

Position Opposing Voter ID

LWVUS Impact on Issues – 2020-2020



Opposing Voting Barriers (page 29)

In 2006, the League also launched the “*Public Advocacy for Voter Protection*” (PAVP) project, and the League has undertaken concerted nationwide efforts to promote voter protection and education to prevent the development of processes and laws that threaten to disenfranchise voters, educate the public on new election procedures, and provide voters with the information they need to cast a vote and be sure that vote is counted.

As part of the PAVP effort, in 2007, the League opposed state legislation that would require documentary proof-of-citizenship or picture ID to register to vote, as well as to vote. The League also filed a “friend-of-the-court” brief in a Supreme Court case regarding ID requirements in Indiana. In 2009, the League filed an amicus brief in the Arizona voter ID case, *Gonzalez v. Arizona*, asking the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to recognize that the *National Voter Registration Act* of 1993 prohibits a proof-of-citizenship requirement when using the national mail voter registration application form. The League again filed an amicus brief when the case was finally argued before the Supreme Court in 2013. The League and its allies finally prevailed. In the renamed *ITCA v. Arizona*, the Court agreed that the NVRA preempts state law.

2014 and 2016 brought unprecedented challenges and successes to the PAVP program, with participating Leagues ultimately defeating dozens of onerous barriers that threatened the right to vote. For the first time in 2016, LWVEF supported state League’s efforts to call more than 100,000 people to encourage their participation in the 2016 election and make sure they had accurate information about early voting and identification rules.

Since its inception, the PAVP project has helped to remove or mitigate barriers to voting by underserved populations and to advance the capacity of state Leagues to become even more effective advocates. Five focus areas were identified by the League as essential to protecting the votes of all citizens and improving election administration overall: **(1) oppose photo ID and documentary proof-of-citizenship**, (2) improve administration of statewide database systems, (3) guard against undue restrictions on voter registration, (4) improve polling place management, and (5) improve poll worker training.