

TEXAS DEMOCRATS

Bring a Photo ID to Vote. Don't have an ID?
Don't worry you can still vote and it is easy!

Voter ID Basics

What to bring with you to vote:

When you vote in Texas, show one of the following photo IDs at your polling place:

- TX Driver's License issued by the Department of Public Safety
- TX Personal ID card issued by the Department of Public Safety
- TX concealed handgun license issued by the Department of Public Safety
- TX Election ID Certificate issued by the Department of Public Safety
- US military ID card with your photo
- US Certificate of Citizenship or US Certificate of Naturalization with your photo
- US passport book or card

These photo IDs must be current or have expired no more than 4 years before you vote.

DON'T HAVE A PHOTO ID? DON'T WORRY YOU CAN STILL VOTE and it is EASY!

If you're a registered voter but do not possess a photo ID listed above, don't worry, you can still vote a regular ballot! Here's how:

Sign a declaration stating that (1) you are who you say you are at the voting booth and (2) have a reasonable impediment or difficulty for having an accepted photo ID, and (3) provide:

1. a valid voter registration certificate,
2. a certified birth certificate (must be an original); or

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3. a copy or original of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or government document with your name and an address thereon (a government document with your photo must be original)

Know Your Rights!

Your name as printed on your ID does not need to exactly match your name as it appears on the registration rolls. As long as the two versions of your name are substantially similar, you will be allowed to vote on a regular ballot.

Your address as printed on your ID does not need to match your address as it appears on the registration rolls. Even if these addresses are completely different, you will be allowed to vote on a regular ballot.

If you have a documented disability or religious objection to being photographed, you can apply for an exemption from the photo ID requirement at your local registrar's office.

NEED AN ID?

If you don't have one of the accepted IDs, you can get a free Election ID Certificate from your nearest Department of Public Safety Office, or at one of the Secretary of State's mobile ID stations.

In order to get a free Election ID Certificate, you'll need to bring documentation with you to verify your identity and to show that you are a U.S. citizen. Most people need an original birth certificate plus two supporting documents.

If you don't have your birth certificate, you can get one from a Vital Records Office for free (if you go in person and tell them you need a birth certificate for voting), or online for \$22.

Document for SDEC, County Chairs, Precinct Chairs:

Texas Prepared to Vote 2016

What you should know about voter ID

Overview

You will be asked to show a PHOTO ID to vote in person. (Same as in recent elections)

If you possess one of the required IDs you must present it.

YOU CAN STILL VOTE A REGULAR BALLOT WITH NON-PHOTO ID

- Present an alternative form of ID (Types listed below)
- Sign an affidavit stating your impediment / difficulty for not having a photo ID
- VOTE a regular ballot.

Any Questions?

Contact Texas Democratic Party County Affairs Director Glen Maxey at (512) 478-9800 or via email at glen@txdemocrats.org.

You will be asked to show a PHOTO ID to vote in person.

To vote in person by regular ballot, bring one of the following photo IDs to the polling place:

- Texas driver's license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- Texas handgun license issued by DPS
- United States military identification card containing your photo
- United States citizenship certificate containing your photo
- United States passport

Except for the U.S. citizenship certificate, the photo ID that you present must be current or have expired no more than 4 years before you vote.

Registered voters can get a "**free**" Election Identification Certificate with a photo from a DPS office. For more information, visit www.votetexas.gov.

YOU CAN STILL VOTE A REGULAR BALLOT WITH NON-PHOTO ID

To vote in person by regular ballot without a photo ID based on a "reasonable impediment" or difficulty follow these four steps:

(1) **inform the poll workers** that you do not possess a photo ID and have had an obstacle to getting one. You can lack an accepted photo ID even if, for example, it was lost, stolen, suspended, revoked, or expired by more than four years;

(2) **present an alternative form of ID:**

- a valid voter registration certificate;
- a certified birth certificate (must be an original);
- a copy or original current utility bill;
- a copy or original bank statement;
- a copy or original government check;
- a copy or original paycheck; or
- a copy or original government document with your name and an address (for example, out-of-state driver's or non-driver's license; Social Security, Medicaid, or Medicare document; public college or university document; ID card issued by a recognized Native American tribe; etc.). A government document that has your photo must be an original. The address DOES NOT have to match the address on the list of voters.

