



*Senator Jason Crowell proudly represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.*

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## **One Man – One Vote Voter Fraud Reform in Missouri**

Voting is the cornerstone of American freedom. Every Missouri citizen should not only have the opportunity to vote, but they should also have confidence in the voting process. Earlier this week, the Senate Financial & Governmental Organizations and Elections Committee, of which I am vice chairman, sent to the Senate floor legislation that will help prevent election fraud, registration hassles and voter suppression.

The “Missouri Voter Protection Act” will guarantee fair and honest elections in Missouri. To crack down on election fraud, the measure will enable poll workers to verify that each voter is who they say they are. Current Missouri law already requires voters to present personal identification when they show up at the polls. The proposed law requires that the personal identification

**The “Missouri Voter Protection Act” will guarantee fair and honest elections in Missouri.**

be a state-issued photo ID, such as a driver’s license.

Showing a photo ID is necessary to do many things in America — open up a bank account, get a passport, get on a plane. There’s no reason why we shouldn’t practice this same precaution for the election process, and considering that more than 95 percent of Missourians already have an acceptable photo ID, the new requirement is not overly burdensome. For those who do not have a photo ID, the state will provide one for free.

Another way to build confidence in Missouri elections is by making voter

registration more accountable. We will do this by prohibiting voter registration solicitors from receiving a “bounty” for submitting registration forms. Currently, these incentives encourage voter registrations to be submitted in the names of the deceased and cartoon characters. This type of fraud was reported in recent St. Louis elections.

Citizens should never face harassment when they are exercising their right to vote. The Voter Protection Act would force campaigners to set up a 50-foot perimeter around polling places and increase the penalties for when their freedom of speech turns into a method of intimidation. The act says that anyone who intimidates or harasses a voter with the intent of preventing them from voting will be subject to criminal prosecution. If violence is used, or if someone knowingly provides false information, the offender would be guilty of a felony.

The U.S. Constitution gives every citizen the right to vote and my legislation defends that right.

## Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

### Contact Information

**Capitol Office**  
State Capitol Building  
Room 323  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**Website:**  
<http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>

**Phone Number:**  
573.751.1507  
**Fax:**  
573.522.9289