

UPDATED per October 2<sup>nd</sup> Preliminary Injunction



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## **PENNSYLVANIA'S VOTER ID LAW**

*A Guide to ACT 18 of 2012*

**Governor Tom  
Corbett**

**Carol Secretary  
Aichele**

**FAQ – GENERAL INFORMATION ON VOTING IN PERSON:**

<p>What are the changes to the law?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ With the November 2012 General Election, voters will be asked, but not required, to show an acceptable photo ID to vote at the polls. Voters without an acceptable photo ID will still be allowed to vote, provided the voter otherwise meets the identification requirements for first-time voters.</li> <li>➤ Preexisting first-time voter identification requirements are still in effect for the November 2012 General Election.</li> <li>➤ Voters without proof of identification should continue to make preparations to obtain acceptable proof of ID.</li> </ul>
<p>What is an acceptable form of ID?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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"> <li>• Photo IDs issued by the U.S. Government or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT photo ID card (valid for voting 12 months past expiration date)</li> <li>○ U.S. passport</li> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ Pennsylvania Department of State ID for voting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Employee photo identification issued by Federal, Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania County, or Pennsylvania Municipal government</li> <li>• Photo identification issued by an accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution of higher learning</li> <li>• Photo identification issued by a Pennsylvania care facility, including long-term care facilities, assisted living residences and personal care homes</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ 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"> <li>• Pennsylvania valid without-photo driver's license</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p>What if a voter does not have an acceptable form of ID?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PennDOT valid without-photo identification card</li> </ul>
<p>How does a voter obtain a FREE PENNDOT PHOTO ID for voting?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A person who is registered to vote, but does not have an acceptable form of ID, may obtain a FREE PENNDOT PHOTO ID or FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID for voting purposes at a PennDOT Driver's License Center.</li> <li>➤ For a registered voter who PREVIOUSLY HAD a Pennsylvania driver's license or a PennDOT photo identification card that has been expired for one year or longer:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit a PennDOT Driver's License Center with a completed <u>Application for Initial Photo Identification Card (Form DL-54A)</u> – there is no need to bring any supporting documentation since identity and residency were previously validated by PennDOT. The voter should provide his or her current address on the application.</li> <li>• Obtain and sign an affirmation form, affirming that the voter does not have another acceptable form of ID for voting purposes. The form is available on PennDOT's <u>website</u> or at a PennDOT Driver's License Center.</li> <li>• A voter who still has his or her expired Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT photo identification card should bring it along to the Driver's License Center. However, if the voter no longer has it, PennDOT will be able to determine if the voter has an expired product.</li> <li>• If a voter has a Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT photo identification card that expired PRIOR TO 1990, the voter should call PennDOT's CUSTOMER CALL CENTER at 1-800-932-4600 to verify whether his or her record is still in PennDOT's system.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ For a registered voter who has NEVER HAD a Pennsylvania driver's license or a PennDOT photo identification card:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit a PennDOT Driver's License Center with a completed <u>Application for Initial Photo Identification Card (Form DL-54A)</u> and the following:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Social Security Card AND one of the following:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certificate of U.S. Citizenship</li> <li>• Certificate of Naturalization</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birth Certificate with a raised seal</li> </ul> <p>PLUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Two proofs of *residency, such as lease agreements, current utility bills, mortgage documents, W-2 form, tax records</li> </ul> <p><b>*Students at least 18 years of age:</b> 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><b>*Other Individuals</b> 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 plus at least one more piece of official mail with their name and address.</p> <p><b>*Homeless individuals</b> can use the address of a shelter as their residence provided they visit a Driver's License Center with an employee from the shelter that has an employee photo identification issued by the shelter and a letter on the shelter's letterhead indicating that the homeless individual stays at the shelter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain and sign an affirmation form, affirming that the voter does not have another acceptable form of ID for voting purposes. The form is available on PennDOT's <a href="#">website</a> or at a Driver's License Center.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ VISIT PennDOT's <a href="#">WEBSITE</a> FOR MORE INFORMATION.</li> <li>➤ <b>Registered voters who do not possess the documents required to obtain a secure FREE PennDOT Photo ID</b> can be issued a FREE Department of State Photo ID at a PennDOT Driver's License Center at the end of August. For more information, please contact 1-877-VOTESPA (868-3772).</li> </ul>
<p>What is the process for getting a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID FOR VOTING?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In order for a registered voter to obtain a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID for voting, a registered voter must complete a <a href="#">Request For Initial Issuance Of FREE Pennsylvania Department Of State ID For Voting Purposes</a>.</li> </ul>



