

# VOTING UNDER NORTH CAROLINA'S VOTER PHOTO ID

*An in-depth guide*

Note: The voter photo ID law is subject to change. This document is current as of June 2023.

On April 28, 2023, the North Carolina Supreme Court reversed its previous decision in *Holmes v. Moore*, which found Senate Bill 824 – North Carolina's voter photo ID law – was enacted by the General Assembly with a racially discriminatory purpose violating the state constitution. As a result, the State Board of Elections is now preparing to implement voter photo ID for the 2023 Municipal Elections, with voting for primaries beginning as early as August 11, 2023. Yet, for most of the last decade and beyond, North Carolinians were not required to present a photo ID to vote and have that vote count.

*How can North Carolina voters vote with the new voter photo ID law in place?*

## WHICH PHOTO IDS CAN BE USED TO VOTE IN NORTH CAROLINA?



If unexpired, or expired for 1 year or less:

- NC driver's license
- NC non-operator ID card (or other non-temporary ID from NC DMV), available for free for anyone 17 or older
- US Passport or US Passport Card
- Approved college or university student ID cards
- A driver's license or non-operator ID from another state, DC, or a US territory or commonwealth, if you registered to vote within 90 days of the election
- Free voter photo ID cards issued by the county board of elections
- Approved employee ID cards issued by a state or local government entity (including charter schools)

Regardless of expiration:

- US military ID
- Government-Issued Public Assistance ID
- US veterans identification card
- Tribal enrollment card issued by a state or federally recognized tribe

*Voters who are 65 or older can use an expired ID if that ID was unexpired on their 65th birthday.*

## FREE VOTER PHOTO IDS FROM THE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Each county board of elections is required to issue free voter photo IDs to registered voters that reside in the county. To get the ID, the voter will have to provide their name, date of birth, and the last 4 digits of their social security number. These IDs must be made available at the county board of elections office at any time that office is open, except between the end of early voting and Election Day. The end of early voting is 3:00 p.m. on the last Saturday before an election. A voter does not need to make an appointment to receive a voter photo ID card.

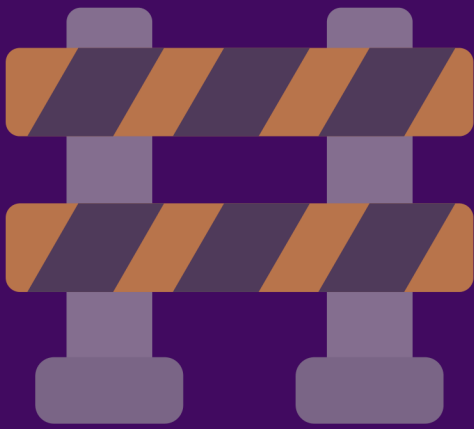
Some counties may also offer IDs at other locations, including early voting sites. If a voter registers to vote using same-day registration during the early voting period, they can request a free voter photo ID once the registration process is completed. Contact your county board of elections' office if this option is available to you by visiting: <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/BOEInfo/>.



# EXCEPTIONS TO THE VOTER PHOTO ID REQUIREMENT

- Voter with religious objections to being photographed
- Voter who cannot produce an ID due to being a victim of a declared natural disaster occurring within 100 days before election day
- Voter who suffers from a “reasonable impediment” that prevents them from presenting a photo ID. Reasonable impediments can include:

- ✱ Inability to obtain photo ID due to lack of transportation, disability or illness, lack of a birth certificate or other needed documents, work schedule, or family responsibilities
- ✱ Photo ID was lost or stolen
- ✱ Photo ID was applied for but not yet received
- ✱ Unable to attach a copy of photo ID (for mail voters only)
- ✱ “Other reasonable impediment” (with written explanation)



To use one of the exceptions, the voter must sign an affidavit affirming their identity and that the exception they indicate applies. Voters using the reasonable impediment exception must also complete a form indicating what is their reasonable impediment. Voters using one of these exceptions will cast a provisional ballot, rather than a regular ballot. The county board of elections is required to count that provisional ballot unless it has grounds to believe the affidavit is false.

## FAQS

### What if a voter has a photo ID but does not bring it to the polls?

The voter can cast a provisional ballot. For that ballot to be counted, the voter must bring a photo ID to the county board of elections no later than the close of business on the business day before the county canvass. That deadline will usually be 9 days after the election.



### What if a voter is using an absentee ballot also known as voting by mail?

Voters submitting absentee ballots or mail ballots must include a photocopy of one of the required forms of voter photo ID. If a voter is unable to obtain or include a photocopy of their voter photo ID, the voter can complete and include a reasonable impediment form (with the impediment being the inability to include a photocopy).



### What if election officials dispute that the person in the photo is the voter or if the address on the voter photo ID does not match voting records?

Election officials assigned to check registration must verify that the photo on the ID is that of the voter. If the election official disputes the photo, the voter should still be allowed to vote unless the precinct election judges unanimously agree that the photo ID does not bear a reasonable resemblance to that voter.

Any address on the photo ID is not determinative of the voter's residence. This means, the address on the ID (if any) does not have to match the person's voter registration.

