

DANIEL E. LUNGREN, CALIFORNIA  
CHAIRMAN

GREGG HARPER, MISSISSIPPI  
PHIL GINGREY, GEORGIA  
AARON SCHOCK, ILLINOIS  
TODD ROKITA, INDIANA  
RICH NUGENT, FLORIDA

PHILIP KIKO, STAFF DIRECTOR

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6157  
(202) 225-8281  
<http://cha.house.gov>

ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

ZOE LOFGREN, CALIFORNIA  
CHARLES A. GONZALEZ, TEXAS

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

JAMIE FLEET, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

November 01, 2012

The Honorable Hope Andrade  
Texas Secretary of State  
P.O. Box 12887  
Austin, Texas 78711-2887

Dear Madame Secretary:

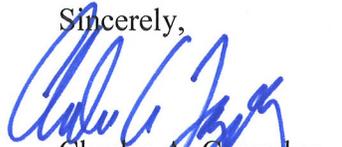
It is with deep concern that I have heard reports that Texas poll workers have demanded that voters show photographic identification before being allowed to vote in spite of the fact that a federal court ruled that requirement invalid as a violation of the Voting Rights Act. I write to you today to ask what steps you are taking to ensure that no Texan is disfranchised through this or any other mistake.

Earlier this week, Wayne Slater reported in the *Dallas Morning News* that, when he tried to vote, a poll worker refused to accept a current utility bill as his form of identification despite the fact that utility bills are valid forms of identification in Texas and have been so for years. Only after repeated interventions by another poll worker, interventions that would never have happened had Mr. Slater not insisted that the first poll worker was in the wrong, was he able to vote. I hope that you agree with me that this is completely unacceptable. Such a test of the voter's knowledge of the law is reminiscent of the literacy tests once used to deny minorities their right to vote. No eligible voter should be required to refute a poll worker's false claims or ideas to exercise the constitutionally protected right to vote.

When the legislature rushed to enact the misguided voter photo identification bill, I joined many others in warning that it risked disfranchising voters. My staff and I have had numerous discussions with you and your staff about how the provisions, in addition to being unnecessary in the absence of any evidence of voter impersonation in Texas, could lead to confusion. We have repeatedly urged you to prepare and to work with county election officials to ensure that poll workers were properly trained and voters fully informed of the facts. Now, our concerns are proving only too well founded.

I ask that you inform me promptly of what steps you have taken and are taking to ensure that no eligible voter is called on to produce more identification than is required by law to exercise their right to vote. With less than one week to go before Election Day and millions of Texans expected to vote before then, there is not a minute to be lost.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Gonzalez  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Elections

CG:cr

cc: The Honorable Gregg Harper, Chairman, Subcommittee on Elections  
The Chief Elections Officer in each Texas County *via* Texas Elections Division