

What you need to know about voter ID in Pennsylvania

What is Pennsylvania House Bill 934?

Pennsylvania House Bill 934 amends Public Law 1333, No. 320 to require Pennsylvania voters to provide photo identification (ID) before voting at the polls. It makes free photo ID cards available to voters who request them for the purpose of voting.

When does Pennsylvania House Bill 934 go into effect?

This law will be effective September 17, 2012 requiring that all voters present “proof of identification” in order to vote. For the April 24, 2012 Primary Election all voters may be asked for proof of identification, **but only voters who are voting for the first time or who have not previously voted in their election** district may be required to present one of the following forms of identification with the voter’s name and address on it in order to vote. All other voters may still vote a regular ballot even if they do not have photo identification with them.

What types of photo ID are allowed?

A voter must show a document that includes (1) the name of the individual that substantially conforms to the name of the individual in the register, (2) a photograph of the individual, and (3) it must include an expiration date and that date must not be expired providing for two exceptions (a) a document issued by the Dept. of Transportation that is not more than twelve months past the expiration date is acceptable, and (b) documents for the Armed Forces of the United States or their reserve components.

Explicitly, these include:

1. A Pennsylvania Driver’s License or Identification Card issued by the Department of Transportation;
2. A valid Identification Card issued by any other agency of the Commonwealth;
3. A valid Identification Card issued by the United States Government;
4. A valid United States Passport;
5. A valid Student Identification Card;
6. A valid Employee Identification Card; or
7. A valid Armed Forces of the United States Identification Card.

What if I don’t bring photo ID to the polls or the “proper” photo ID?

There are some alternative forms of Identification that can be presented in the absence of a photo ID.

1. Non-photo identification issued by the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof;
2. Non-photo identification issued by the United States Government, or any agency thereof;
3. A firearm permit;
4. A current utility bill;
5. A current bank statement;
6. A paycheck;
7. A government check.

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However, if the identification is challenged by the judge of elections, the elector shall cast a provisional ballot. Voters will have six calendar days following the election to appear before or transmit information to the County Board of Elections affirming that the voter is the same person who appeared on the day of the election.

What if I do not bring ANY identification to the polls?

If no identification is brought to the polls the elector shall cast a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot must be submitted in the correct precinct and must have a signature that matches the registration form to be held as genuine.

How can I apply for a free photo ID card?

The voters can request a free ID through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation by completing the Oath/Affirmation Voter ID form.

To obtain a Pennsylvania Photo Identification card, an individual needs to visit a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Driver License Center with a completed Application for an Initial Photo Identification Card; form DL-54A (found here: http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/pdotforms/dl_forms/dl-54a.pdf), and the following:

Social Security Card

AND

One of the following:

- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Valid U.S. Passport
- Birth Certificate with a raised seal

PLUS

- Two proofs of *residency such as lease agreements, current utility bills, mortgage documents, W-2 form, tax records

***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. **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 their Driver's License or Photo ID to a driver license center as one proof of residence.

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More information on applying for a free photo ID card

When and where can I visit a Pennsylvania DMV service center?

Locations and hours of DMV service centers can be found by calling 1-800-932-4600 or visiting the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation webpage on DMV service centers at

<https://www.dot4.state.pa.us/locator/locator.jsp#top?20120315171921948=20120315171921948>

How do I obtain a Photo Identification?

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AND

One of the following:

- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Valid U.S. Passport
- Birth Certificate with a raised seal

PLUS

- Two proofs of *residency such as lease agreements, current utility bills, mortgage documents, W-2 form, tax records

What can I show for proof of residency?

Acceptable List of Documents for Proof of Residency for Applicants 18 Years of Age or Older:

PLEASE NOTE

All documents must show the same name and date of birth, or an association between the information on the documents. Additional documentation may be required if a connection between documents cannot be established (e.g. Marriage Certificate, Court Order of name change, Divorce Decree, etc.)

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- W-2 Form
- Current Weapons Permit
- Current Utility Bills (water, gas, electric, cable, etc.)
- Tax Records
- Lease Agreements
- Mortgage Documents

NOTE: For Current Utility Bills: Cellular/Mobile or Pager Bills are not acceptable. If you reside with someone, and have no bills in your name, you will still need to provide two proofs of residency. One proof is to bring the person with whom you reside along with their Drivers License or Photo ID to the Driver License Center. You will also need to provide a second proof of residency such as official mail (bank statement, tax notice, magazine etc.) that has your name and address on it. The address must match that of the person with whom you reside

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What can I show for proof of U.S. citizenship?

