



Best Deal at Hot Wheels® Accelerator In Stock at Boscovs.com

Description Best Deals Search The Hot Wheels Accelerator is packed with exciting learning activities and cool games to test your skills at language, mathematics, memory, logic and ...



Subscribe Now | Pay Bill | Place an Ad | Contact Customer Service | Contact The Detroit News

RSS | Email Newsletters | PDA

Search Belle Tire Archive: Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon | Today

Home News Local Sports Autos Business Entertainment Lifestyle Opinion Classifieds Jobs Cars Real Estate Apts. Shopping Local Nation/World Politics Religion Technology Update News Talk

Politics and Government

RSS Feeds Email Headlines Text Alerts On Your PDA JUMP TO SITE INDEX

Article Tools: Print Email Comment Text Size: Save Share

Friday, October 26, 2007

NAACP to challenge voter law

Local chapter digs in its heels, calls Mich. ID requirements a 'poll tax.'

Santiago Esparza / The Detroit News

DETROIT -- The Detroit Branch of the NAACP announced Thursday that it will continue to fight a controversial new state law requiring Michigan voters to show photo identification or sign an affidavit in order to cast a ballot, while fighting a similar measure in Indiana.

"We view this voter identification as another version of a poll tax," the Rev. Wendell Anthony, head of Detroit's NAACP, said Thursday. "It is just intimidation."

Already, attorneys for the national NAACP and its Detroit branch have filed a challenge to the law with the state on the grounds the law was not properly implemented because there were no public hearings. They also have sent a letter to the Department of Justice outlining their concerns and reminding officials that election law for Clyde and Buena Vista townships can not be changed without federal approval under the Voting Rights Act.

Advertisement Anthony told members of the media that the NAACP's Detroit branch is preparing a brief to support those who oppose a similar law in Indiana. That law requires picture identification to cast a vote. People who are indigent, object on religious grounds or live in state facilities that serve as their precinct's polling site are exempt from the law, according to the Indiana secretary of state's Web site.

The U.S. Supreme Court in September agreed to hear the Indiana case, and oral arguments could be heard by the end of this year, said Melvin Butch Hollowell, the Detroit NAACP's lead attorney.

The NAACP Detroit staff and volunteers spend many hours a week on the case, he said.

"We will fight until we win," Hollowell said.

Courts have upheld voter ID laws in Arizona, Michigan and Georgia.

The law was passed in Michigan in 1996 but former State Attorney General Frank Kelley believed it violated the 14th Amendment and refused to allow its implementation. The Michigan Supreme Court ruled it was legal in July, paving the way for it to go into effect Nov. 6

The law, which requires photo identification or for voters without identification to sign an affidavit, is aimed at keeping African-Americans from the polls, Anthony said.

In 2004, about 69 percent of black adults were registered to vote compared with 75 percent of whites, according to U.S. census data. About 87 percent of registered blacks and 89 percent of registered whites voted in the last presidential election.

Anthony said he has asked Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land for a meeting, but she declined.

Land's office on Friday afternoon confirmed that Anthony requested a meeting, but said the time frame for it conflicted with Land's schedule. Land offered to have the state's director of elections and her chief operations officer meet with Anthony in Lansing as an alternative, said Land's spokeswoman, Kelly Chesney.

Anthony said he deserved to speak to Land and not someone who reports to her.

University of Detroit-Mercy law professor Lawrence Dubin said the NAACP is right to question whether photo identification is needed to vote. But he wonders if the NAACP is going to be able to do anything about the laws in Michigan and Indiana.

"The reality of the situation makes it an uphill battle," Dubin said.

Article Tools: Print Email Comment

Related Articles

More reports

Voters without ID card can still cast ballot

In the Blogs...

Washington Bureau Blog



Deb Price: In 1974, Vice President Gerald Ford blurted out in front of a reporter that he knew President Richard Nixon was a goner and he'd soon be president, according to a ... [Continued](#)

Raging Bullard

George Bullard: A lot of impatience on cable news over David Copperfield. Why haven't the cops moved on him in the rape charge? asked one ditz commentator. Well, darlin' there's a ... [Continued](#)



Bizarro News Blog



George Bullard: A lot of impatience on cable news over David Copperfield. Why haven't the cops moved on him in the rape charge? asked one ditz commentator. Well, darlin' there's a ... [Continued](#)

[More blogs](#)

MORE IN: POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

- [Candidate ban lifted for Arab meetings](#) - 10/26/2007
- [Bill may rain cash on Michigan crops](#) - 10/26/2007
- [NAACP to challenge voter law](#) - 10/26/2007
- [GOP rep expected to face tough race](#) - 10/26/2007
- [State adds charities to tax form checkoff](#) - 10/26/2007
- [DNR warns of cutbacks unless fees rise](#) - 10/26/2007
- [Hopefuls receive big checks from kids](#) - 10/26/2007
- [Kids health care fight resumes](#) - 10/26/2007
- [Dems offer \\$1T plan to end alternative tax](#) - 10/26/2007
- [Turtle fence riles taxpayers](#) - 10/25/2007
- [Levin won't fight Dem primary](#) - 10/25/2007
- [Lawmakers shun budget meetings](#) - 10/25/2007

Site Index

Essentials:	News:	Autos:	Sports:	Entertainment:	Forums:	Lifestyle:
Home	Nation/World	Autos Insider	Sports	Entertainment	Forums Index	Lifestyle
Page One PDF	Politics/Govt.	Drive	Lions/NFL	Music	Lions Talk	Homestyle
Sports PDF	Religion	Joyrides	Pistons/NBA	Calendar	Wings Talk	Food
Weather	Local/State:	Auto Shows	Red Wings/NHL	Movies	Pistons Talk	Recipe Finder
Horoscope	Metro/State	Auto Photos	Tigers/MLB	Movie Finder	Tigers Talk	Health/Fitness
Lottery	Wayne	Autos Talk	Shock/WNBA	TV Listings	Ask Mike O'Hara	Fashion/Shopping
Crossword	Oakland	Test Drive blog	MSU	TV/Radio	Big Ten Talk	Families/Parenting
Sudoku	Macomb	Business:	U-M	Restaurants	News Talk	Travel/Recreation
Contact Us	Livingston	Business News	More Colleges	Wine Report	Autos Talk	MichMoms
Multimedia:	Commuting	Personal Finance	High Schools	Celebs	Faith Talk	MichDads
Photos/Video	Schools	Stocks	Golf	Performing Arts	Opinions:	Other
News Photos	Michigan History	Technology	Motor Sports	Casinos	Editorials	Special Reports
Autos Photos	Obituaries		Other Sports	Puzzles/Games	Letter to Editor	
Audio Galleries	Death Notices		Scoreboards		Blogs	

Special Reports



South of the equator, Ford and GM prosper

For U.S. automakers, South America is an island of profitability that's helping to offset their troubles in North America. - Aug. 13, 2007

[Special Report: 2007 UAW](#)

ENTER TO WIN MOVIE PASSES **FRED CLAUS** VINCE VAUGHN PAUL GIAMATTI

[CLICK HERE](#)

[Video](#)
[Photo Store](#)

[Columnists](#)
[Cybersurveys](#)

[contract talks - Jun. 21, 2007](#)

[Special Report: The future of Chrysler - May. 13, 2007](#)

[Sale an epic event in the global auto industry](#)

[Woodward: A journey through 200 years - Mar. 8, 2007](#)

[Special Report: The Death of Tara Grant - Mar. 5, 2007](#)

[More Special Reports](#)