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## SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8001

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Stevens, Carrell, Benton, Becker, and Swecker

TO THE HONORABLE BARACK H. OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, 1

AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF 2.

REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of 6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent and petition as follows: 7

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State of Washington

8 WHEREAS, Congress is considering new legislation to establish a federally mandated, universal, government run voter registration 9 10 system; and

11 WHEREAS, Such a federal mandate would dangerously erode state 12 control of election procedures; and

WHEREAS, States, rather than the federal government, should have 13 14 the responsibility of managing the election process; and

15 WHEREAS, Appointed federal bureaucrats in Washington D.C. should 16 not be able to override the decisions of elected state legislators and local election officials; and 17

WHEREAS, The protection of the integrity of our election process 18 19 must be a critical priority in any election reform legislation; and

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WHEREAS, The Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Washington oppose any further federal takeover of local election processes; and

WHEREAS, The Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Washington oppose any federal unfunded mandates in the administration of elections;

NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that, if Congress makes any grants of money conditional on the voluntary adoption of new voter registration or voting procedures, two of those procedures required to qualify for federal funding be:

- (1) A requirement for voters to present a government-issued photo identification at the polls and for voters to enclose a copy of such identification with any absentee ballot; and
- (2) A requirement that all new voter registrations include the requirement that the registrant present proof of citizenship before the registrant is declared eligible to vote.

BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable Barack H. Obama, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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