

# Vote With or Without a Photo ID

This handout describes the ID requirements to vote, beginning with the spring 2016 primary – plus some options if you find it difficult to get a photo ID. (8/6/15)

## What is an “Acceptable ID”?

You have other options, but to vote at the polls with a regular ballot, you will need to show one of these photo IDs, starting with the 2016 primary:

- 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

**Expiration:** The NC driver’s license or NC ID may be expired for up to 4 years. Military or veterans IDs do not need an expiration date. A tribal card is current for 8 years after the issuance date. A passport must be current. But if one of these IDs is current when you turn 70, you may keep using it for voting for life.

**The ID’s address** does not need to match the registration address; the ID is to verify *identity*, not *address*. **The name on the ID** may differ but must “resemble” the name on the voter registration rolls.

**Approving the ID:** The 3 precinct judges (who can’t be from the same party) must all agree that the ID does not resemble you for it to fail. You can provide other documents to help their decision. If the ID fails, use **Option 3** (see next column) or cast a provisional ballot and ask the precinct official where and when you can bring an acceptable ID so the ballot will count.

## Who is exempt?

**(1) Curbside voters** - people who sign a statement that 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 a 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 3 options if you don’t have an acceptable ID:

**Option 1: Get a “no-fee state ID.”** You may apply for a free ID card from the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Take 2 documents with your full name (1 must have your birth date) and 1 document with your address. For details, see [www.GotIDNC.org](http://www.GotIDNC.org).

**Option 2: Vote by Mail (Absentee).** No ID or excuse is needed to do this. Use the official form to request an absentee ballot; go to [demnc.co/absform](http://demnc.co/absform). On the form, include an identifying number (e.g., last 4 digits of your Social Security number) or send an identifying document. See [demnc.co/mail](http://demnc.co/mail) or [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov).

**Option 3: Use a Provisional Ballot.** Ask for this at the polls. It “shall” count if you:

- (1) fill out a form to explain a “reasonable impediment” for why you don’t have an acceptable ID; **and**
- (2) write in your birth date and last 4 digits of your Social Security number; or show a registration card, current utility bill, pay stub, bank statement, or any government document with your name and address.

The form to indicate a “reasonable impediment” is a sworn statement with 8 boxes for why a voter may not have an ID. Check the box that is true for you:

- Lack of transportation
- Disability or illness
- Work schedule
- Family responsibilities
- Photo ID applied for but not received
- Lack of birth certificate or other documents
- Lost or stolen photo ID
- Other (write in, for example, School schedule; or Can’t pay for the documents needed to get ID; or Passport is many miles away)

Don’t give a silly reason or mock the law (“because I hate the ID law”) or just write, “I don’t have it today.” You’ll get an 800# to learn if your provisional ballot counted. Call us if it did not at 888-OUR-VOTE.



Questions? Call 888-OUR-VOTE or visit [GotIDNC.org](http://GotIDNC.org)

# How to Get a “No-Fee” Photo ID?

**To receive a free ID for voting**, you need to take some 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/](http://ncdot.gov/dmv/contact/).

**DECLARATION:** To get the ID for free, you must sign a sworn statement that you do not already have one of the acceptable IDs for voting: a NC driver’s license or DMV ID card, passport, US military or veterans card, or tribal card. 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.
- 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.
- US court document for child support, arrest, etc.
- Military Dependents Card, DD-2, DD-214, or Veteran Universal Access card.
- Limited driving privilege issued by a NC court that is less than one year expired.

## Contacts and Helpful Tips

**NC Division of Motor Vehicles** - Phone 919-715-7000; and DMV driver license/ID offices: [ncdot.gov/dmv/contact](http://ncdot.gov/dmv/contact)

**NC Board of Elections** - 919-733-7173; [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov). Register to vote before going to the DMV, if possible, and use your registration card as a document for the free ID.

**Registers of Deeds** offer a free birth or marriage certificate but rules differ by county. Some use <http://demnc.co/deed>. To order one, use the form at: <http://demnc.co/vital>

**Vital Records** - 919-733-3000; [cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm](http://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/](http://ssa-custhelp.ssa.gov/) or <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp> or 800-772-1213  
You can use a medical record to get a lost SS card.

- Valid document from Homeland Security Dept. or US Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- 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 your Social Security number is not verified, you will need to provide one of these showing your SSN:
  - 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 weeks. If you’re treated rudely or have problems, call the number below.

**Questions? Contact Democracy North Carolina  
Call 888-OUR-VOTE or visit [GotIDNC.org](http://GotIDNC.org)**