

Know Your Rights: Voter Protection

High Level Flashcards

Election Protection Basics

- Check your ID before Election Day.
- Bring your phone to the polls.
- Stay in line until you vote.
- Ask for a regular ballot first.
- Get help before you leave.

Act now: Check your ID today and help a neighbor vote.

Source: [Vote.org](https://www.vote.org)

Identification Requirements for Voting

- Bring one accepted photo ID.
- Use your Texas driver license.
- Bring a passport if needed.
- Check if your expired ID works.
- Ask DPS for a free ID.

Act now: Grab your ID early so voting feels easy.

Source: [VoteTexas.gov](https://www.votetexas.gov)

Know Voter Identification Laws for your State

- Check your state ID rules.
- Ask which documents count.
- Ask if you can return later.
- Sign an oath when allowed.
- Use a provisional ballot last.

Act now: Know your rules before you reach the polls.

Source: [Vote.org](https://www.vote.org)

Procedures for Voting

- Show your accepted photo ID.

- Use support ID if needed.
- Sign the required declaration.
- Confirm your name on the list.
- Vote provisionally if needed.

Act now: Ask questions early and vote with confidence.

Sources: VoteTexas.gov; [Dallas County Votes](https://DallasCountyVotes.com)

Voter Exemptions

- Ask about a disability exemption.
- Show approved proof when required.
- Use your voter certificate to vote.
- Ask about religious objections.
- Complete disaster affidavit steps if needed.

Act now: Check exemptions today and bring what you need.

Source: VoteTexas.gov

Election Protection Basics

- Check your ID before Election Day.
- Bring your phone to the polls.
- Stay in line until you vote.
- Ask for a regular ballot first.
- Get help before you leave.

Act now: Check your ID today and help our community vote.

Source: Vote.org

Identification Requirements for Voting

- Bring one accepted photo ID.
- Use your Texas driver license.
- Bring a passport if needed.
- Check if your expired ID works.
- Ask DPS for a free ID.

Act now: Gather your ID early and remind someone else.

Source: VoteTexas.gov

Know Voter Identification Laws for your State

- Check your state ID rules.
- Ask which documents count.
- Ask if you can return later.
- Sign an oath when allowed.
- Use a provisional ballot last.

Act now: Learn the rules and share them with neighbors.

Source: [Vote.org](https://www.vote.org)

Procedures for Voting

- Show your accepted photo ID.
- Use support ID if needed.
- Sign the required declaration.
- Confirm your name on the list.
- Vote provisionally if needed.

Act now: Ask early, then help others vote with confidence.

Sources: [VoteTexas.gov](https://www.vote.texas.gov); [Dallas County Votes](https://www.dallascountyvotes.com)

Voter Exemptions

- Ask about a disability exemption.
- Show approved proof when required.
- Use your voter certificate to vote.
- Ask about religious objections.
- Complete disaster affidavit steps if needed.

Act now: Check exemptions and support voters who need help.

Source: [VoteTexas.gov](https://www.vote.texas.gov)

Information for Voting Landing Page

Election Protection: Know your Rights as a Voter

Election Protection Basics

- Check your state's ID requirements before you leave the house to make sure you have what you need to vote. [Confirm which forms of ID your state accepts here](#).
- Bring your phone when you vote so you can call the election protection hotline if you witness any illegal or suspicious activities.
- Keep your place in line. The lines may be long, but you're allowed to vote as long as you're in line when the polls close!
- Vote a regular ballot if you can. Cast a provisional ballot only if you have no other option. Be sure the poll worker gives you information on how to follow up to find out if your provisional ballot was counted.
- Try to fix any problem you have before leaving your polling site rather than going home in case the lines are longer when you come back (or in case you don't have a chance to come back at all).
- Always remember that poll workers are trying their best under often difficult circumstances. Most problems are not intentional but a result of poor communications; if you're nice to them, chances are they'll be nice to you.

Source: [VOTE.ORG](#)

Election Protection: Know your Rights as a Voter

It's illegal for anyone to try to stop you from voting. If you experience any of the following, report it to the Election Protection Hotline* (866-687-8683) immediately

- **Intimidation.** This includes physically blocking entrance to voting (including ballot drop boxes), cursing at people waiting to vote, looking over people's shoulders while they vote, questioning voters about their choices or citizenship status, or asking for identification unnecessarily.
- **Coercion.** This may include offering money to vote for a certain person, spreading false rumors about candidates or voting, displaying signs with false or misleading information, or impersonating poll workers.
- **Threats.** These may include comments such as "your family will be deported if you vote," "you will be fired from your job if you vote," or "your kid won't make the football team if you vote."
- **False information about voting requirements.**
- **People impersonating poll workers or election officials.**

**The Election Protection Hotline is a Vote.org partner and a separate entity.*

Source: [VOTE.ORG](#)

Election Protection: Know your Rights as a Voter

What to Do if You're Told You're Not on the Voter Roll

- [Confirm you're registered to vote at your current address.](#)
- [Confirm that you're at the right polling place.](#)
- If you're registered and at the right polling place, don't leave! Call the Election Protection Hotline* at 1-866-687-8683 and ask for help.
- Did you recently move? If so, you may still be registered where you used to live. Check with a poll worker to see if you can update your registration and vote a regular ballot where you are. Otherwise, you may need to vote at your old polling location or at a central polling place.

Source: [VOTE.ORG](#)

Election Protection: Know your Rights as a Voter

Know Voter Identification Laws for your State

If you are being turned away from voting for not having the proper ID:

- [Confirm which forms of ID your state accepts](#)
- Ask the poll worker if there is some other form of identification they might accept. Some states accept documents you may not think of as ID, like a paystub or utility bill with your address. If you need to go back home to get your ID, ask the poll worker if you can skip the line when you come back to vote. If you can't come back the same day, then as a last resort ask the poll worker if your state allows you to vote a provisional ballot come back and show your ID following Election Day and still have your vote counted.
- If you do not have any acceptable form of ID, ask the poll worker if your state allows you to vote without ID by signing a document under oath. This is an option in several states where ID is normally required (including CT, ID, IA, LA, MI, MT, NH, SD, TN).
- As a last resort, cast a provisional ballot. In some states that require ID, your provisional ballot will only be counted if your signature matches what is on file in the voter registry or if you come back and show your ID following Election Day.

Source: [VOTE.ORG](#)

Election Protection: Know your Rights as a Voter

Provisional Ballots & When to Use Them

- A provisional ballot is a type of ballot that some voters may need to cast if election officials can't confirm that the voter meets all the requirements to vote. The ballot is called "provisional" because it will only be counted if the election officials are able to verify later that the voter meets all requirements.
- If possible, try not to cast a provisional ballot; ask the poll worker if there is another option.
- If you encounter a problem on election day and are told you aren't allowed to vote, tell the election worker you would like to vote a provisional ballot:
 1. Ask for written instructions about what you must do to ensure the provisional ballot will be counted.

2. Ask for a phone number you can call to confirm if your vote was counted.
- If you had to cast a provisional ballot, the poll worker should give you a piece of paper with instructions on how to make your ballot count. If you don't have those instructions, [call your local election official](#) and ask the following four questions:
 1. Why was I required to vote a provisional ballot?
 2. What steps do I need to take to make my vote count (this may include providing documentation such as a copy of your ID)?
 3. Where should I bring or send that documentation? Do you accept it by email? Can a friend or family member bring the document to you on my behalf?
 4. What is the deadline I need to be sure to provide my documentation before?

Visit [ballot tracking page](#) for state specific resources. If you have additional questions after taking these steps, you can call 866-OUR-VOTE.*

Source: [VOTE.ORG](#)

Election Protection: Know your Rights as a Voter

Errors on a Ballot & Steps To Take

- If you're voting absentee or by mail and make a mistake on your ballot return envelope (for example, you forget to sign the envelope, or the election official can't read your handwriting) the election official may require you to correct that mistake before they will count the ballot. This is called ballot "curing."
- In most cases, the election official will notify you promptly if there's a need to cure your ballot. The notification will tell you what information you need to provide to make the cure (such as signing a new ballot envelope or providing a copy of your ID) and the deadline for submitting that information.
- You have several options if you think you may need to cure your ballot, but you haven't received a notice from your election official.
 1. First, [many states offer a website](#) where you can check the status of your mail ballot to see if it has been counted or may need to be cured.
 2. You can also reach out directly to your local election official to ensure they received your ballot and will count it.

Be aware there can be strict ballot cure deadlines in some states (sometimes as early as Election Day or the day before).

