

Introduced by: Councilmember Smith

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION 2017-14
OPPOSING HB 532 (SB 1133) ELECTION LAW – QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS
– PROOF OF IDENTITY**

WHEREAS, HB 532 (SB 1133) would require a Maryland voter to present a current government issued photo identification in order to receive a regular ballot; and

WHEREAS, the legislation would require an election judge to refer an individual for a provisional ballot if the voter is unable to provide identification as required or if the voter indicates a change of residence; and

WHEREAS, under current law, a resident must provide certain identifying information to the State Board of Elections when registering to vote and, if unable to do so, must provide a form of identification when voting for the first time; and

WHEREAS, requiring a voter to present a government issued photo identification to an election judge at every election will challenge potential voters who have not already obtained the required government issued identification or who are unable to obtain it; and

WHEREAS, the elderly, people with disabilities, the poor and people of color are most likely to lack the required government issued identification and will be disproportionately affected by a voter identification requirement; and

WHEREAS, voting a paper provisional ballot is a time consuming and often confusing process that can result in voters leaving the polling place rather than completing the paperwork.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK MARYLAND opposes HB 532 (SB 1133) and similar voter identification requirements that only serve to make it more difficult to vote.

Adopted this 8th day of March, 2017.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk