

Let Them See You at the Polls!

Do we live in a democracy or not?

By **Kat Avila, Contributing Writer** | Published on LatinoLA: October 5, 2012



While Democrats are trying to get out the vote, Republicans have lead the drive to disenfranchise voters in eleven states and to block votes from certain demographics that largely vote Democrat, including Latinos.

In California, there is currently no voter i.d. requirement. (You can check the requirements for other states at [NCSL's website](#). However not so long ago, Republican Mimi Walters (who unsuccessfully ran for State Treasurer in 2010) pushed a failed Assembly Bill (AB 2317) in 2008 to require voter i.d. You can count on the State GOP to try again.

But they will have a fight on their hands if they do. I still vividly remember the Orange County Republican Party and Curt Pringle from 1988, because at that time when I went to vote in Santa Ana there was a uniformed guard (paid for by the GOP) at the entrance to my polling place and I was harassed, insulted, and asked for i.d. by a nasty poll worker. I was not alone in my experience as most heavily Latino residential areas were targeted for voter suppression.

Be sure to watch Sarah Silverman's video "Let My People Vote 2012" at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypRW5qoraTw>

I tried to vote
but they wouldn't let me
because...
I was female

because...
I was red
I was black
I was yellow
I was brown
I was a white liberal

because...
I was Jewish
I was Buddhist
I was Muslim
I was an atheist

because...
I was David against Goliath

because...
I was an individual
who still believed in a democracy
of the people and by the people,
and not by corporations.

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When I was finally able to vote,
I was intimidated, bullied, and insulted
because I was TOO American for them.

Let them see you at the polls
and show them A-M-E-R-I-C-A the Beautiful.

Find this story online at latinola.com/story.php?story=11217

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