 (83%)	235 (85%)	248 (85%)	264 (92%)	140 (90%)	155 (93%)	105 (95%)
NO	50	40	42	20	14	10	5
TOTAL	299	275	290	284	254	165	110
BLANK/UNSURE	69	57	59	76	32	37	30

State ID Contains Current Address

	\$0 TO \$500	\$501 TO \$750	\$751 TO \$1000	\$1001 TO \$1250	\$1251 TO \$1500	\$1501 TO \$2000	\$2001 TO \$3000
YES	136 (52%)	145 (60%)	176 (64%)	178 (68%)	112 (79%)	107 (69%)	78 (78%)
NO	123 (48%)	96 (40%)	95 (36%)	81 (32%)	31 (21%)	47 (31%)	21 (22%)
TOTAL	259	241	271	259	143	154	99
BLANK/UNSURE	109	91	78	101	43	48	41