

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
FROM E.J. DIONNE:
LET'S MAKE VOTING AN
OBLIGATION OF
CITIZENSHIP!
(But how about
that "voter ID" thing?)



By Stephen L. Bakke  March 11, 2015

Here's what provoked me:

An article by E.J. Dionne enthusiastically supported making voting an obligation of citizenship. I could be convinced to agree with him on that one! But somehow that seems to conflict with his disdain for states passing laws "infringing on access to the ballot," and the universal progressive opposition to requiring "voter ID." I guess things don't have to always make sense.

Here's my response:

From E.J. Dionne: Let's make voting an obligation of citizenship!
(But how about that voter ID thing?)

I almost agree with SOME of Mr. Dionne's opinion in "Progress questionable since King's last book" from March 9. His most significant message was a repeat of his opinion that we should make voting an obligation of citizenship – in other words, mandatory voting. I think I could agree with that part.

On the other hand Dionne points out that many states have "passed laws infringing on access to the ballot." Of course, part of what's behind that complaint is absolute rejection voter ID requirements – in other words, no requirement to provide proof of citizenship.

Let's see, that means some sort of "monitoring is necessary" to make sure ALL citizens actually show up – or else! But if there's no proof of citizenship required to show up and vote, how can you then, uh effectively monitor the, uh well, you see my dilemma! When you have inconsistent positions on things, you often "bump into yourself."

It seems to me that, like that old song says: "You can't have one without the other!"