

# **We, the undersigned Minnesota rabbis, OPPOSE the Voter Photo ID amendment**

to the Minnesota State Constitution  
which is on the ballot [November 6, 2012](#).

Leviticus chapter 19, verse 14 says:

You shall not insult the deaf, or place a stumbling block before the blind. You shall fear your God: I am the Lord.

Jewish tradition understands this verse broadly: **we may never put an impediment** before someone who is not equipped to see it or overcome it. The verse applies equally to risk of bodily harm and to human dignity.

In Minnesota, there are **thousands of elderly people** of all races and religions, who live on fixed incomes and **do not own a valid driver's license**. They can **ill afford to pay out-of-pocket for state documents** to prove their identity.\* In Minnesota, there are **thousands of working poor people** of all races and religions who cannot take time off from work, or pay out-of-pocket to acquire the state documents needed to obtain a valid Voter ID.\*

**This amendment is unjust.**

Minnesota's voting practices are already a model of excellence for the nation. **Voter fraud is virtually non-existent here.\***

**This amendment is unnecessary.**

The **cost to the taxpayers** of implementing this amendment will be **in the millions.\*** At a time of serious budgetary pressures, this amendment is a poor choice for Minnesota.

**This amendment is costly.**

The people of Minnesota deserve an open debate about the need for photo id's, and the costs to individuals, to counties and to the state. Presenting this issue as a constitutional amendment skips this open process, and short-cuts voters' ability to make an informed choice about specifics.

**Permanently amending the state constitution is the wrong process to achieve legislative change.**

**In Minnesota, we already practice a welcoming and rigorously honest democracy.  
We do not need to amend these core values.**

## **We urge action:**

We urge you not to make of the State Constitution a stumbling block in the way of full participation in the greatest civic right and responsibility in a democracy.

**We will VOTE NO on the Voter Photo ID Amendment [on November 6th](#).**

**We urge you to do the same.**

Signed,

Rabbi Esther Adler  
Rabbi Morris J. Allen  
Rabbi Alexander Davis  
Rabbi Amy Eilberg  
Rabbi Sim Glaser  
Rabbi Jennifer S. Gertman  
Rabbi Hayim Herring

Rabbi Adam Spilker  
Rabbi Lilly Kaufman  
Rabbi Harold J. Kravitz  
Rabbi Michael A. Latz  
Rabbi Lynn C. Liberman  
Rabbi Emma Kippley Ogman  
Rabbi Avi S. Olitzky

Rabbi Melissa Simon  
Rabbi David Steinberg  
Rabbi Sharon Stiefel  
Rabbi Adam J. Titcher  
Rabbi Aaron Weininger  
Rabbi David Wirtschafter  
Rabbi Marcia A. Zimmerman

\*Source: **League of Women Voters**, Our Vote Our Future, [www.lwvnmn.org](http://www.lwvnmn.org). For studies of the impact of similar legislation in other states and potential impact in Minnesota, click on 'Additional Resources', 'The Cost of Voter ID Laws: What the Courts Say', Brennan Center for Justice; and 'Costs of Proposed Election Initiative in Minnesota, September 2012', by Kathy Bonnifield, Citizens for Election Integrity in Minnesota and David A. Schultz, Hamline University.