

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Those voter fraud claims they make are fraudulent

Is voter fraud in U.S. elections a major problem? No. Several comprehensive studies have confirmed that instances of voter fraud — examples: voter impersonation, “dead voters,” noncitizen and felon voters — are increasingly exceptionally rare. Given the high risk, low reward nature of fraudulent voting, this isn’t surprising.

Photo ID requirements, having to register to vote 30 days before an election and limited voting hours on Election Day are major reasons why Indiana has one of the United States’ lowest voter turnout rates. Focusing on voter fraud instead of registration is a colossal misplacement of priorities.

Congressman Todd Rokita and others who claim that voter fraud is a problem have a different problem in mind: the “wrong” people voting. This brings us to photo identification requirements.

Who is harmed by these requirements? Mostly, it’s people less likely to have driver’s licenses showing a person’s current name and address. It includes but isn’t limited to these often overlapping groups: 1. Women who change their last names when they change their marital status. 2. Low income persons. 3. Young adults living with their parents and/or attending college. 4. Physically disabled. 5. Elderly. 6. Nonwhite citizens, namely African- American and Latino. 7. City dwellers who use public transportation.

What does this group of people as a whole have in common? They’re much more likely to vote Democratic. Coincidence? Get real. It’s time to recognize “voter fraud” claims for what they really are — a smokescreen for people yearning for the “good old days” when only the “right” people could vote.

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