

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Congressman Wally Herger today voted for H.R. 4844, the "Federal Election Integrity Act of 2006," which the House passed by a vote of 228 to 196. The bill seeks to prevent voting fraud by requiring individuals to provide proof of citizenship when registering to vote, and photo identification when voting in federal elections. Herger made the following statement after House passage of the bill:

"Election fraud makes a mockery of our time-honored civic right and responsibility to vote," Herger stated. "Everyone's heard stories of individuals casting multiple ballots, noncitizens voting, and even the fraudulent registration of deceased persons. Such behavior erodes the American people's confidence in the election system, and it must be stopped. We must preserve the integrity of the system by ensuring that only eligible U.S. citizens participate.

"The Federal Election Integrity Act upholds this fundamental principle by requiring individuals to demonstrate they're American citizens when they register to vote, and to provide a photo ID when they cast ballots," continued Herger. "This measure implements a central recommendation of the bipartisan Carter-Baker Commission on Federal Election Reform, which proposed an uniform system of voter identification to 'deter or detect fraud, [and] to confirm the identity of voters.' I urge the Senate to promptly consider and pass this common sense bill."

In addition to providing new safeguards to help prevent voter fraud, the Federal Election Integrity Act would ensure that eligible voters are not disenfranchised by requiring states to provide the necessary photo ID free of charge to individuals who cannot afford to obtain it. It would also authorize funds to reimburse states for the cost of these programs