Source: [VOTE.ORG](#)

<https://www.vote.org/election-protection/>

Under Texas law, voters who possess one of the seven acceptable forms of photo ID must present that ID at the polls when voting in person.

Acceptable forms of photo ID:

- Texas Driver License issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS
- Texas Handgun License issued by DPS
- United States Military Identification Card containing the person's photograph
- United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph
- United States Passport (book or card)

With the exception of the U.S. Citizenship Certificate, which does not expire, for voters aged 18-69, the acceptable form of photo identification may be expired no more than four years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place. For voters aged 70 or older, the acceptable form of photo identification may be expired for any length of time if the identification is otherwise valid.

[Election Identification Certificates](#) are available from [DPS driver license offices](#) during regular business hours. [Find mobile station locations here.](#)

Source: [VOTETEXAS.GOV](https://www.votetexas.gov)

Identification Requirements for Voting

Voters who do not possess and cannot reasonably obtain one of the seven approved forms of photo ID may fill out a [Reasonable Impediment Declaration \(RID\) \(PDF\)](#) at the polls and present an alternative form of ID, such as a utility bill, bank statement, government check, or a voter registration certificate.

Supporting forms of ID that can be presented if the voter does not possess one of the forms of acceptable photo ID and cannot reasonably obtain one:

- copy or original of a government document that shows the voter's name and an address, including the voter's voter registration certificate;
- copy of or original current utility bill;
- copy of or original bank statement;
- copy of or original government check;
- copy of or original paycheck; or
- copy of or original of (a) a certified domestic (from a U.S. state or territory) birth certificate or (b) a document confirming birth admissible in a court of law which establishes the voter's identity (which may include a foreign birth document).

After presenting one of the forms of supporting ID listed above, the voter must execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration.

Procedures for Voting

- When a voter arrives at a polling location, the voter will be asked to present one of the seven (7) acceptable forms of photo ID that is current or, for voters aged 18-69, expired no more than four years. Voters aged 70 or older may present one of the seven (7) acceptable forms of photo ID that is expired for any length of time that is otherwise valid. If a voter does not possess one of the seven (7) acceptable forms of photo ID and cannot reasonably obtain one, the voter may present a supporting form of ID and execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration, noting the voter's reasonable impediment to obtaining an acceptable form of photo identification, stating that the information contained in the declaration is true, that the voter is the same individual personally appearing at the polling place to sign the declaration, and that the voter faces a reasonable impediment to procuring an acceptable form of photo identification.
- Election officials are still required by State law to determine whether the voter's name on the identification provided (acceptable photo ID, or supporting form of ID, if applicable) matches the name on the official list of registered voters ("OLRV"). After a voter presents their ID, whether it's an acceptable form of photo ID or a supporting form of ID (if applicable), the election worker will compare it to the OLRV. If the name on the ID matches the name on the list of registered voters, the voter will follow the regular procedures for voting.
- If the name does not match exactly but is "substantially similar" to the name on the OLRV, the voter will be permitted to vote as long as the voter signs an affidavit stating that the voter is the same person on the list of registered voters.
- If a voter possesses an acceptable form of photo ID but does not have it at the polling place, the voter will still be permitted to vote provisionally. The voter will have six (6) days to present an acceptable form of photo identification to the county voter registrar, or fill out the natural disaster affidavit referenced in the Exemption/Exceptions section below, or the voter's ballot will be rejected. Alternatively, a voter who possesses an acceptable form of photo ID but does not have it at the polling place may choose to leave the polling place and return before the close of the polls on election day with said acceptable form of photo ID to, if the voter would otherwise qualify, vote a regular ballot at that time.

Source: [VOTETEXAS.GOV](https://www.vote.texas.gov) and [Dallas County Votes Procedure for Voting](#)

Voter Exemptions

- Voters with a disability may apply with the county voter registrar for a **permanent exemption** by presenting an acceptable photo identification or following the Reasonable Impediment Declaration procedure in the county. The application must contain written documentation from either the U.S. Social Security Administration evidencing the applicant's disability, or from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs evidencing a disability rating of at least 50 percent. The applicant must also state that he/she does not have a form of identification prescribed by

Section 63.0101 of the Texas Election Code. Those who obtain a disability exemption will be allowed to vote upon display of their voter registration certificate reflecting the exemption, and will not need to execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration. Please contact your county voter registrar for more details.

