

Photo ID FAQ

Why do I need to show an ID at the polls?

- **Public Law 109-2005 created a requirement for Indiana voters to present photo identification** before casting a ballot at the polls on Election Day, and before voting absentee-in-person at the County Clerk's office.

What is an acceptable type of ID to show?

- The law does not specify acceptable types of ID, but it does define the characteristics of an ID valid for voting purposes in IC 3-5-2-40.5. The ID must:
 1. Display voter's **photo**
 2. Display voter's name, and the **name must conform with the name on the voter registration record** (conform does not mean match identically)
 3. **Contain an expiration date**, and either be current, or have expired after November 2, 2004 (the date of the last General Election)
 4. Be **issued by the state of Indiana or the US government**
- In most cases, an Indiana driver's license, Indiana state ID card, US Passport, or Military ID will be sufficient.

What if I do not have an acceptable photo ID?

- If a voter does not possess one of these forms of ID, the law requires the BMV to issue an **Indiana ID card free of charge for voting purposes**. More about documentation requirements is available at www.photoid.in.gov or www.bmv.in.gov

Will my military ID Card work?

- Yes, if it fits the criteria described above.
- Many military ID cards list "INDEF" as the expiration date. It is the interpretation of the Indiana Election Division that this form of expiration date is valid under the photo ID requirements if the other criteria are met.

Will my student ID card work?

- Yes, if it fits the criteria described above.
- Only public university IDs (not private university ID's) will work because only public university IDs qualify as state issued.
- Many student ID cards, however, do not have an expiration date which prevent the ID card from working for voting purposes. Please check whether your student ID card has an expiration date before you attempt to use it voting purposes.

Are there exemptions to this law?

- Yes, there are exemptions.
 1. For voters who **cannot afford the costs associated with obtaining a free ID**; such as obtaining their birth certificate from their county of birth.
 2. For voters with a **religious objection to being photographed**;
 3. And finally, for **voters who are residents of a state-licensed facility that also serve as their polling place**.

What happens if a voter unable or unwilling to present photo ID when voting?

- If a voter is unable or unwilling to present photo ID on Election Day, the voter may cast a **provisional ballot**. The voter will then have 10 days after the election to follow up with the County Election Board and either present the requisite photo ID or affirm that one of the exemptions applies.

Do I need an ID to vote absentee-by-mail or absentee-by-traveling board?

- Voters who are qualified to vote **absentee-by-mail or absentee-by-traveling board**, and who choose to vote using one of these methods are not required to present photo ID. See www.sos.in.gov/elections for more information on voting using an absentee ballot.

What has the state done to educate voters on the new law?

- The Secretary of State's office has launched a **statewide campaign to educate voters** about photo ID and other new election laws.
- To date, the Secretary of State in conjunction with the bi-partisan leadership of the Indiana Election Division have completed the following voter education activities regarding photo ID and HAVA implementation:
 1. Launched a **\$1.6M statewide advertising campaign**, utilizing print, radio, television, and transit outlets to inform voters about the new laws and to remind them to bring ID to the polls.
 2. Partnered with groups such as the NAACP, League of Women Voters, Indiana Health Care Association, FSSA, BMV, and the Association of Indiana Counties, Indiana Association of Housing and Services for the Aging, Department of Workforce Development, Department of Veteran's Affairs and the Hoosier State Press Association.
 3. Created **Indiana's first statewide pollworker training curriculum**. Participation by counties is voluntary; however, all of Indiana's 92 counties are active participants in implementing this program at county levels. All counties have received copies of the **2006 Indiana Election Day Handbook** (an Election Day reference for precinct election boards and election administrators)
 4. **Launched photoid.in.gov** – a website dedicated to answering voters' most frequently asked questions about Indiana's new law. The site features a page voters may print and take with them to the BMV to assist in receiving a free state ID for voting purposes.
 5. Maintained an ongoing outreach program, which is completing a **college campus** and senior center tour to educate voters about election changes.
 6. Maintained an ongoing effort to **educate the media** about election reform