

PRESERVATION OF VOTERS' RIGHTS RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The League of Women Voters was founded to help democratize the right to vote and for the past 93 years has fought to ensure that elections are fair, free and accessible to all citizens; and

WHEREAS, The League of Women Voters holds the position that the representative form of government is most effective when citizens from all walks of life are regularly encouraged to cast their votes as a means of achieving full participation in the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, The League of Women Voters takes the view that any legislation resulting in infringement of the right to vote is an act of disenfranchisement that undermines the fabric of our democracy and stands contrary to the cherished state motto, Wyoming, the Equality State.; and

WHEREAS, There is reliable evidence that voter identification laws recently enacted in various state legislatures that include, but are not limited to, production of a birth certificate and/or a government issued photo ID, as requirement(s) for vote registration and voting, are laws that disenfranchise segments of the population; and

WHEREAS, The disenfranchised segments of the population consist mainly of the elderly, the disabled and people of low income, who do not use or need birth certificates and/or a government issued photo ID, in their daily lives; and

WHEREAS, The disenfranchised segments of the population consisting mainly of the elderly, the disabled and people of low income, who do not use or need birth certificates and/or a government issued photo ID, in their daily lives, would incur a variety of costs to secure such documents with those costs serving as a de facto poll tax, a long outlawed practice used in the past to disenfranchise segments of the voting population;

WHEREAS, The disenfranchised segments of the population have been shown to include the elderly, the disabled and people of low income, who have voted in prior elections without the production of birth certificates and/or a government issued photo ID, and without the allegation of voter fraud, calls into question the purpose of such laws; and

WHEREAS, Numerous studies have unequivocally demonstrated that voter impersonation fraud is exceedingly rare and that legislation enacted to counter perceived fraud is an expensive solution in search of a problem.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wyoming League of Women Voters opposes enactment of legislation mandating production of a birth certificate and/or photo ID as a requirement for voter registration and voting.