

Voter ID

Overview

Photo ID Required for Voting

Voters will be asked to show photo ID when voting in North Carolina.

For most voters, they will simply show their driver's license. But there are many other acceptable photo IDs.

If a voter does not have an acceptable photo ID, they can get one for free from the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles (NCDMV). [Find more information under “No-Fee ID Cards” at State IDs | NCDMV](#). Soon, voters will also be able to get free ID from their [county board of elections](#).

All voters will be allowed to vote with or without a photo ID. If a voter cannot show photo ID when voting in person, they can still vote by filling out an ID Exception Form. For absentee-by-mail voters, if they are unable to include a copy of their photo ID in their ballot return envelope, they can also fill out an ID Exception Form with their ballot. Find more information under [ID Exceptions](#) below.

In-Person Voters

Voters must show an acceptable photo ID when they check in at their voting site during early voting or on Election Day. Election workers check to see if the picture on the ID reasonably resembles the voter. The address on the photo ID does not have to match the voter registration records.

If the voter does not show an acceptable ID, the voter may proceed in one of the two following ways:

1. vote with an ID Exception Form and a provisional ballot, *or*
2. vote with a provisional ballot and return to their [county board of elections office](#) with their photo ID by the day before county canvass. (For municipal elections in September and October, this deadline is the Monday following Election Day. For all other elections, the deadline is the second Thursday following Election Day.)

Absentee-By-Mail Voters

Voters who vote by mail must include a photocopy of an acceptable ID inside the “photo ID envelope” that comes with their ballot. Or they may complete an ID Exception Form with the absentee ballot return envelope.

Acceptable Photo IDs for Voting

Any of the following that is unexpired, or expired for one year or less:

- North Carolina driver’s license
- [State ID from the NCDMV](#) (also called “non-operator ID”)
- Driver’s license or non-driver ID from another state, District of Columbia or U.S. territory (*only if voter registered in North Carolina within 90 days of the election*)
- U.S. Passport or U.S. Passport card
- North Carolina voter photo ID card issued by a county board of elections (available soon)
- College or university student ID approved by the State Board of Elections (available soon)
- State or local government or charter school employee ID approved by the State Board of Elections (available soon)

Note: A voter 65 or older may use an expired form of acceptable ID if the ID was unexpired on their 65th birthday.

Any of the following, regardless of whether the ID contains an expiration or issuance date:

- Military or veterans ID card issued by the U.S. government
- Tribal enrollment card issued by a tribe recognized by the State or federal government
- ID card issued by an agency of the U.S. government or the State of North Carolina for a public assistance program

Free Photo ID Cards

Any North Carolina resident can get a free non-driver’s ID card from the DMV. [Find more information under “No-Fee ID Cards” at State IDs | NCDMV.](#)

Additionally, all [county boards of elections](#) will soon be able to issue free voter photo IDs to registered voters in their county. To be issued a free voter photo

ID card, the voter must provide their name, date of birth, and the last four numbers of their Social Security number, and have their photo taken.

ID Exceptions

If any voter is unable to show photo ID when voting (whether in person or by mail), they may fill out an ID Exception Form and vote their ballot. The voter will choose from the following permitted exceptions.

1. The voter has a “reasonable impediment” to showing photo ID. This means that something is preventing the voter from showing ID. The voter must provide their reason by selecting from the following choices on the form.
 - Lack of transportation
 - Disability or illness
 - Lack of birth certificate or other documents needed to obtain ID
 - Work schedule
 - Family responsibilities
 - Lost or stolen photo ID
 - Photo ID applied for but not yet received
 - (For mail voters only) Unable to attach a copy of photo ID
 - Other reasonable impediment (if selected, the voter must write the reason on the form)
2. The voter has a religious objection to being photographed.
3. The voter was a victim of a natural disaster within 100 days before Election Day.

County boards of elections must count provisional ballots with properly completed ID Exception Forms.

10 Facts About NC's Photo ID Requirement for Voting

The following are 10 facts about North Carolina's photo ID requirement for voting.