	<p>✓ <b>Information requested</b> will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A name</li> <li>• Address</li> <li>• Social Security Number</li> <li>• Date of birth</li> <li>• County</li> <li>• Previous name and/or address if changed within the past 12 months</li> </ul> <p>✓ <b>Voters who have registered within the past 30 days</b> will be able to indicate that by marking a box on the form.</p> <p>After confirming the voter's identity and voter registration with the Department of State, the registered voter will then be issued a <b>FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PHOTO ID Card</b>.</p>
<p>How does a voter who has a religious objection to being photographed obtain a Pennsylvania valid without-photo driver's license or PennDOT valid without-photo identification card?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A voter who has a religious objection to being photographed should visit a PennDOT Driver's License Center or call PennDOT's Customer Call Center at 1-800-932-4600 to request an <b>AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF EXEMPTION FOR SINCERELY HELD RELIGIOUS BELIEFS</b>.</li> <li>➤ The voter should complete the Affidavit and mail it to the address included with the instructions. PennDOT will then make contact with the voter.</li> </ul>
<p>What if a voter born in Pennsylvania does not have a certified copy of his or her birth certificate?</p>	<p>For a Pennsylvania-born registered voter, who does not already have a certified copy of his or her birth certificate and needs a photo ID for voting purposes PennDOT will attempt to certify the voter's birth record using the Department of Health's records. This certification process will take approximately 30 minutes and is <b>FREE OF CHARGE</b>.</p> <p>When visiting the PennDOT driver license center, a person must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell the PennDOT customer service representative he or she was born in Pennsylvania and needs a photo ID for voting purposes, and does not have a certified copy of his or her birth certificate.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign an affirmation that the registered voter does not have an acceptable form of ID for voting purposes and the photo ID is needed for voting purposes.</li> <li>• Complete the HD01564F (Request for Certification of Birth Record for Voter ID Purposes Only) form, which collects information such as birth name, mother and father's name, and place of birth.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If PennDOT can certify the voter's birth record using the Department of Health's records, and PennDOT determines that the voter meets all of the documentation requirements, the voter will receive a FREE PENNDOT PHOTO ID during the same visit.</li> <li>○ If PennDOT cannot certify the voter's birth record using the Department of Health's records, the voter will still have the option of applying for a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID for voting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>However, as noted above, a registered voter who previously had a Pennsylvania driver's license or a PennDOT photo identification card that has been expired for one year or longer may not need supporting documentation, such as a birth certificate, because identity and residency were previously validated by PennDOT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ If a voter has questions regarding PennDOT's identification verification process, the voter should call PennDOT's Customer Call Center at 1-800-932-4600.</li> </ul>
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<p>What if a voter shows up at the polling place without an acceptable ID?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ During the November 2012 General Election, the voter will be able to vote. They will be provided with information regarding the acceptable forms of ID for voting in subsequent elections.</li> <li>➤ Preexisting first-time voter identification requirements are still in effect for the November 2012 General Election.</li> </ul>
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**FAQ – GENERAL INFORMATION ON VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT:**

<p>What are the changes to the absentee voting law and when do they go into effect?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Starting with November 2012 General Election, Pennsylvania law requires voters to provide proof of identification with an Application for Absentee Ballot.</li> </ul>
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**Carol Aichele, Secretary of the Commonwealth**

<p>Is anyone exempt?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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.</li> </ul>
<p>What is proof of identification for a qualified absentee voter?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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.</li> <li>➤ 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.</li> <li>➤ For a voter who has a RELIGIOUS OBJECTION to being photographed, the voter must provide the Pennsylvania valid without-photo driver's license number or PennDOT 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.</li> </ul>
<p>What if a voter does not have a Pennsylvania driver's license or Social Security Number?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo IDs issued by the U.S. Government or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ U.S. passport</li> <li>○ 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</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Employee photo identification issued by Federal, Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania County, or Pennsylvania Municipal government</li> <li>• Photo identification issued by an accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution of higher learning</li> <li>• Photo identification issued by a Pennsylvania care facility, including long-term care facilities, assisted</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	living residences and personal care homes
What does the county board of elections do with a voter's proof of identification?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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.</li> </ul>
What if the voter does not include proof of identification with the Application for Absentee Ballot?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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.</li> <li>➤ 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.</li> <li>➤ 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.</li> </ul>
Is proof of identification information public?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Proof of identification on or provided with the Application for Absentee Ballot cannot be made public.</li> </ul>

**For more information on Pennsylvania's Voter ID Law, visit [www.VotesPA.com](http://www.VotesPA.com) or call 1-877-VotesPA (1-877-868-3772)**



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**FAQ – Substantially Conform**

Does the name on my Photo ID have to exactly match my voter registration?

No. The name on your Photo ID must **“substantially conform”** to the name on your voter registration. Poll workers, in consultation with the county board of elections, may use the same level of discretion and sound judgment as they used in enforcing the “first-time voter” identification requirements previously required. 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
Joseph Voter	Joe E. Voter
J. Earl Voter	J. Voter
J. E. Voter	Earl Voter

Margaret Smith Voter	<i>*Margaret Smith</i>
Maggy S. Voter	M. S. Voter
Maggy Voter	M. Smith Voter
Peg S. Voter	M. Voter

\*In this example a voter who recently changed her name by reason of marriage presents a valid Pennsylvania driver’s license or Pennsylvania ID card accompanied by a PennDOT update card, which is sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the Voter ID law regarding proof of identification.

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**FAQ – MILITARY VOTERS – VOTING IN PERSON:**

<p>What are the changes to the law?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ With the November 2012 General Election, voters will be asked, but not required, to show an acceptable photo ID to vote at the polls. Voters without an acceptable photo ID will still be allowed to vote, provided the voter otherwise meets the identification requirements for first-time voters.</li> <li>➤ Preexisting first-time voter identification requirements are still in effect for the November 2012 General Election.</li> <li>➤ Voters without proof of identification should continue to make preparations to obtain acceptable proof of ID.</li> </ul>
<p>Is a U.S. military ID an acceptable form of ID?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A U.S. military ID with a photo, name and expiration date that is current is an acceptable form of ID for voting purposes.</li> <li>➤ U.S. military IDs for active duty and retired military may designate an expiration date that is indefinite.</li> <li>➤ U.S. military IDs that are issued to dependents with a photo, name and expiration date that is current are acceptable forms of ID for voting purposes. The law does not permit U.S. military IDs issued to dependents that designate the expiration date as indefinite to be acceptable ID for voting purposes. The expiration date must be current.</li> </ul>

**FAQ – MILITARY VOTERS – VOTING BY ABSENTEE:**

<p>What are the changes to the absentee voting law and when do they go into effect?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Starting with the November 2012 general election, Pennsylvania law now requires voters to provide proof of identification with an Application for Absentee Ballot. Proof of identification for absentee balloting purposes consists of a Pennsylvania driver's license (or PennDOT Photo ID) number if the voter has one or the last four digits of the social security number if the voter does not have a driver's license number. If the voter has neither of these numbers, the voter may send a copy of an acceptable photo ID.</li> </ul>
<p>Are qualified absentee voters in military service and their dependents required to provide ID?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Qualified absentee voters in the U.S. military service and their dependents (along with other U.S. citizens temporarily abroad) <b><u>are exempt from having to provide proof of identification with their application for an absentee ballot.</u></b></li> <li>➤ Most absentee voters in the U.S. military service and their dependents will apply for an absentee ballot using the</li> </ul>



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	<p>Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), which is a federal form that can be found on <a href="http://www.VotesPA.com">www.VotesPA.com</a>. The FPCA does not request proof of identification.</p> <p>➤ <b>Note:</b> A qualified voter who is in the U.S. military service may apply for an absentee ballot, <i>regardless of whether he/she is registered to vote.</i></p>
Does the exemption cover retired military voters?	<p>➤ Qualified absentee voters who are retired military and their dependents <i>will be required</i> to provide proof of identification with their absentee ballot application for the November 2012 election and thereafter.</p> <p>➤ For more information regarding the qualifications and how to vote by absentee, go to <a href="http://www.VotesPA.com">www.VotesPA.com</a>.</p>

**For more information on Pennsylvania's voter ID law, visit**  
**[www.VotesPA.com](http://www.VotesPA.com)**  
**or call 1-877-VotesPA (1-877-868-3772)**

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**FAQ – USING A CARE FACILITY ID TO VOTE IN PERSON:**

<p>What are the changes to the law?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ With the November 2012 General Election, voters will be asked, but not required, to show an acceptable photo ID to vote at the polls. Voters without an acceptable photo ID will still be allowed to vote, provided the voter otherwise meets the identification requirements for first-time voters.</li> <li>➤ Preexisting first-time voter identification requirements are still in effect for the November 2012 General Election.</li> <li>➤ Voters without proof of identification should continue to make preparations to obtain acceptable proof of ID.</li> </ul>
<p>Is a care facility ID an acceptable photo ID for voting?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Yes, an ID document (does not have to be a card) issued by a care facility is acceptable, provided the ID contains a NAME, a PHOTO, and an EXPIRATION DATE that is CURRENT.</li> </ul>
<p>Which care facilities can issue photo IDs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A care facility means a long-term care nursing facility, an assisted living residence or a personal care home.</li> </ul>
<p>What if an ID issued by a care facility does not include an expiration date? Is a sticker acceptable?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Yes, a sticker with an expiration date can be affixed to an ID and is acceptable as long as the sticker is issued by the care facility.</li> <li>➤ An ID issued by a care facility WITHOUT AN EXPIRATION DATE or that is EXPIRED is not acceptable for voting purposes.</li> </ul>
<p>Do you have to be a resident of the care facility to use an ID issued by a care facility for voting?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Anyone, including residents and employees, who is issued an acceptable photo ID from a care facility may use the ID for voting purposes, provided the ID contains a name, a photo and an expiration date that is current.</li> </ul>
<p>What if my care facility ID does not issue an ID or it does not qualify as an acceptable photo ID? What other forms of photo ID are acceptable?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All IDs must contain a NAME, a PHOTO, and an EXPIRATION DATE that is CURRENT, unless noted otherwise. Other acceptable IDs include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo IDs issued by the U.S. Government or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including:</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT photo ID card (valid for voting 12 months past expiration date)</li> <li>○ U.S. passport</li> <li>○ U.S. military ID (active duty and retired military IDs may designate an expiration date that is indefinite). Military dependents' ID must contain a current expiration date.</li> <li>○ Pennsylvania Department of State ID for voting</li> <li>• Employee photo ID issued by Federal government, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania County, or Pennsylvania Municipal government</li> <li>• Photo ID issued by an accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution of higher learning</li> </ul>
<p>What if I do not have any acceptable form of photo ID for voting purposes?</p>	<p>➤ A person who is registered to vote, but does not have an acceptable form of ID, may obtain a FREE PENNDOT PHOTO ID or FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID for voting purposes at a PennDOT Driver's License Center.</p>
<p>How does a voter obtain a FREE PENNDOT PHOTO ID for voting?</p>	<p>➤ For a registered voter who PREVIOUSLY HAD a Pennsylvania driver's license or a PennDOT photo identification card that has been expired for one year or longer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit a PennDOT Driver's License Center with a completed <u>Application for Initial Photo Identification Card (Form DL-54A)</u> – there is no need to bring any supporting documentation since identity and residency were previously validated by PennDOT. The voter should provide his or her current address on the application.</li> <li>• Obtain and sign an affirmation form, affirming that the voter does not have another acceptable form of ID for voting purposes. The form is available on PennDOT's <u>website</u> or at a PennDOT Driver's License Center.</li> <li>• A voter who still has his or her expired Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT photo identification card should bring it along to the Driver's License Center. However, if the voter no longer has it, PennDOT will be able to determine if the voter has an expired</li> </ul>

