

July 24, 2005

In Georgia, a Barrier to Voting

To the Editor:

Georgia has become the toughest place in America for eligible registered voters to cast their ballots. After a rancorous and racially charged debate, Georgia lawmakers passed legislation to require voters to produce government-issued photo identification at the polls.

Georgia's new voter ID law will impact voters of all parties, of every race and in all parts of our state.

For the hundreds of thousands of Georgia voters who do not drive, are not in the military, do not work for the government and do not travel abroad, getting a form of ID that will be accepted at the polls will involve traveling to one of only 56 locations in the state that issue such identification, waiting in long lines and paying a fee or declaring indigence.

This change is unconstitutional, nothing short of voter disenfranchisement and a tremendous threat to our most fundamental right, the right to vote.

Elisabeth MacNamara
President, League of Women Voters of Georgia
Atlanta, July 22, 2005