

## **Letter to the Editor: Chris Freind is clueless when it comes to voter ID**

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

To the Times:

The League of Women Voters has for 96 years worked to encourage citizens to vote, learn about issues, and take part in their government. It seems that we have failed with columnist Chris Freind when it comes to understand the right of every citizen to vote.

There are so many errors in his column (“Making the case for mandatory Voter IDs,” Oct. 21), it makes one believe that he has never registered to vote, or voted — or maybe he just did not observe the rules and methods that are in place to protect the integrity of the vote.

The system requires that when voters sign in, their signature is the same as the one on their voter registration form. The registration forum requires the voters to list their driver’s license number, or the last four digits of their Social Security number. This information is checked for integrity by the county Voter Registration Office before the names and signatures are put in the books that poll workers use to identify each voter before they vote.

Mr. Freind’s arguments raise some questions of common sense:

- Why does he suppose that that poll workers would not fulfill their duty to make each voter sign in correctly before voting? Why does he suppose that the workers at the polls do not understand the rules and know their obligation to protect our right to have a correct election?
- Why would non-citizens and illegal immigrants try to vote? They would expose themselves to detection and deportation for what reason? The study he cites suggesting that hundreds of thousands of non-citizens voted in 2008 has been criticized by academics for faulty methodology.
- Why does he suppose that homeless people are not citizens and able to vote? The rules allow them to register at a homeless shelter where they receive their mail. There is one registration for one voter.
- Early voting, which he criticizes, makes voting easier for many whose work schedules, family obligations or long commutes make it difficult for them to vote on Election Day. In-person early voting is much more secure than the option, absentee voting, where there is no guarantee the vote was cast free of coercion.
- Some of the alleged voting irregularities he cites, if true, would have been committed by election officials and would not be prevented by requiring voters to show a photo ID.

The requirement that people show photo ID to access many activities of our society began with the terrorist threat. These new requirements do not change the constitutional right of citizens to vote or enable us to make voting more difficult

The League of Women Voters will continue to bring information to voters about candidates and the issues. For information visit our website [www.LWVDelcoPA.org](http://www.LWVDelcoPA.org). For candidate information go to [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org).

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