

Guide for Getting an ID to Vote

This is a guide for people who want to help others get an ID for voting in NC by 2016. The ID requirement for voting is being challenged in court. The free ID from the NC Division of Motor Vehicles is called a "no-fee ID" or "voter ID." It is a non-driver's ID card. It will only be issued to voters who sign a declaration, under penalty of a felony, that they do not have one of the acceptable photo IDs listed below. (1/9/2014)

What ID Is Required? When?

Starting with elections in 2014, poll officials will ask voters for a photo ID but **no photo ID is required to vote at the polls until January 2016.**

The photo ID must be one of these:

- NC driver's license or learner's permit
- NC non-drivers ID card
- US passport
- US military ID or Veterans ID card
- Member card from federal or NC recognized tribe
- Out-of-state driver's license but only for 90 days after the voter registers in NC
- *No student ID is accepted.*

The ID must not be expired, but a voter whose ID was current on their 70th birthday can continue to use it after it expires. The military or veterans IDs do not need an expiration date (*they are current up to 8 years after the issuance date*) but the other IDs do.

The ID's address does not need to match the registration address; the ID is to verify *identity*, not *address*.

Voters without a proper ID can cast a provisional ballot, but it won't count unless they bring a proper ID to the county elections office by the day before the official vote count ("the election canvass").

Who is exempt from showing an ID at the polls?

(1) Curbside voters - people eligible to vote from the curb because they have difficulty reaching the voting room because of age or a physical disability.

(2) Religious objection - people who have religious reasons for not wanting to be photographed.

These voters must show the photo ID or a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or any government document with their name and current address.

What If I Don't Have The Right ID?

You have two choices if you do not have an acceptable photo ID and you can not use the curbside voting or religious exemption.

Option 1: Get a "no-fee state ID." A voter who does not have an acceptable photo ID may apply for a free non-driver's ID card from the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Some documents needed to get the ID may cost money, but two are free if you sign a statement that you are registered and need them to obtain a no-fee ID. The two are certified copies of a NC birth certificate and a NC marriage certificate (the completed marriage license). *More detail on back.*

Option 2: No ID? Vote Absentee! You can vote by mail and not show a photo ID. No excuse is needed to vote an absentee ballot by mail. You must use an authorized form to request an absentee ballot. The form is on the website of the county and state boards of elections. On the form, you must include an identifying number (driver's license number or last 4 digits of your Social Security number) OR send in one of these with the request – a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or any government document with your name and current address. For more, see the State Board of Elections site: www.ncsbe.gov.

CONTINUED ON BACK

USEFUL AGENCY CONTACTS

NC Division of Motor Vehicles - Phone 919-715-7000; find DMV rules for IDs at: www.ncdot.gov/dmv/driver/id/ and DMV driver license/ID offices: ncdot.gov/dmv/contact

NC Board of Elections - 919-733-7173; www.ncsbe.gov

Vital Records - 919-733-3000; cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm - click on NC for NC info and to find local Register of Deeds

Social Security Administration - ssa-custhelp.ssa.gov/ or <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp> or 800-772-1213

Veterans Affairs - 919-807-4250; va.gov/statedva.htm

Another resource: www.GotIDNC.com

How to Get a “No-Fee” Photo ID?

Follow these rules for a free ID for voting. You need to take certain documents to a Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office and say, “I want to apply for a no-fee ID for voting.” You may go to a *DMV driver license office* in any county; see the list at ncdot.gov/dmv/contact/.

DECLARATION: This ID usually costs \$10. To get it free, you must sign a sworn statement that you do not have one of the IDs listed earlier. Lying is a Class I felony.

REGISTRATION: To get the free ID, you must also be registered to vote or register when you apply. *If you are registered*, the DMV will verify your registration. Tip: Bring your registration card with you. *If you are not registered to vote*, you can register at the DMV.

DOCUMENTS: You must show documents with your **full** name that prove your identity, age and residence. You must also provide a valid Social Security Number. If DMV can’t verify your SSN, you will need to provide a document that shows the number. DMV lists the documents it accepts for each purpose. Some may serve more than one purpose. **Note:** *DMV may let you sign an affidavit if you lack documents or, for example, have one with a maiden name.* Here are your choices:

➤ *Bring two documents from this list to prove your identity; at least one must show your date of birth:*

- A driver’s license or ID card from another state, less than 1 year expired (even without a photo).
- Original Social Security card.
- W-2 or 1099 tax document.
- Unexpired passport.
- Certified birth certificate or marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court approval of a name or gender change or adoption from a government agency in US, US territory, Canada or Puerto Rico. *Some of these are free in NC; see box at right.*
- NC school transcript or registration signed by a school official; diploma/GED from a NC school.
- Unexpired military ID, DD-2, DD-214, Military Dependents Card, or Veteran Universal Access card.

- Limited driving privilege issued by a NC court that is less than one year expired.
- Valid document from Dept. of Homeland Security or US Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- Motor vehicle record from NC or another state.
- US court document for child support, arrest, etc.

➤ *Bring one of these that shows your street address:*

- Any document issued by the government (local, state or federal agency) including a license, bill, registration card, tax notice, letter or order.
- Utility bill, including cable or cell phone.
- Housing lease, mortgage statement.
- Preprinted financial statement, like W-2 or 1099
- Official school record (not a report card).
- NC vehicle insurance policy.
- Letter from homeless shelter.

➤ *If you need to show a document with your Social Security number because DMV could not verify it, you will need to provide one of these:*

- Social Security Admin. document or SS card.
- 1099 or W-2 tax form or payroll record.
- Military or Veterans record or DD-214.
- Medicaid/Medicare card.

After you present the necessary documents, you will leave the DMV with a provisional ID. You should receive your photo ID within 6 to 8 weeks.

Helpful Tips for Getting a Special ID

- If you have document questions, ask for help from an agency (see flip side) or **call us: Democracy North Carolina, toll free 888-OUR-VOTE ext. 18; www.democracy-nc.org.**
- It is best to register to vote before you apply for a free photo ID from NC DMV. You can use the registration card as one of the documents to get the ID and you’ll need it if you want a free NC birth certificate or marriage certificate.
- Some documents, like a W-2 from your employer, can be used to prove your identity and residence at the DMV.
- Registers of Deeds offer a free birth or marriage certificate but rules differ by county. Some use <http://demnc.co/deed>. To order one free by mail, use the form at: <http://demnc.co/vital>
- You can use a medical record to get a replacement Social Security card. See Social Security Admin. in box on flip side.
- This process can take weeks. Be patient and persistent.