

Meeting tells voters of new photo ID law

Counties throughout the state held townhalls Tuesday to inform voters of a new state law requiring photo identification at the polls.

The law, which requires all voters to present a photo ID at the polls, goes into effect Jan. 1.

"We want every voter to know what they need to know to empower themselves to exercise their right to vote," Kim Buckley, Madison County's administrator of elections, said.

Few attendees showed up Tuesday at the Madison County townhall hosted in the Madison County Agricultural Complex Auditorium at 311 N. Parkway.

But Sammie Jackson said he decided to attend to hear officials offer rationale for the law, which they did not.

He said with about 100 million people voting and only 86 convictions of illegal voting, the law "simply doesn't seem to be that important."

"I really don't think it's going to do anything," Jackson said.

State election officials have said their job is

not to debate the merits of the law but to make sure voters are informed of the new requirement.

Acceptable forms of photo identification include an expired or current photo driver's license, an expired or current U.S. passport, a Department of **Safety** photo ID, a U.S. military photo ID or a gun permit card with photo.

Voters who do not have an acceptable form of photo identification may obtain a free photo ID from the Tennessee Department of Safety.

For more information, visit a local election commission office or go online at tn.gov/sos/election/index.htm

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