The League of Women Voters of Wake County strongly opposes the reintroduction of the requirement to present a photo identification in order to vote in North Carolina. The use of resources that will be required to determine and provide acceptable forms of identification to all voters and to develop policies and procedures for local county boards of elections is unnecessary and wasteful.

The League of Women Voters of Wake County supports an election system that both promotes voter participation and inspires trust in election results. Several investigations have found significant evidence that NC voter systems were subject to hacking by outside sources. In a presentation to the Joint Legislative Election Oversight Committee Kim Strach, executive director of the state board, said election security is something everyone needs to be concerned about. The requirement to show photo ID when voting does nothing to address these issues and instead diverts attention and financial resources from fixing these problems.

The NC State Board of Elections’ April 2017 post-election audit revealed only two cases of voter fraud that might have been prevented by a voter ID requirement. In both cases, individuals attempted to vote for a deceased relative. The fact that the State Board of Elections’ current audit procedure identified those two cases suggests that the system works. Furthermore, laws currently in place provide options for severe punishment and serve as a deterrent to voter fraud, which likely accounts for the rarity of such instances.

A constitutional amendment requiring North Carolinians to show identification when voting is an unnecessary political effort to divert attention from serious efforts to protect elections in North Carolina.