
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8001

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 Regular Session

By Senators Stevens, Carrell, Benton, Becker, and Swecker

Read first time 01/20/11. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK H. OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Congress is considering new legislation to establish a
9 federally mandated, universal, government run voter registration
10 system; and

11 WHEREAS, Such a federal mandate would dangerously erode state
12 control of election procedures; and

13 WHEREAS, States, rather than the federal government, should have
14 the responsibility of managing the election process; and

15 WHEREAS, Appointed federal bureaucrats in Washington D.C. should
16 not be able to override the decisions of elected state legislators and
17 local election officials; and

18 WHEREAS, The protection of the integrity of our election process
19 must be a critical priority in any election reform legislation; and

1 WHEREAS, The Senate and House of Representatives of the State of
2 Washington oppose any further federal takeover of local election
3 processes; and

4 WHEREAS, The Senate and House of Representatives of the State of
5 Washington oppose any federal unfunded mandates in the administration
6 of elections;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that, if
8 Congress makes any grants of money conditional on the voluntary
9 adoption of new voter registration or voting procedures, two of those
10 procedures required to qualify for federal funding be:

11 (1) A requirement for voters to present a government-issued photo
12 identification at the polls and for voters to enclose a copy of such
13 identification with any absentee ballot; and

14 (2) A requirement that all new voter registrations include the
15 requirement that the registrant present proof of citizenship before the
16 registrant is declared eligible to vote.

17 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
18 transmitted to the Honorable Barack H. Obama, President of the United
19 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
20 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
21 Washington.

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