

## **ELECTORAL ISSUES: INDIVIDUAL VOTER RIGHTS & OUTSIDE INFLUENCE ON ELECTIONS**

### ***Position Statement***

NASW, Iowa Chapter, affirms the protection and enforcement of individual suffrage rights, particularly for those who have less political power or those who experience social vulnerabilities (minorities, women, the elderly, low income individuals and those with disabilities). NASW, Iowa Chapter, promotes the role of individual voters and supports limits on outside influence in the political process.

### ***Recommendations***

NASW recommends the following provisions:

- Ensure that efforts to update voter information systems do not discourage voting or negatively impact vulnerable populations.
- Encourage steps to modernize the election process and to improve access, accuracy, and efficiency.
- Oppose efforts to require photo identification for in-person voting.
- Implement legislation and rules to ensure that individuals who have been released from the Iowa criminal justice system (post prison term and probation) are given the means to regain the right to vote through an automatic voter right reinstatement process. Promote programs and policies that notify convicted criminals of their voting status.
- Pass legislation to clearly define infamous crimes for which voting rights should be restricted
- Support efforts to increase voter participation, especially among communities of color, low-income individuals, persons with disabilities, homeless individuals, the elderly, individuals convicted of a felony who have had their voting right restored, and others who have traditionally been oppressed and less likely to vote.
- Support the integrity of the voting process by monitoring actions by the courts and legislature that challenge voter rights and/or voter access in Iowa.
- Promote efforts to limit outside influence on elections and to increase disclosure of outside spending.

The full version of this statement with references can be found at <https://nasw-heartland.site-ym.com/?183>