(3) **sign a declaration** identifying yourself and your reason for not possessing an accepted photo ID; and

(4) **cast a regular ballot.**

Note that voters with “documented disabilities” and religious objections to being photographed may qualify for exemptions from the voter ID law. More information is available through the Texas Secretary of State's office at www.votetexas.gov.

How to vote a regular ballot with NON-PHOTO ID under the “reasonable impediment”

provision: You can vote in person by **regular ballot with a non-photo or alternative ID** (see above for examples) if you have a reason why you have had difficulty getting an accepted photo ID.

Such a “reasonable impediment” or difficulty, includes:

- An impediment or difficulty that YOU find reasonable (Mark “Other” and write your reason. This can include “Have no need for any of the required ID's” or “Cannot afford the cost”).
- Lost or stolen photo ID
- Lack of transportation
- Disability or illness
- Lack of birth certificate or other documents needed to obtain accepted photo ID
- Work schedule
- Family responsibilities
- Photo ID applied for but not received
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After initially asking a voter whether he/she has an accepted photo ID, an election official cannot further question the voter concerning whether they have a photo ID, the reasonableness of any claimed impediment/difficulty, or the truth of the declaration.

In certain areas, the “reasonable impediment” form will be available in Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese. Oral translations of the “reasonable impediment” form are available in El Paso and Maverick counties.

You may request the help of someone (e.g., a friend, family member, poll worker, etc., but not an employer or union representative) as a language interpreter or assistant when voting or completing the “reasonable impediment” form.

This is a resource, not legal advice. It is provided for informational purposes only and not as a substitute for or supplement to the legal advice necessary to address the specific concerns of any individual.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will my ballot be counted if I do not have a photo ID because of a “reasonable impediment” or difficulty?

Yes. If you complete a reasonable impediment or difficulty declaration and show an alternative ID document, you can vote a **regular ballot** that will be counted unless there is conclusive evidence that you are not the person who you claimed to be.

What if the NAME on my ID is not exactly the same as the name under which I am registered?

If your name isn’t an exact match, but is still “substantially similar,” then you have the right to vote, but will be required to sign an affidavit swearing that you are the same voter as the voter on the official list of registered voters. Election officials have some discretion in determining whether two forms of a name are “substantially similar,” but they must consider whether one name is a short form of the other (e.g., “Elizabeth” and “Liz,” or “Francisco” and “Paco,” or “Bob” and “Robert”). Also, officials must look at other information—like your address or birthdate—to help show that you are the same voter as the one on the list.

What if the ADDRESS on my ID isn’t the same as the address on the list of voters?

You cannot be prevented from casting a regular (non-provisional) ballot solely because the address on your ID is not the same as the address on the list of voters. You may still cast a regular ballot if the addresses are not the same.

What if I don’t have any accepted IDs with me?

If you do not have any of the required IDs when you show up to vote, you should go and get one and return to your polling site. Otherwise, you will be asked to cast a provisional ballot. For your provisional ballot to count, you must return to the county voter registrar with an accepted ID within six calendar days.

What is a Provisional Ballot?

A provisional ballot is used to record your vote when there's an unresolved question about your eligibility to vote. You should never be turned away from a polling place just because poll workers are not sure whether you are eligible to vote. Election officials are required to make every effort to provide you with the opportunity to vote (such as allowing you to use non-photo alternative ID to vote a regular ballot under the "reasonable impediment" or difficulty process). A provisional ballot has all the candidates and offices on it, and is the same ballot that every other voter gets.

How do I verify my polling station?

On Election Day, you should vote at the voting precinct assigned to you. You can locate your voting precinct location at the following website: mytexasvotes.org

Newspapers in your area may also publish Election Day polling sites, as well as the Texas Secretary of State.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

(First business day after Columbus Day)

Registration deadline for General Election

Monday, October 24, 2016

First day of Early Voting

Friday, October 28, 2016

Last day to apply for ballot by mail (received, not postmarked)

Friday, November 4, 2016

Last day of Early Voting

Tuesday, November 8, 2016

Election Day; Ballots by mail must be received by 7:00 pm (unless overseas deadline applies).

Voting hours are 7:00 am to 7:00 pm at all polling places statewide.