	<p>product.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a voter has a Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT photo identification card that expired PRIOR TO 1990, the voter should call PennDOT's CUSTOMER CALL CENTER at 1-800-932-4600 to verify whether his or her record is still in PennDOT's system.</li> </ul> <p>➤ For a registered voter who has NEVER HAD a Pennsylvania driver's license or a PennDOT photo identification card:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit a PennDOT Driver's License Center with a completed <u>Application for Initial Photo Identification Card (Form DL-54A)</u> and the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Social Security Card AND one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certificate of U.S. Citizenship</li> <li>• Certificate of Naturalization</li> <li>• Birth Certificate with a raised seal</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>PLUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two proofs of *residency, such as lease agreements, current utility bills, mortgage documents, W-2 form, tax records</li> </ul> <p><b>*Other Individuals</b> 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 plus at least one more piece of official mail with their name and address.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain and sign an affirmation form, affirming that the voter does not have another acceptable form of ID for voting purposes. The form is available on PennDOT's <u>website</u> or at a Driver's License Center.</li> </ul> <p>➤ VISIT PennDOT's <u>WEBSITE</u> FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>
<p>What if a voter born in Pennsylvania does not have a certified copy of his or her birth certificate?</p>	<p>For a Pennsylvania-born registered voter, who does not already have a certified copy of his or her birth certificate and needs a photo ID for voting purposes PennDOT will attempt to certify the voter's birth record using the Department of Health's records. This certification process</p>

will take approximately 30 minutes and is FREE OF CHARGE.

When visiting the PennDOT driver license center, a person must:

- Tell the PennDOT customer service representative he or she was born in Pennsylvania and needs a photo ID for voting purposes, and does not have a certified copy of his or her birth certificate.
- Sign an affirmation that the registered voter does not have an acceptable form of ID for voting purposes and the photo ID is needed for voting purposes.
- Complete the HD01564F (Request for Certification of Birth Record for Voter ID Purposes Only) form, which collects information such as birth name, mother and father's name, and place of birth.
  - If PennDOT can certify the voter's birth record using the Department of Health's records, and PennDOT determines that the voter meets all of the documentation requirements, the voter will receive a FREE PENNDOT PHOTO ID during the same visit.
  - If PennDOT cannot certify the voter's birth record using the Department of Health's records, the voter will still have the option of applying for a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID for voting.

However, as noted above, a registered voter who previously had a Pennsylvania driver's license or a PennDOT photo identification card that has been expired for one year or longer may not need supporting documentation, such as a birth certificate, because identity and residency were previously validated by PennDOT.

If a voter has questions regarding PennDOT's identification verification process, the voter should call PennDOT's Customer Call Center at 1-800-932-4600.

What is the process for getting a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID FOR VOTING?

➤ In order for a registered voter to obtain a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID for voting, a registered voter must complete a Request For Initial Issuance Of FREE Pennsylvania Department Of State ID For Voting Purposes.

✓ **Information requested** will include:

- A name
- Address
- Social Security Number
- Date of birth
- County
- Previous name and/or address if changed within the past 12 months

✓ **Voters who have registered within the past 30 days** will be able to indicate that by marking a box on the form.

After confirming the voter's identity and voter registration with the Department of State, the registered voter will then be issued a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PHOTO ID Card.

