

(AP) Iowa Secretary of State Matt Schultz plans to unveil a voter identification bill at Statehouse news conference.

Schultz, a Republican, has scheduled an announcement Thursday morning on a voter ID bill. The issue was central to his successful 2010 campaign for secretary of state. Critics of voter ID laws say they unfairly discourage voting by poor, minority and older voters who are less likely to have government issued identification. They also argue that voter fraud is rare. Some say the effort is a ploy to discourage voting by groups that tend to support Democratic candidates. Schultz has noted people have to show identification before boarding an airplane or checking into a hotel room. He says voting is important and requires similar precautions.