- Voters who have a consistent religious objection to being photographed **or** who do not present an acceptable form of photo identification listed above or follow the Reasonable Impediment Declaration procedure because of certain natural disasters as declared by the President of the United States or the Texas Governor, may vote a provisional ballot, appear at the voter registrar's office within six (6) calendar days after election day, and sign an affidavit swearing to the religious objection or natural disaster, in order for the voter's ballot to be counted. Please contact your county voter registrar for more details.

Source: [VOTETEXAS.GOV](https://www.votetexas.gov)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What kind of photo identification is required to qualify to vote in person?

The following is a list of acceptable photo IDs at the polling place:

- Texas Driver License issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS
- Texas Handgun License issued by DPS
- United States Military Identification Card containing the person's photograph
- United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph
- United States Passport (book or card)

With the exception of the U.S. Citizenship Certificate, which does not expire, for voters aged 18-69, the acceptable form of photo identification may be expired no more than four years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place. For voters aged 70 or older, the acceptable form of photo identification may be expired for any length of time if the identification is otherwise valid.

2. My acceptable photo ID has expired. Will it still work?

With the exception of the U.S. Citizenship Certificate, which does not expire, for voters aged 18-69, the acceptable photo identification must be current or have expired no more than 4 years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place. For voters aged 70 or older, the acceptable form of photo identification may be expired for any length of time if the identification is otherwise valid.

3. What if a voter does not have any of the acceptable forms of photo ID?

If a voter does not possess an acceptable form of photo ID and the voter cannot reasonably obtain such ID, the voter may still cast a regular ballot by presenting a supporting form of ID and executing a Reasonable Impediment Declaration, noting the voter's reasonable impediment to obtaining an

acceptable form of photo identification, stating that the information contained in the declaration is true, that the voter is the same individual personally appearing at the polling place to sign the declaration, and that the voter faces a reasonable impediment to procuring an acceptable form of photo identification.

Here is a list of supporting forms of ID:

- copy or original of a government document that shows the voter's name and an address, including the voter's voter registration certificate;
- copy of or original current utility bill;
- copy of or original bank statement;
- copy of or original government check;
- copy of or original paycheck; or
- copy of or original of (a) a certified domestic (from a U.S. state or territory) birth certificate or (b) a document confirming birth admissible in a court of law which establishes the voter's identity (which may include a foreign birth document).

Voters with a disability may apply with the county voter registrar for a **permanent exemption** by presenting an acceptable photo identification or following the Reasonable Impediment Declaration procedure in the county. The application must contain written documentation from either the U.S. Social Security Administration evidencing the applicant's disability, or from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs evidencing a disability rating of at least 50 percent. The applicant must also state that he/she does not have a form of identification prescribed by Section 63.0101 of the Texas Election Code. Those who obtain a disability exemption will be allowed to vote upon display of their voter registration certificate reflecting the exemption, and will not need to execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration.

If a voter states that they (a) do not possess an acceptable form of photo identification listed above, and the voter can reasonably obtain one of these acceptable forms of identification or (b) possesses, but did not bring to the polling place, one of the seven forms of acceptable photo identification listed above, the voter may cast a provisional ballot at the polls. However, in order to have the provisional ballot counted, the voter will be required to visit the voter registrar's office within six calendar days of the date of the election to present one of the above forms of photo ID; OR, if applicable, submit one of the temporary affidavits addressed in these FAQs (e.g., religious objection or natural disaster); OR, if applicable, qualify for the disability exemption addressed in these FAQs, in the presence of the county voter registrar. Alternatively, the voter may choose to leave the polling place and return before the close of the polls on election day with an acceptable form of photo ID to, if they otherwise qualify, vote a regular ballot at that time.

Voters who have a consistent religious objection to being photographed or who do not present an acceptable form of photo identification listed above or follow the Reasonable Impediment Declaration procedure because of certain natural disasters as declared by the President of the United States or the Texas Governor, may vote a provisional ballot, appear at the voter registrar's office within six (6) calendar days after election day, and sign an affidavit swearing to the religious objection or natural disaster, in order for the voter's ballot to be counted. Please contact your county voter registrar for more details.

