

## **Strother, Julie (OSS)**

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**From:** Mary Theresa Downing <marytheresad@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 09, 2014 5:39 PM  
**To:** \*OAH\_RuleComments.OAH  
**Subject:** OAH Docket No. 8-3500-30741; Revisor No. RD4193

Dear Judge Lipman:

After serving as an election judge I know that anything that would make the process of voting more efficient and more fair should be seriously considered. Since people registering to vote at the polls in Minnesota must present something that has their name and their photo, using any reasonably secure photo ID would serve the purpose of identifying them. A driver's license or ID card from another state or a high school ID card are just as secure as a Minnesota driver's license or a post-secondary school ID card. Allowing people to use them to prove their identity seems to make sense.

Allowing people to prove residency using credit card or banking statements, rent statements even if they don't include utilities, mortgage statements or residential leases valid through election day in addition to the forms already in use would give people other options that are equally as secure as the forms currently recognized. Since the purpose of asking voters to present a document with the address they claim is currently theirs is to verify that claim, denying that these statements or leases are admissible even though they are just as valid as the currently recognized documents seems arbitrary in the extreme. Voters are often unaware which forms of ID or proof of residency are acceptable and arrive with documents like credit card statements that are valid proof of their address even though they are not deemed acceptable by Minnesota statute.

Requiring a voter to make a second trip when the facts of identity and residency are clearly supported seems unreasonable and would seem to discourage people from exercising one of their most precious rights, the right to vote on who will represent them in their government. Please add the proposed additional documents to the list of those acceptable as proof of identity and residence when a voter registers at the polls.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Theresa Downing