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 **TODAY'S "QUICK HIT":**  
**VOTER ID**  
**REQUIREMENTS:**  
**IT'S ALL ABOUT**  
**PARTISANSHIP!**

By Stephen L. Bakke  February 23, 2017



*Here's what provoked me:*

*I don't understand the resistance to a reasonable voter-ID requirement. It seems to me the least likely thing we should be arguing about. Then a column appeared in the Des Moines Register written by a political science professor.*

*Here's my response:*

**Voter ID Requirements: It's All About Partisanship!**

On February 23, Professor Douglas Hess gave us his assessment of the foolishness of a voter-ID requirement in "Voter-ID Bills Try to Solve Problems That Don't Exist."

His main points were:

- It's a solution in search of a problem.
- The public sentiment in support of this is very shallow and easily reversed.
- AND the one that caught my eye was: "...election ID proposals have the odor of partisanship around them..."

I want to focus on the last item. Calling the Republican support for voter-ID a partisan issue is pure hypocrisy. The professor's reaction is equally partisan – perhaps even more so. Election ID opposition actually goes one better. It not only has the odor of partisanship, it is convincingly mired in partisanship and political vote acquisition strategy. It's a case of a shallow argument in search of a legitimate issue. Drop it!