**FAQ - ELDERLY AND DISABLED – VOTING BY ABSENTEE AND ALTERNATIVE BALLOT:**

What are the changes to the absentee voting law and when do they go into effect?

➤ Starting with November 2012 general election, Pennsylvania law now requires voters to provide proof of identification with an Application for Absentee Ballot. Proof of identification for absentee balloting purposes consists of a Pennsylvania driver's license (or PennDOT Photo ID) number if the voter has one or the last four digits of the voter's social security number if the voter does not have a driver's license number. If the voter has neither of these numbers, the voter may send a copy of an acceptable photo ID.

➤ One of the reasons a qualified voter may vote by absentee ballot is if the voter who, because of illness or physical disability, is unable to attend his/her polling place or to operate a voting machine and obtain assistance by distinct and audible statements.





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To get an application to vote by absentee ballot and to find out more information about voting by absentee ballot, go to <a href="http://www.VotesPA.com">www.VotesPA.com</a>.</li> </ul>
<p>Is anyone exempt?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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 (VAEH).</li> <li>➤ Under the VAEH Act, if a voter has a disability, or is least 65 years of age and has been assigned to a polling place deemed inaccessible by the County Board of Elections, the voter can vote by alternative ballot. If the voter is qualified to vote by alternative ballot, he or she has the right to do so regardless of whether he or she is able to appear to vote at the polling place. Voters voting by alternative ballot are exempt from the proof of identification requirement.</li> <li>➤ For more information about voting by alternative ballot and the application for an alternative ballot, go to <a href="http://www.VotesPA.com">www.VotesPA.com</a>.</li> </ul>

**For more information on Pennsylvania's voter ID law, visit [www.VotesPA.com](http://www.VotesPA.com) or call 1-877-VotesPA (1-877-868-3772)**

**FAQ – USING A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY ID TO VOTE:**

<p>What are the changes to the law?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ With the November 2012 General Election, voters will be asked, but not required, to show an acceptable photo ID to vote at the polls. Voters without an acceptable photo ID will still be allowed to vote, provided the voter otherwise meets the identification requirements for first-time voters.</li> <li>➤ Preexisting first-time voter identification requirements are still in effect for the November 2012 General Election.</li> <li>➤ Voters without proof of identification should continue to make preparations to obtain acceptable proof of ID.</li> </ul>
<p>Is a college or university ID an acceptable photo ID for voting?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Yes, an ID issued by an accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution of higher learning is acceptable provided the ID contains a NAME, a PHOTO, and an EXPIRATION DATE that is CURRENT.</li> </ul>
<p>What types of schools are considered accredited Pennsylvania public or private institutions of higher learning?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ An accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution of higher learning includes PENNSYLVANIA UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, SEMINARIES, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, and OTHER TWO-YEAR COLLEGES. A list of institutions that can issue ID can be found at <a href="http://www.VotesPA.com">www.VotesPA.com</a>. An ID issued by these institutions is acceptable for voting purposes, provided the ID contains a name, a photo and an expiration date that is current.</li> <li>➤ Private licensed schools (e.g., career institutes, technical institutes, massage schools, cosmetology schools, bartending schools, truck driving schools, etc.) are NOT included. An ID issued by these private licensed schools is NOT acceptable for voting purposes.</li> </ul>
<p>What if an ID issued by an institution of higher learning does not include an expiration date? Is a sticker acceptable?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Yes, a sticker with an expiration date can be affixed to an ID and is acceptable as long as the sticker is issued by the accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution of higher learning.</li> <li>➤ A sticker with a school year or a semester as an expiration date is acceptable (e.g., 2012-2013, Fall</li> </ul>

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	<p>2012, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ An ID issued by an accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution of higher learning <b>WITHOUT AN EXPIRATION DATE</b> or that is <b>EXPIRED</b> is not acceptable for voting purposes.</li> </ul>
<p>Can faculty, employees, and alumni use an ID issued to them by institutions of higher learning for voting?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Yes, faculty, employees, and alumni of accredited Pennsylvania public or private institutions of higher learning can use an ID issued to them by those institutions for voting purposes, provided the ID contains a name, a photo and an expiration date that is current.</li> </ul>
<p>Can I use a photo ID issued by an out-of-state institution of higher learning?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No, only a photo ID issued by an accredited PENNSYLVANIA public or private institution of higher learning is acceptable.</li> </ul>
<p>What if my college or university ID does not qualify as an acceptable photo ID? What other forms of photo ID are acceptable?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All IDs must contain a <b>NAME</b>, a <b>PHOTO</b>, and an <b>EXPIRATION DATE</b> that is <b>CURRENT</b>, unless noted otherwise. Other acceptable IDs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo IDs issued by the U.S. Government or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT photo ID card (valid for voting 12 months past expiration date)</li> <li>○ U.S. passport</li> <li>○ U.S. military ID (active duty and retired military IDs may designate an expiration date that is indefinite). Military dependents' ID must contain a current expiration date.</li> <li>○ Pennsylvania Department of State ID for voting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Employee photo ID issued by Federal government, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania County, or Pennsylvania Municipal government</li> <li>• Photo ID issued by a Pennsylvania care facility</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>What if I do not have any acceptable form of photo ID for voting purposes?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ If you are a registered Pennsylvania voter and do not have any acceptable form of ID for voting purposes, you can obtain a <b>FREE PennDOT PHOTO ID CARD</b> or <b>FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID</b> for voting at a</li> </ul>



