PALM BEACH COUNTY, Fla. -- Florida's updated voter registration laws were in effect for Tuesday's municipal elections in Palm Beach County. Some people say the law is designed to suppress voter turnout.

Herman Smith wears his support for candidate Terence Davis on his shirt, but he does not support the voter ID law.

"It's voter suppression that's what I think it is," said Smith.

Florida's voter registration law reduces the number of days for early voting, eliminates the ability for voters to change their address at voting stations, and creates new administrative requirements for third-party civic groups that seek to organize voter registration drives.

"Empirically we would say that there is just not much evidence of voter fraud," said FAU political science professor, Kevin Wagner.

"So a lot of people think if you're not doing it largely for voter fraud issues, then it has to do with voter suppression," said Wagner.

That suppression is allegedly of minorities and older voters. Reportedly, an estimated 11-percent of all voting age citizens, and some 18 percent of people older than 65, don't have photo IDs, but would have other forms of identification. As many as 25 percent of African-Americans are said to lack acceptable identification for some current ID laws.

"It's driven by the Republican party wanting to get back in office by any means necessary and use their resources to do it," said Smith.

"The law has been in existence for many years," said Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Susan Bucher.

Bucher says Florida's voter ID law is one of the most flexible in the country.

"It allows you to use drivers licenses, picture signature ID, passport, student ID, military ID. It can even be a credit or debit card," said Bucher.
Current reports of voter fraud nationwide have turned out to be inconclusive. The Department of Justice under President George W. Bush launched a five-year investigation into voter fraud that resulted in just 86 convictions across the country.