Acceptable Forms of Identification for U.S. Citizens:

- Birth Certificate with raised seal (U.S. issued by an authorized government agency, including U.S. territories or Puerto Rico. Non-U.S. Birth Certificates will not be accepted.)
- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (INS Form N-560)
- Certificate of Naturalization (INS Form N-550 or N-570)
- Valid U.S. Passport

NOTE: Only valid Passports and original documents will be accepted. If the name on your original document differs from your current name, you must provide documentation that connects the names, such as an original Marriage Certificate, Divorce Decree, or Court Order document.

For more information on applying for a free photo ID card, call the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation at 1-800-932-4600, email through this webpage,

https://www.dot33.state.pa.us/contact_us/dlemail.jsp#top?20120321135313464=20120321135313464, or visit the webpage for free photo Identification <http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/voter/voteridlaw.shtml>

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Information on applying for a Pennsylvania birth certificate

Voters may apply for a certified birth certificate either through the mail, online, or in person. Applications are available online, at the Pennsylvania Vital Records Office, by mail.

To print out an application to be submitted by mail, visit

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/birth_certificates/14121/birth_records_-_by_mail/556813

To complete an application online, visit

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/birth_certificates/14121/birth_records_-_by_internet/556818.

For a list of places where you can submit an application in person in Erie, Harrisburg, New Castle, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh or Scranton visit,

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/birth_certificates/14121#A

Requirements for Application in Person or via Mail

When applying in person or via mail; voters should submit a completed application with signature, include a copy of a valid photo ID, and a payment of \$10 by check or money order to the VITAL RECORDS.

The cost may be waived if a person is currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or is a dependent of a person currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. This fee waiver is not available online.

Persons are to receive their birth certificates within twelve weeks; however, it may be faster if the application is submitted online.

If a person does not have a valid photo ID, a birth certificate can be obtained by one of the following people with a provided Statement from Requestors Not Possessing an Acceptable Government Issued Photo-ID, found here, <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=1116212&mode=2> which includes two documents, including my name and current address, as proof of identification in order to process my application for a certified copy of birth or death record.

- Person named on the birth certificate, who is 18 years of age or older (if under 18, immediate family member must apply)
- Legal representative
- Husband / wife
- Parent / step-parent*
- Brother / sister / half-brother / half-sister
- Son / daughter / stepson* / stepdaughter*
- Grandparent / great grandparent (specify maternal or paternal)
- Grandchild / great grandchild
- Power of Attorney(for person named on birth certificate or immediate family member listed above)

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Requirements for Application online

A person must complete the steps providing information of name, birthday, birthplace, parents names and gender through the link at the bottom of the following website:

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/birth_certificates/14121/birth_records_-_by_internet/556818.

- The fee for each certified copy of birth is \$10.00. An additional \$10.00 service fee per each application will be charged to your credit card. (The fee waiver is not applicable for online orders)
- The birth record(s) or a response to your request will automatically be shipped by UPS Air unless you select regular mail delivery for the Shipping Option. If you do not change the Shipping Option to regular mail, the UPS Air delivery fee will be charged to the credit card used for ordering the certificate. Normal processing time for UPS delivery is approximately seven to ten business days or less.
- A signature is required for UPS delivery.
- If you change the Shipping Option to regular mail delivery, normal processing time is approximately fifteen to twenty business days or less.
- The status of a request cannot be verified unless it has been a minimum of two business days from the date request has been submitted.

For more information on applying for a Pennsylvania birth certificate, call the Pennsylvania Division of Vital Records at 724-656-3100, email the Office through the website

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/birth_and_death_certificates/11596/contact_us_regarding_birth_death_certificates/613253, or visit the Office's webpage on birth certificates at http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/birth_certificates/14121

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Information on applying for a U.S. passport

Applying for the first time

Voters must apply in person and submit a completed application, proof of citizenship, proof of identity, the applicable fee (\$55 passport card fee or \$135 passport book fee) and one passport photo to a Passport Acceptance Facility.