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## PENNSYLVANIA'S VOTER ID LAW

	<p>PennDOT Driver's License Center.</p> <p>➤ VISIT PennDOT's <u>WEBSITE</u> FOR MORE INFORMATION on the forms you need to complete, what documents you will need to bring, and how to obtain the free PennDOT photo ID card.</p> <p>Visit <u>www.VotesPA.com</u> FOR MORE INFORMATION on the forms you need to complete and how to obtain the free Department of State ID for voting.</p>
<p>I have an out-of-state Driver's License. Do I have to surrender it to receive my FREE PENNDOT PHOTO ID or FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID for voting?</p>	<p>➤ Students who hold a current/valid out-of-state Driver's License will have to surrender their valid out-of-state Driver's License in order to obtain a FREE PENNDOT PHOTO ID Card.</p> <p>➤ A student from out of state would qualify for a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID Card for voting if they have registered to vote in Pennsylvania, and have no other acceptable forms of ID to vote without having to surrender their out-of-state license.</p>

**For more information on Pennsylvania's voter ID law, visit**  
**[www.VotesPA.com](http://www.VotesPA.com)**  
**or call 1-877-VotesPA (1-877-868-3772)**



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**FAQ – EMPLOYEE IDS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IDS:**

<p>What are the changes to the law?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ With the November 2012 General Election, voters will be asked, but not required, to show an acceptable photo ID to vote at the polls. Voters without an acceptable photo ID will still be allowed to vote, provided the voter otherwise meets the identification requirements for first-time voters.</li> <li>➤ Preexisting first-time voter identification requirements are still in effect for the November 2012 General Election.</li> <li>➤ Voters without proof of identification should continue to make preparations to obtain acceptable proof of ID.</li> </ul>
<p>Is an employee ID an acceptable photo ID for voting?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ An EMPLOYEE ID issued by one of the following is acceptable, provided the ID contains a NAME, a PHOTO, and an EXPIRATION DATE that is CURRENT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. Government</li> <li>• Commonwealth of Pennsylvania</li> <li>• Pennsylvania county</li> <li>• Pennsylvania municipality (does not include school districts)</li> <li>• Accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution of higher learning</li> <li>• Pennsylvania care facility, including long-term care facilities, assisted living residences and personal care homes</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ NO OTHER EMPLOYEE ID, OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED ABOVE, IS ACCEPTABLE FOR VOTING PURPOSES.</li> </ul>
<p>What if an otherwise acceptable employee ID does not include an expiration date? Is a sticker acceptable?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Yes, a sticker with an expiration date can be affixed to an otherwise acceptable employee ID (see list above) as long as the sticker is issued by the employer.</li> <li>➤ An acceptable employee ID (see list above) WITHOUT AN EXPIRATION DATE or that is EXPIRED is not acceptable for voting purposes.</li> </ul>
<p>What if my employee ID does not qualify as an</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All IDs must contain a NAME, a PHOTO, and an EXPIRATION DATE that is CURRENT, unless noted</li> </ul>

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<p>acceptable photo ID? What other forms of photo ID are acceptable?</p>	<p>otherwise. Other acceptable IDs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo IDs issued by the U.S. Government or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT photo ID card (valid for voting 12 months past expiration date)</li> <li>○ U.S. passport</li> <li>○ U.S. military ID (active duty and retired military IDs may designate an expiration date that is indefinite). Military dependents' ID must contain a current expiration date.</li> <li>○ Pennsylvania Department of State ID for voting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Photo ID issued by an accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution of higher learning</li> <li>• Photo identification issued by a Pennsylvania care facility, including long-term care facilities, assisted living residences and personal care homes.</li> </ul>
<p>Can a Pennsylvania county or Pennsylvania municipality create photo IDs for voting purposes for its residents?</p>	<p>➤ No, neither a Pennsylvania county nor a Pennsylvania municipality may create a photo ID for voting purposes and issue it to their residents. The ONLY acceptable ID for voting purposes issued by a Pennsylvania county or a Pennsylvania municipality is an EMPLOYEE ID issued to an EMPLOYEE of the Pennsylvania county or Pennsylvania municipality.</p>
<p>Are other photo IDs issued by a Pennsylvania local government acceptable for voting?</p>	<p>➤ No, other photo IDs issued by a Pennsylvania county (e.g., License to Carry Firearms) or a Pennsylvania municipality are not acceptable for voting purposes.</p>

