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An Exploration of Voter Identification Laws on the Impact of Voter Awareness

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Over the last decade, voter identification laws have been a highly debated issue. In the aftermath of the controversial 2000 primary elections, states across the country have tightened voting laws to require voters to present some form of identification, either documents or photo. The changes in the laws led to a controversial partisan between political parties. Supporters argue that these laws are necessary to reduce and prevent voter fraud. Opposing arguments suggest the new changes are prejudice toward the poor, the elderly and minorities based on the rarity of voter fraud.

With the ongoing debates regarding the impact of voter legislation and the lack of empirical findings to support either argument, we sought to perform an empirical analysis to examine any marginalization that may exists due to new voter identification laws. The purpose of this study was to analyze the impact of the new Virginia voter identification laws on voter awareness in Northern Virginia and investigate areas in which attaining voter identification might be difficult.