



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PENNSYLVANIA'S VOTER ID LAW

A Guide to ACT 18 of 2012

Governor Tom
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Carol Aichele, Secretary of the Commonwealth

FAQ – GENERAL INFORMATION ON VOTING IN PERSON:

<p>What are the changes to the law and when does it go into effect?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Starting with the November 2012 General Election, Pennsylvania law now requires voters to show an acceptable photo ID to vote at the polls. ➤ In the April 2012 Primary Election, the law requires election workers to ask voters for an acceptable photo ID at the polling place, but voters without an acceptable photo ID will still be allowed to vote, provided the voter otherwise meets the identification requirements for first-time voters. ➤ Preexisting first-time voter identification requirements are still in effect for the April 2012 Primary Election.
<p>What is an acceptable form of ID?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All IDs must contain a NAME, a PHOTO, and an EXPIRATION DATE that is CURRENT, unless noted otherwise. Acceptable IDs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo IDs issued by the U.S. Government or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT photo ID card (valid for voting 12 months past expiration date) ○ U.S. passport ○ U.S. military ID (active duty and retired military IDs may designate an expiration date that is indefinite). Military dependents' IDs must contain a current expiration date. • Employee photo identification issued by Federal, Pennsylvania, or a Pennsylvania County, or Municipal government • Photo identification issued by an accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution of higher learning • Photo identification issued by a Pennsylvania care facility ➤ In the case of a voter who has a RELIGIOUS OBJECTION to being photographed, acceptable IDs include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valid without-photo Pennsylvania driver's license • PennDOT valid without-photo identification card
<p>What if a voter does not have an acceptable form of ID?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A person who is registered to vote, but does not have an acceptable form of ID, may obtain a FREE PHOTO ID for voting purposes at a PennDOT Driver's License Center.
<p>How does a voter obtain a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To obtain a PennDOT photo ID card, a registered voter needs to visit a PennDOT Driver's License Center with a completed

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<p>FREE PHOTO ID for voting?</p>	<p>Application for Initial Photo Identification Card, and the following:</p> <p>Social Security Card AND One of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of U.S. Citizenship • Certificate of Naturalization • Valid U.S. Passport • Birth Certificate with a raised seal <p>PLUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two proofs of *residency, such as lease agreements, current utility bills, mortgage documents, W-2 form, tax records <p>*Students at least 18 years of age: Accepted proofs of residency include the room assignment paperwork (considered a lease) and one bill with their dorm room address on it. Bank statements, paystubs and credit card bills are all acceptable.</p> <p>Other Individuals who may not have any bills, leases or mortgage documents in their name may bring the person with whom they are living along with that person's Driver's License or Photo ID to a Driver's License Center as one proof of residence. VISIT PennDOT's WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A registered voter will have to sign an affirmation stating that he or she does not have an acceptable form of ID for voting purposes.
<p>What if a voter shows up at the polling place without an acceptable ID?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The voter will be able to vote by provisional ballot. However, in order for the ballot to count, a voter must, within six days after the election, provide the county board of elections with a copy of an acceptable ID and an affirmation that the voter is the same person who cast the provisional ballot. These documents may be mailed, faxed, sent electronically, or brought into the county election office.
<p>What if a voter cannot afford to obtain acceptable ID? Can they still vote?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If a voter cannot obtain an acceptable form of ID due to indigency, including an inability to pay for a certified birth certificate to get a Free ID, the voter will still be able to vote by provisional ballot. ➤ However, in order for the ballot to count, the voter must, within six days after the election, provide the county board of elections with an affirmation that states 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.
<p>FAQ – GENERAL INFORMATION ON VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT:</p>	
<p>What are the changes to the absentee voting law and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Starting with November 2012 General Election, Pennsylvania law now requires voters to provide proof of identification with an Application for Absentee Ballot.

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<p>when does it go into effect?</p>	<p>➤ The new proof of identification absentee ballot requirements are not in effect for the April 2012 Primary Election.</p>
<p>Is anyone exempt?</p>	<p>➤ A qualified absentee voter is not required to provide proof of identification if the voter is entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) or by alternative ballot under the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act.</p>
<p>What is proof of identification for a qualified absentee voter?</p>	<p>➤ For a voter who has a current and valid Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT photo ID card, the voter must provide the driver's license number or photo ID number on the Application for Absentee Ballot.</p> <p>➤ For a voter who does not have a Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT photo ID card, the voter must provide the last four digits of his or her Social Security Number on the Application for Absentee Ballot.</p> <p>➤ For a voter who has a RELIGIOUS OBJECTION to being photographed, the voter must provide the valid without-photo Pennsylvania driver's license number or valid without-photo identification number on the Application for Absentee Ballot, OR the voter must provide a copy of either of these documents with the Application for Absentee Ballot.</p>
<p>What if a voter does not have a Pennsylvania driver's license or Social Security Number?</p>	<p>➤ A voter without either must provide with his or her Application for Absentee Ballot a copy of an ID that shows a NAME, a PHOTO, and an EXPIRATION DATE that is CURRENT, unless noted otherwise, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo IDs issued by the U.S. Government or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ U.S. passport ○ U.S. military ID (active duty and retired military ID may designate an expiration date that is indefinite). Military dependents' ID must contain a current expiration date • Employee photo identification issued by Federal, Pennsylvania, County, or Municipal government • Photo identification issued by an accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution of higher learning • Photo identification issued by a Pennsylvania care facility
<p>What does the county board of elections do with a voter's proof of identification?</p>	<p>➤ A county board of elections must verify the proof of identification before counting an absentee ballot. If the board is unable to do so, the board will contact the voter so he or she will be able to provide acceptable proof of identification.</p>

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<p>What if the voter does not include proof of identification with the Application for Absentee Ballot?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A voter who does not include proof of identification on or with the Application for Absentee Ballot will still receive an absentee ballot; however, the county board of elections will send a notice to the voter with the absentee ballot requiring the voter to provide proof of identification or the ballot will not be counted. ➤ A voter should provide the proof of identification as soon as possible so that the county board of elections can verify the information and the ballot can be counted. ➤ If the county board of elections has not received the proof of identification that can be verified by the sixth day after the election, the voter's absentee ballot will not be counted.
<p>Is proof of identification information public?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proof of identification on or provided with the Application for Absentee Ballot cannot be made public.

**For more information on Pennsylvania's Voter ID Law,
visit www.VotesPA.com or call 1-877-VotesPA**

(1-877-868-3772)