**For more information on Pennsylvania's voter ID law, visit [www.VotesPA.com](http://www.VotesPA.com) or call 1-877-VotesPA (1-877-868-3772)**

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**FAQ – HOMELESS VOTERS – VOTING IN PERSON:**

<p>What are the changes to the law?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ With the November 2012 General Election, voters will be asked, but not required, to show an acceptable photo ID to vote at the polls. Voters without an acceptable photo ID will still be allowed to vote, provided the voter otherwise meets the identification requirements for first-time voters.</li> <li>➤ Preexisting first-time voter identification requirements are still in effect for the November 2012 General Election.</li> <li>➤ Voters without proof of identification should continue to make preparations to obtain acceptable proof of ID.</li> </ul>
<p>What if the individual is not registered to vote?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ An individual may register to vote by filling out an application to register and sending the application to the appropriate county board of elections. An application to register to vote and more information regarding registering to vote can be found at <a href="http://www.VotesPA.com">www.VotesPA.com</a></li> <li>➤ The qualifications for registering to vote are as follows:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A citizen of the United States for at least one month before the next primary, special, municipal, or general election.</li> <li>• A resident of Pennsylvania and the election district in which you want to register and vote for at least 30 days before the next primary, special, municipal, or general election.</li> <li>• At least 18 years of age on or before the day of the next primary, special, municipal, or general election.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>What residence should a homeless individual use to register to vote?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ If an individual does not have a permanent address, on the voter registration form there is a map on which an individual can note the place where the individual spends most of his or her time, which will serve as the individual's residence.</li> <li>➤ For the mailing address, which may be a post office box, the individual may use general delivery at a post office or a shelter where the individual spends time.</li> </ul>
<p>What if a voter does not have an acceptable form of ID?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A person who is registered to vote, but does not have an acceptable form of ID, may obtain a FREE PENNDOT PHOTO ID or FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID for voting purposes at a PennDOT Driver's License Center. <a href="#">Find a PennDOT</a></li> </ul>



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<p>How does a voter obtain a FREE PENNDOT PHOTO ID for voting?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Driver's License Center.</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ For a registered voter who PREVIOUSLY HAD a Pennsylvania driver's license or a PennDOT photo identification card that has been expired for one year or longer:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit a PennDOT Driver's License Center with a completed <u>Application for Initial Photo Identification Card (Form DL-54A)</u> – there is no need to bring any supporting documentation since identity and residency were previously validated by PennDOT. The voter should provide his or her current address on the application.</li> <li>• Obtain and sign an affirmation form, affirming that the voter does not have another acceptable form of ID for voting purposes. The form is available on PennDOT's <u>website</u> or at a PennDOT Driver's License Center.</li> <li>• A voter who still has his or her expired Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT photo identification card should bring it along to the Driver's License Center. However, if the voter no longer has it, PennDOT will be able to determine if the voter has an expired product.</li> <li>• If a voter has a Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT photo identification card that expired PRIOR TO 1990, the voter should call PennDOT's CUSTOMER CALL CENTER at 1-800-932-4600 to verify whether his or her record is still in PennDOT's system.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ For a registered voter who has NEVER HAD a Pennsylvania driver's license or a PennDOT photo identification card:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit a PennDOT Driver's License Center with a completed <u>Application for Initial Photo Identification Card (Form DL-54A)</u> and the following:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Social Security Card AND one of the following:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certificate of U.S. Citizenship</li> <li>• Certificate of Naturalization</li> <li>• Birth Certificate with a raised seal</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>PLUS                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Two proofs of *residency, such as lease agreements, current utility bills, mortgage documents, W-2 form, tax records</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>*Homeless individuals</b> can use the address of a shelter as their residence, provided they visit a</p> </li> </ul>
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	<p>Driver's License Center with an employee from the shelter who has an employee photo identification issued by the shelter and a letter on the shelter's letterhead indicating that the homeless individual stays at the shelter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain and sign an affirmation form, affirming that the voter does not have another acceptable form of ID for voting purposes. The form is available on PennDOT's <a href="#">website</a> or at a Driver's License Center.</li> </ul> <p>➤ VISIT PennDOT's <a href="#">WEBSITE</a> FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p>
<p>How does a voter not born in Pennsylvania get a certified copy of his or her birth certificate?</p>	<p>For a Pennsylvania-born registered voter, who does not already have a certified copy of his or her birth certificate and needs a photo ID for voting purposes PennDOT will attempt to certify the voter's birth record using the Department of Health's records. This certification process will take approximately 30 minutes and is FREE OF CHARGE.</p> <p>When visiting the PennDOT driver license center, a person must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell the PennDOT customer service representative he or she was born in Pennsylvania and needs a photo ID for voting purposes, and does not have a certified copy of his or her birth certificate.</li> <li>• Sign an affirmation that the registered voter does not have an acceptable form of ID for voting purposes and the photo ID is needed for voting purposes.</li> <li>• Complete the HD01564F (Request for Certification of Birth Record for Voter ID Purposes Only) form, which collects information such as birth name, mother and father's name, and place of birth.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If PennDOT can certify the voter's birth record using the Department of Health's records, and PennDOT determines that the voter meets all of the documentation requirements, the voter will receive a FREE PENNDOT PHOTO ID during the same visit.</li> <li>○ If PennDOT cannot certify the voter's birth record using the Department of Health's records, the voter will still have the option of applying for a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID for voting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>However, as noted above, a registered voter who previously</p>