Note: A passport card is not valid for international travel by air. Voters wishing to travel internationally need to apply for a passport book.

To print an application, visit http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/ds11/ds11_842.html. To locate a Passport Acceptance Facility, visit <http://iafdb.travel.state.gov/DefaultForm.aspx>.

Routine applications are processed in approximately 4-6 weeks from the time of application.

Expedited service applications are processed in about 2 to 3 weeks door-to-door, when overnight delivery is requested and paid for both ways (to and from the passport agency). Expedited service costs an additional \$60. Cost Options:

1. **Passport card, regular service:** (\$30 application fee + \$25 execution fee): **\$55**
2. **Passport card, expedited service** (Total passport card fee + \$60 expedited service fee): **\$110**
3. **Passport book, regular service:** (\$110 application fee + \$25 execution fee): **\$135**
4. **Passport book, expedited service:** (Total passport book fee + \$60 expedited service fee): **\$195**

Applying for a renewal

Voters renewing a passport card should submit by mail a completed application, a passport photo that is stapled to the application, most recent U.S. passport, fee and a marriage certificate or court order (only if current name is different from what was recorder in most recent U.S. passport).

To print an application, visit http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/ds82/ds82_843.html.

Voters who have a passport book can apply for a renewal of a passport book and/or passport card. Voters who have a passport card can only apply for a renewal of a passport card.

The renewal fee for a passport book is \$110. The renewal fee for a passport card is \$30.

Applications should be sent in a padded envelope to the address listed on Form DS-82.

Routine applications are processed in approximately 4 to 6 weeks from the time of application.

Expedited service applications are processed in about 2 to 3 weeks door-to-door, when overnight delivery is requested and paid for both ways (to and from the passport agency). Expedited service costs an additional \$60.

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Information on applying for a U.S. passport

Adult Renewal Cost Options:

1. **Passport card, routine service** (\$30 passport card fee): **\$30**
2. **Passport book, routine service** (\$110 passport book fee): **\$110**
3. **Passport card and book, routine service** (\$30 passport card fee + \$110 passport book fee): **\$140**
4. **Passport card, expedited service** (\$30 passport card + \$60 expedited service fee): **\$90**
5. **Passport book, expedited service** (\$110 passport book fee + \$60 expedited service fee): **\$170**
6. **Passport card and book, expedited service** (\$30 passport card fee + \$110 passport book fee + \$60 expedited service fee): **\$200**

For more information on applying for a U.S. passport, call the Bureau of Consular Affairs at 1-877-487-2778, email the National Passport Information Center at NPIC@state.gov or visit the Bureau of Consular Affairs' webpage on passports at http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html.

Information on applying for a Social Security Card

Applications are available at <http://www.ssa.gov/online/ss-5.html>. Applicants can expect their Social Security Card 10 to 14 days after all documents have been verified and application has been processed. There is **no fee** to apply for a Social Security Card. To locate a Social Security Office, visit <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/FOLO/fo001.jsp>.

For a U.S. born adult or foreign born U.S. citizen, applying for the first time

Voters should submit in person or by mail a completed application and documents proving age, identity and citizenship to a Social Security Office. (One document may be used for two purposes but applicant must provide at least two separate documents.)

Documents that prove identity include a U.S. driver's license, a state-issued nondriver identification card; or U.S. passport. Documents that prove age are a birth certificate (that records birth before age 5) or a passport. Documents that prove citizenship include a U.S. birth certificate or U.S. passport.

According to the Social Security Administration website, if voters do not have any of the documents referenced above or cannot get a replacement within 10 days, voters may provide the following documents: Employee ID card, school ID card, health insurance card (not a Medicare card); or U.S. military ID card.

For a U.S. born adult, applying for a renewal

Voters should submit in person or by mail a completed application and a document that proves citizenship and identity to a Social Security Office.

Documents that prove identity include a U.S. driver's license.

For a foreign born U.S. citizen, applying for a renewal

Voters should submit in person or by mail a completed application and documents proving identity and U.S. citizenship to a local Social Security Office.

Documents that prove identity include a driver's license. Documents that prove citizenship include a U.S. passport.

For more information on applying for a Social Security Card, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or visit Social Security's webpage on Social Security numbers and cards at <http://www.ssa.gov/ssnumber>.