

# ***Voter Photo ID Is Now Required***

## **Are You Ready for the Next Election?**

The requirement to show photo identification before voting is now in effect. With it being a busy election year, culminating with the presidential election in November, now is a good time to determine whether you have what you need to exercise your right to vote.

## **Basics of Voter Photo ID**

First, there is no special, separate “Voter ID” card. If you have a Wisconsin driver license or Wisconsin identification card, you are all set; just be sure to bring it with you to the polls on Election Day, or to your town, village or city clerk’s office if you want to vote absentee in person. If you want to vote absentee by *mail*, you must provide your municipal clerk a copy of your photo ID when you send in your absentee application. The clerk cannot mail you a ballot until he/she has received a copy of your photo ID.

## **Examples of Other Acceptable IDs**

If you don’t have a Wisconsin driver license or identification card, see if you have one of these other acceptable proofs of identity:

- Wisconsin driver license or ID card *receipt* from the Department of Motor Vehicles (when you have applied for and are waiting to receive your actual card in the mail)
- U.S. Passport
- Military ID
- Tribal ID
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Wisconsin College Student ID and Proof of Enrollment

If you don’t have any of these other forms of ID, take steps NOW to obtain a *free* Wisconsin ID to be used for voting. Visit **[wisconsin.dmv.gov](http://wisconsin.dmv.gov)** or **call the DMV at 608-264-7447** for information on what documents you will need to apply for an ID.

## **Exemptions From ID Requirement**

There are some people who are exempt from the voter photo ID requirement. These include:

- Active Military Personnel
- Permanently Overseas Voters
- Confidential Voters
- Indefinitely Confined Voters and Some Nursing Home/Care Facility Residents

## **Photo ID Vs. Proof of Residence**

If you are not already registered to vote (not listed in your municipality’s poll book), or if you need to update the name or address that *is* in the poll book, you will need to register before you vote. (Not sure if you are properly registered? Go to [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) and search by your name and birthdate.)

As part of the registration process, you must complete a voter registration form and provide proof of *residence*. **If your Wisconsin driver license or ID card reflects your current address, the card can serve as both proof of identity when you vote and proof of residence when you register.** If your driver license/ID shows an old address, it works as proof of *identity* to vote, but you must also bring along another document to prove your *residency*. Your proof of residence document must show your name and current physical address (not PO Box). Examples of accepted proofs of residence are: recent utility bill, property tax bill, bank statement, paycheck, or license or other document issued by a unit of government.

**Again, proof of residence is NOT necessary if you already appear in the poll book, but proof of identity is required every time you vote in person.**

### **Polling Place Operations**

Procedures at your polling place will not change much due to the law change; there will simply be the additional step of showing your ID. Upon entering the polling place and checking in with an election inspector:

- State your full name and address
- Show your photo ID
- Sign the poll book
- Vote

### **For More Information**

Laws can be complicated, and this is only a brief overview. If you need more information, visit the G.A.B.'s website dedicated to the Voter Photo ID law: [bringit.wisconsin.gov](http://bringit.wisconsin.gov). You can also contact your municipal clerk at 920-361-5400 or the County Clerk's Office at 920-294-4005.