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FROM THE UK VOTER ID REFORM**

Mandatory photo voter identification (ID) laws are increasingly adopted in democracies without national ID systems, sparking debate about their effects on electoral participation. Most prior research focuses on the United States, a uniquely polarized context with a history of racialized voter suppression, limiting generalizability of the findings. We study the introduction of mandatory voter ID in the United Kingdom, a less polarized democracy, exploiting three contrasts: (1) pre- and post-reform changes in local election turnout across England and Northern Ireland over three decades (1993–2023), (2) individual-level turnout changes in the British Election Study panel (2014–2023), and (3) turnout differences around an age-based discontinuity in ID ownership. Across all designs, we find consistent turnout reductions in the short term among eligible voters. These results provide rare, comprehensive evidence from a non-US setting, highlighting the need for safeguards protecting access for all eligible voters, with implications for voter ID legislation worldwide.

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12:10PM-1:30PM****LOCATION****INTS 1113**