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	<p>had a Pennsylvania driver's license or a PennDOT photo identification card that has been expired for one year or longer may not need supporting documentation, such as a birth certificate, because identity and residency were previously validated by PennDOT.</p> <p>➤ If a voter has questions regarding PennDOT's identification verification process, the voter should call PennDOT's Customer Call Center at 1-800-932-4600.</p>
<p>What is the process for getting a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID FOR VOTING?</p>	<p>➤ In order for a registered voter to obtain a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID for voting, a registered voter must complete a <u>Request For Initial Issuance Of FREE Pennsylvania Department Of State ID For Voting Purposes</u>.</p> <p>✓ <b>Information requested</b> will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A name</li> <li>• Address</li> <li>• Social Security Number</li> <li>• Date of birth</li> <li>• County</li> <li>• Previous name and/or address if changed within the past 12 months</li> </ul> <p>✓ <b>Voters who have registered within the past 30 days</b> will be able to indicate that by marking a box on the form.</p> <p>After confirming the voter's identity and voter registration with the Department of State, the registered voter will then be issued a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PHOTO ID Card.</p>
<p>What if a voter shows up at the polling place without an acceptable ID?</p>	<p>➤ During the November 2012 General Election, the voter will be able to vote. They will be provided with information regarding the acceptable forms of ID for voting in subsequent elections.</p> <p>➤ Preexisting first-time voter identification requirements are still in effect for the November 2012 General Election.</p>

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**FAQ – DEPARTMENT OF STATE IDENTIFICATION CARD**

<p>What is a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PHOTO ID CARD?</p>	<p>➤ Registered voters can get a FREE Department of State photo ID that can be used at the polls as proof of identification for voting purposes.</p>
<p>Who is eligible for a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PHOTO ID CARD?</p>	<p>➤ Registered voters who do not have another form of proof of identification for voting purposes will be eligible for a FREE Department of State photo ID card.</p>
<p>Where will a voter be able to receive a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID CARD?</p>	<p>➤ Registered voters will be able to obtain a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID CARD at their local PennDOT Driver's License Center. PennDOT Driver's License Center locations can be found on the web at <a href="http://www.dot.state.pa.us">www.dot.state.pa.us</a> or by phone through PennDOT's CUSTOMER CALL CENTER at 1-800-932-4600.</p>
<p>What is the process for obtaining a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PHOTO ID for voting?</p>	<p>➤ All registered voters seeking to obtain a FREE Department of State ID for voting purposes must sign an affirmation stating that the voter does not have another form of proof of identification for voting purposes and complete a <u><a href="#">Request For Initial Issuance Of Pennsylvania Department Of State ID For Voting Purposes.</a></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Information requested</b> will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name</li> <li>• Address</li> <li>• Social Security Number</li> <li>• Date of birth</li> <li>• County</li> <li>• Previous name and/or address if changed within the past 12 months</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ <b>Voters who have registered within the past 30 days</b> will be able to indicate that by marking a box on the form.</li> </ul> <p>➤ After confirming the voter's identity and voter registration with the Department of State, the registered voter will then be issued a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PHOTO ID Card.</p>

What if PennDot cannot issue me a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID for some reason when I am at the Driver's License Center?

- PennDOT will print a FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID for the applicant but will forward the FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID to the Department of State along with the application information listed above. In instances where voter registration cannot be confirmed, PennDOT may request an applicant to complete a Voter Registration Mail Application (VRMA), which will also be forwarded to the Department of State. The Department of State will forward any VRMA to the appropriate county.
- Upon confirmation of the applicant's registration or information, the Department of State will forward the voter's FREE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ID to the voter.

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**VOTER ID**

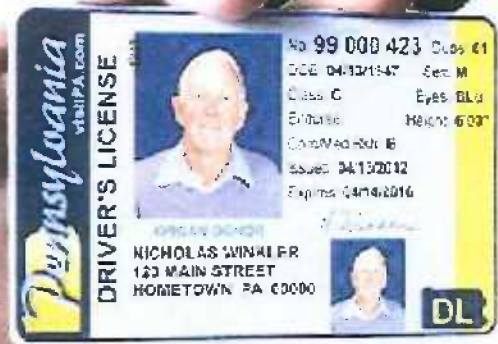
Voting & Elections

Register to Vote

Election Complaints

Resource Center

# VOTER ID



Voters will be asked, but not required, to show an acceptable photo ID on Election Day



Voter ID TV Commercial



[Voter ID Media Center](#)

Where is my polling place?



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