RALEIGH, NC

The following are 10 facts about North Carolina's photo ID requirement for voting:

1. **Voters will be asked to show photo ID when voting in North Carolina, starting with the 2023 municipal elections.** Those elections occur in September, October, and November, depending on the town or city. (Find your local election details at [Upcoming Election](#).)
2. Most voters will simply show their NC driver's license, but many other types of photo ID will be accepted. See the list of acceptable IDs at [Voter ID](#).
3. Voters without ID can get a ["No Fee ID Card" from the NCDMV](#). Soon, voters will also be able to get a free ID from their [county board of elections](#).
4. The State Board is developing a process for approving student and public employee IDs for voting. Lists will be added to the [Voter ID website](#) as soon as IDs are approved.
5. When a voter checks in to vote at a polling place, they will be asked to show an acceptable photo ID. Election workers check to see if the picture on the ID reasonably resembles the voter. The address on the photo ID does not have to match the voter registration records.
6. **All voters will be allowed to vote with or without a photo ID.** If the voter does not show an acceptable ID, the voter may vote with an ID Exception Form and a provisional ballot, or vote with a provisional ballot and return to their [county board of elections office](#) with their photo ID by the day before county canvass. (For municipal elections in September and October, this deadline is the Monday following Election Day. For all other elections, the deadline is the second Thursday following Election Day.)
7. Permitted exceptions to the photo ID requirement include the following: The voter has a reasonable impediment to showing photo ID (lack of transportation, lost or stolen ID, disability or illness, family responsibilities, etc.); the voter has a religious objection to being photographed; or the voter was a victim of a natural disaster within 100 days of Election Day.
8. When a registered voter cannot produce a photo ID, the county board of elections must count that ballot if the voter properly completes the ID Exception Form or brings an acceptable ID to their county board of elections before the county canvass.
9. Voters who vote by mail will be asked to include a photocopy of an acceptable ID inside the photo ID envelope that comes with their ballot. If they are unable to include a photocopy of their ID, they may complete an ID Exception Form with the absentee ballot return envelope. Photo ID is not required for military or overseas voters who vote using [special absentee voting procedures](#) that federal law makes available for such voters.
10. For more information, see [Voter ID](#) and [FAQ: Voter ID](#). These web pages will be updated frequently with the latest information.

FAQ: Voter ID

Overview

On this page, find answers to questions about North Carolina's voter ID requirement, including acceptable ID types, how to get a free ID, voting procedures, and exceptions.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Can I get an ID from the county board of elections during the early voting period?

Yes. County boards will be issuing voter photo IDs during early voting. They cannot issue IDs between the last day of early voting and Election Day, however.

Can a poll worker reject my photo ID because my appearance has changed since my photo was taken?

Election workers are looking to see if the photo on the ID “reasonably resembles” the voter. Election workers will be trained to understand that appearances may change over time. If the election worker checking the voter in does not believe the photo reasonably resembles the voter, the voter will still be allowed to vote unless the judges of election at the polling place unanimously agree that the photo does not bear a reasonable resemblance to the voter.

If I forgot ID, can I go get it and return to vote?

Yes. If a voter does not provide ID, instead of voting with an ID Exception Form or voting with a provision ballot and later returning with ID, the voter may simply decide not to request a ballot at that time, go get an ID, and then return to vote. Once a voter accepts a ballot, however, they may not return to vote.

What student and public employee IDs are approved for voting?

The State Board is developing a process for approving student and public employee IDs for voting. Lists will be added to this page as soon as IDs are approved.

Will my ballot be counted if I properly fill out an ID Exception Form?

Yes. A ballot from an eligible, registered voter with a properly completed ID Exception Form must be counted. Such a ballot may only be rejected if the bipartisan county board of elections has grounds to believe that the voter provided false information on the form.

Is photo ID required for military and overseas voters (aka, UOCAVA voters)?

No. Photo ID is not required for military or overseas voters who vote using special absentee voting procedures that federal law makes available for such voters. Find more information at [Military and Overseas Voting](#).

Where can I read the photo ID laws?

The photo ID laws are found in the following statutes:

- [Voter photo identification cards. N.C.G.S. § 163-82.8A](#)
- [Requirement for photo identification to vote in person. N.C.G.S. § 163-166.16](#)
- [Approval of student identification cards for voting identification. N.C.G.S. § 163-166.17](#)
- [Approval of employee identification cards for voting identification N.C.G.S. § 163-166.18](#)
- [Simultaneous issuance of absentee ballots with application. N.C.G.S. § 163-230.1\(f1\) & \(g\)](#)