

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MN

CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2012-XXX

OPPOSING THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REQUIRING
PHOTO ID FOR VOTING

WHEREAS the proposed amendment would be expensive to implement for both state and local governments, including the cost of educating election officials and the public; providing free government-issued IDs to those without one, along with easy access to obtain these IDs; and developing and staffing a provisional ballot system; and

WHEREAS the proposed amendment would create an untested procedure with no exceptions which could not be changed except through the constitutional amendment process; and

WHEREAS the proposed amendment would effectively end election day registration and Northfield has a higher than average rate of election day registration; and

WHEREAS the proposed amendment would create barriers affecting elderly, disabled, low income, young and minority voters, and Northfield has a large student and senior citizen populations; and

WHEREAS the ballot wording “Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to require all voters to present valid photo identification to vote and to require the state to provide free identification to eligible voters, effective July 1, 2013?” is insufficient to describe the impact and likely costs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THAT: the Northfield City Council considers the proposed amendment an unfunded mandate which will have disproportionate impact on our large college student and senior populations,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Northfield City Council opposes the proposed constitutional amendment requiring citizens present a government-issued photo ID before being allowed to cast a ballot.

City Council of the City of Northfield on this 16th day of October, 2012.

ATTEST

City Clerk

Mayor

VOTE: ___ ROSSING ___ BUCKHEIT ___ NAKASIAN
 ___ POWNELL ___ IMM ___ ZWEIFEL