

American University's Center for Democracy and Election Management

Voter ID Study



Objective

To inform the voter ID policy debate on legislation that would require ID cards or proof of citizenship in order to vote in U.S. elections.

Approach

NuStats interviewed probability samples of registered voters in Mississippi, Maryland, and Indiana to estimate the incidence of registered voters who lack proof of citizenship. The survey was done via CATI, with a supplementary mail questionnaire for registered voters for whom landline telephone numbers were not obtained.

Outcome

Accurate and reliable measures of the nature and magnitude of the proportion of eligible voters who currently lack ID cards or proof of citizenship and the characteristics of those persons. Public opinions on the impact of more stringent ID requirements on the integrity of the voting process versus inhibiting certain population segments from voting. Strategies to facilitate ID acquisition without creating barriers to voting.

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