

May 20, 2011 – Drafted by Voter ID workgroup
June 15, 2011 – Approved by JCRC Steering Committee
June 23, 2011 – Approved by the JCRC Board



**Jewish Community
Relations Council**

MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

Draft position on Photo ID for voting

The right to vote is an essential part of our democracy and a consistently protected right. The free exercise of that right should not be affected by old-age, income or disability. Fair elections require the participation of all eligible members of our voting community. Unnecessary impediments to the exercise of that right are anathema to our democracy and must be resisted.

1. Section 12.13 (1)(d) of the Wisconsin statutes makes it a crime to “impersonate a registered voter or pose as another for the purpose of voting at an election.” Section 12.60(1)(a) provides that anyone convicted of violating this law is guilty of a Class I felony and is subject to imprisonment for up to three and a half years.
2. The penalties provided in this law have been sufficient to deter voting under the name of another voter, and will be sufficient to deter such behavior in the future. Accordingly, there is no need to require voters to show a photo ID.
3. Requiring a photo ID for voting will reduce the number of votes cast by qualified voters who do not have a driver’s license or other acceptable IDs, such as the poor, elderly and disabled. Such a requirement could prejudice elections by adversely affecting candidates and parties supported by such citizens.

Therefore the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation is opposed to the requirement of photo ID at the polls, and opposes any acts of the Wisconsin legislature imposing that requirement.