

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **VOTER ADVOCATES HELP CITIZENS GET THEIR VOTER ID**

*Communities in Voter ID States Can Create Their Own  
Voter Advocates Program.*

LOS ANGELES, October 25, 2012 – VoteRiders, a non-partisan non-profit organization that supports efforts to help eligible citizens get their voter ID, has produced a video about one such effective effort. The video can be viewed at [YouTube.com/VoteRiders](http://YouTube.com/VoteRiders).

The League of Women Voters of Philadelphia has a Voter Advocates program that can be replicated in any city whose state has a voter ID law. Karen Buck, Executive Director of the SeniorLAW Center in Philadelphia, conducts the Voter Advocates training sessions. The trained volunteers help voters navigate the PennDOT maze (which is Pennsylvania's version of the DMV), smoothing the process and counseling citizens trying to clear the final hurdle to the ballot box. Voter Advocates enable voters to understand the documents they are asked to sign and clerks' instructions. Importantly, on behalf of citizens, Voter Advocates help the PennDOT personnel to interpret identification documents and regulations properly. NOTE: a PA court has issued a preliminary injunction preventing the state's voter ID law from taking effect before the November 6 election.

According to Karen Buck, "Creating a team of Voter Advocates -- well-trained volunteers who assist, guide and advocate for voters through an often daunting ID process program -- was an inspired initiative in Pennsylvania. It is easily replicable in other states facing voter ID requirements. Matching individual advocates with particularly vulnerable voters, including the elderly and disabled, and placing teams of advocates at driver's license centers, harnessed the efforts of everyday individual's wanting to protect the right to vote, with powerful results."

VoteRiders produced the Voter Advocates training video to help communities in other voter ID states to create their own Voter Advocates program. Kathleen Unger, Founder and President of VoteRiders, is convinced that "knowledgeable and caring Voter Advocates minimize any sense of intimidation or confusion that citizens may otherwise experience in trying to get their voter ID. Voter Advocates also help the whole process to be efficient and less frustrating for all concerned."

VoteRiders is the only nationwide organization dedicated specifically to Voter ID. Due to restrictive voter ID laws and the confusion surrounding them, potentially millions of citizens will be turned away at the polls and not allowed to vote. VoteRiders focuses on helping on-the-ground organizations that are reaching out to citizens who need their voter ID. VoteRiders' support has been primarily in the form of traditional and social media exposure for these organizations and their effective programs to assist voters, thereby augmenting local support in the form of donations and volunteers. Importantly, VoteRiders also inspires other communities to emulate these best practices. VoteRiders, a non-profit non-partisan organization, is a partner of the Election Protection Coalition and other election integrity organizations and is a member of the PA Voter Coalition. VoteRiders is your source for all the news and updates regarding voter ID...now, on Election Day, and beyond at [VoteRiders.com](http://VoteRiders.com).

The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. LWV does not support or oppose any political party or candidate but does — and always has — taken stands on issues its members have studied to create in citizens a sense of responsibility for its nation's problems. Through research and advocacy, LWV seeks to encourage the informed citizen who actively participates in government. For additional information about the League of Women Voters of Philadelphia's Voter ID efforts, visit <http://www.phillyvoterid.org>.

[SeniorLAW Center](#) in Philadelphia has been protecting the rights of older Pennsylvanians since 1978 through legal representation, education and advocacy. SeniorLAW Center provides a wide range of services in its mission to protect the legal rights and interests of the elderly. They provide these services by telephone, in-person, and at various community sites. Voter ID is likely to be required in Pennsylvania in the future, so SeniorLAW Center will continue to work proudly with the PA Voter Coalition and partners to help senior voters and all voters get ID and know their rights. Call the PA SeniorLAWHelpLine 1-877-PA SR LAW for help in obtaining ID or for legal advice, information or counsel.