

Frequently Asked Questions:

The New Voter ID Law (The Amended Procedure)

Prior to October 2, 2012, at every primary or election occurring on or after September 17, 2012, including the November 6, 2012 General Election, all voters were going to be required to show an acceptable form of photo ID at the polling place prior to casting their ballot, with some exceptions. However, the Commonwealth Court then made a ruling that prevents the implementation of significant portions of the Voter ID law for in-person voting in this November's General Election.

Soft Roll Out

On Election Day, all voters who come into the polling place will be asked but not be required to show an acceptable form of photo ID. If a voter does not present an acceptable form of photo ID the poll worker must give the voter a copy of a hand out that will explain what photo IDs they will need for the coming elections.

Will some voters have to show Identification?

First time voters who are required under the Help America Voter Act and/or the Pennsylvania Election Code will still be required to provide identification at the November 6th General Election. However, the acceptable forms of ID for first time voters differ from those for absentee voters. The following is a list of acceptable forms of ID for first time voters:

Approved forms of photo identification *(ID must be current and valid):*

- PA driver's license or ID card issued by PennDOT
- ID issued by any other Commonwealth agency
- United States passport
- ID issued by the U.S. Government
- U.S. Armed Forces ID
- Student ID card
- Employee ID

Approved forms of non-photo identification *(ID must be current and show the name and address of the elector):*

- Voter's Identification Card issued by the Voter Registration Commission
- Non-photo ID issued by any Commonwealth agency
- Non-photo ID issued by any agency of the U.S. Government
- A firearm permit
- A current utility bill

- A current bank statement
- A paycheck
- A government check

Has the absentee ballot process required by the Voter ID law changed?

No, all requirements of the Voter ID law relative to absentee balloting still exist. Absentee ballot applications must contain a driver's license# or a PennDOT ID#. If the voter does not have either of those items, then the voter may provide the last 4 digits of their social security number. If the voter does not have a driver's license number, a PennDOT ID number or Social Security Number, the voter may provide a copy of another acceptable form of ID, as listed below. Applications received without the required information will still be processed. The ballot will be sent to the voter along with the absentee ballot notice requesting that the information be provided. The voter has 6 days after the election to either provide the missing information via email, fax, telephone, or in person, or provide a copy of an acceptable form of ID.

What are the acceptable forms of ID for absentee voters that do not have a drivers license number, a PennDOT ID number or a social security number?

- ✓ Photo IDs issued by the US Government or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including:
 - US passport
 - US military ID (active duty and retired military IDs may designate an expiration date this is indefinite). Military dependents' IDs must contain a current expiration date.
 - Pennsylvania Department of State ID for voting
- ✓ Employee photo identification issued by Federal, Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania County, or Pennsylvania Municipal government
- ✓ Photo identification issued by an accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution of higher learning
- ✓ Photo identification issued by a Pennsylvania care facility, including long-term care facilities, assisted living residences and personal care homes
- ✓ In the case of a voter who has a RELIGIOUS OBJECTION to being photographed, acceptable IDs include the following:
 - Pennsylvania valid without-photo driver's license

As a part of future educational efforts, we have provided the following information:

What are acceptable forms of Photo ID?

All photo IDs **must** be current and contain an expiration date, unless noted otherwise. All Photo IDs must also contain the name of the voter and the name must “substantially conform” to the name on the poll book.

Acceptable IDs include:

- Photo IDs issued by the U.S. Federal Government or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:
 - ❖ Pennsylvania **driver’s license** or **non-driver’s license photo ID** (IDs are valid for voting purposes 12 months past expiration date)
 - ❖ Pennsylvania Department of State ID for Voting Purposes
 - ❖ Valid U.S. passport (not expired)
 - ❖ U.S. military ID - active duty and retired military (a military or veteran’s ID must designate an expiration date or designate that the expiration date is indefinite). Military dependents’ ID must contain an expiration date
- Employee photo ID issued by Federal, PA, County or Municipal government (not expired)
- Photo ID cards from an accredited public or private Pennsylvania college or university (not expired)
- Photo ID cards issued by a Pennsylvania care facility, including long-term care facilities, assisted living residences or personal care homes (not expired)

Are there any acceptable forms of NON-PHOTO ID for voting purposes?

Yes. A voter who has a religious objection to being photographed may present a “valid without-photo” driver’s license or ID card issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Does the name on the Photo ID have to match exactly the name on the poll book?

No. The name on the Photo ID must “**substantially conform**” to the name on the poll book. People often use nicknames, middle names and initials as a substitute for their given name. For example, a voter whose name is Joseph Earl Voter or Margaret Smith Voter may have a Photo ID that contains any one of the following:

Joseph E. Voter	Joe Earl Voter	Margaret Smith Voter	<i>*Margaret Smith</i>
Joseph Voter	Joe E. Voter	Maggy S. Voter	M. S. Voter
J. Earl Voter	J. Voter	Maggy Voter	M. Smith Voter
J. E. Voter	Earl Voter	Peg S. Voter	M. Voter

* It is the opinion of the Department of State that in the case of a voter who recently changed her name by reason of marriage, etc. the Pennsylvania driver's license coupled with a PennDOT driver's license update card would be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the Voter ID regarding proof of identification.

What if a voter does not present an acceptable form of Photo ID?

If a voter does not present an acceptable form of Photo ID at the polling place, the voter must be given the opportunity to vote by **provisional ballot**. In order for the provisional ballot to count, the voter must, within **6 days** after the day of the election, provide the county board of elections with a copy of an acceptable form of Photo ID via mail, electronically (email, fax, etc.) or in person and an **affirmation** that the voter is the same person who cast the provisional ballot. The county board of elections will distribute copies of this form to the polling places.

What if a voter cannot afford to obtain acceptable Photo ID?

If a voter is indigent and cannot obtain an acceptable form of Photo ID, including an inability to pay for a certified birth certificate to get a free Photo ID, the voter must be given the opportunity to vote by **provisional ballot**. In order for the provisional ballot to count, the voter must, within **6 days** after the day of the election, provide the county board of elections with an **affirmation** (by mail, electronically or in person) that the voter is the same person who cast the provisional ballot AND that the voter is **indigent** and therefore unable to obtain proof of identification without the payment of a fee. Your county board of elections will distribute copies of this form to the polling places. It is recommended that these forms be completed at the polling place and inserted inside the outer envelope of the provisional ballot.

Please log onto the Department of State's website at www.VotesPA.com and click on the **Resource Center** link for detailed information regarding the new Voter ID law.