4. What is a reasonable impediment?

Reasonable impediments identified on the Reasonable Impediment Declaration are: lack of transportation, disability or illness, lack of birth certificate or other documents needed to obtain acceptable photo ID, work schedule, family responsibilities, lost or stolen ID, or acceptable form of photo ID applied for but not received. **You must qualify for one of these reasonable impediments in order to execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration.** A person is subject to prosecution for perjury under Chapter 37, Penal Code, or Section 63.0013 of the Texas Election Code for providing a false statement or false information on a Reasonable Impediment Declaration.

5. What if a voter does not have any form of ID with them at the polling place and they do not have a disability exemption when they visit the polling place?

If a voter does not possess an acceptable form of photo ID, cannot reasonably obtain one, and does not have or does not bring a supporting form of ID to present in connection with a Reasonable Impediment Declaration, or if the voter does not possess an acceptable form of photo ID and can reasonably obtain an acceptable form of photo ID, or if the voter possesses, but did not bring with them, an acceptable form of photo ID, the voter may cast a provisional ballot at the polls. However, in order to have the provisional ballot counted the voter will be required to visit the county voter registrar's office within six calendar days of the date of the election to present an acceptable form of photo ID; OR, if the voter does not possess and cannot reasonably obtain an acceptable form of photo ID, follow the Reasonable Impediment Declaration procedure; OR, if applicable, submit one of the temporary affidavits addressed in these FAQs (religious objection or natural disaster) in the presence of the county voter registrar; OR, if applicable, qualify for the disability exemption addressed in these FAQs with the county voter registrar.

Alternatively, a voter who possesses an acceptable form of photo ID but does not have it at the polling place, or a voter who does not possess an acceptable form of photo ID, and is reasonably able to obtain one, may choose to leave the polling place and return before the close of the polls on election day with an acceptable form of photo ID to vote a regular ballot at that time. In addition, a voter who does not possess, would otherwise not be able to reasonably obtain an acceptable form of photo ID, but did not bring a supporting form of ID to the polling place, may choose to leave the polling place and return before the close of the polls on election day with said supporting form of ID to fill out the Reasonable Impediment Declaration and, if they otherwise qualify, vote a regular ballot at that time.

6. What if my acceptable form of photo ID was lost, stolen, suspended, revoked or is expired more than four years?

A voter whose photo identification has been lost, stolen, suspended, revoked or, for voters aged 18-69, expired more than four years does not possess one of the acceptable forms of photo ID, and, if the voter cannot reasonably obtain a replacement of the identification that was lost, stolen, suspended, revoked or expired or another form of acceptable photo ID, the voter is eligible to present a supporting form of ID, execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration, and, assuming they otherwise qualify, vote a regular ballot.

7. My name on my approved photo ID or my supporting ID (if applicable) does not exactly match my name on my voter registration card. Can I still vote?

Election officials will review the ID and if a name is “substantially similar” to the name on their list of registered voters, you will still be able to vote, but you will also have to submit an affidavit stating that you are the same person on the list of registered voters.

8. What does “substantially similar” mean?

A voter’s name is considered substantially similar if one or more of the following circumstances applies:

- The name on the ID is slightly different from one or more of the name fields on the official list of registered voters.
- The name on the voter’s ID or on the list of registered voters is a customary variation of the voter’s formal name. For example, Bill for William
- The voter’s name contains an initial, middle name, or former name that is either not on the official list of registered voters or on the voter’s ID.
- A first name, middle name, former name or initial of the voter’s name occupies a different field on the presented ID document than it does on the list of registered voters.

In considering whether a name is substantially similar, election officials will also look at whether information on the presented ID matches elements of the voter’s information on the official list of registered voters such as the voter’s residence address or date of birth.

9. Is the DPS Election Identification Certificate still going to be available?

Yes. The Election Identification Certificate is now available, and will be still be a form of acceptable photo ID. Information regarding how to obtain an election identification certificate can be found at www.dps.texas.gov. You may also contact DPS by telephone at (512) 424-2600 for more information.

Should you need additional information, please contact our office via telephone at 1-800-252-VOTE (8683) or [email us](#).

Source: VOTETEXAS.GOV

<https://www.votetexas.gov/voting/need-id.html>

Why Voting Rights Matter

The right to vote is one of the most basic promises of our democracy. In a democratic government, every person is considered equal and is empowered to both participate in their government and speak on the issues that impact their daily lives. Through our votes, we're able to express our values around concerns like health care, climate change, criminal justice, taxes, and so much more. And yet our voting rights are under attack. Bills that make voting harder for women and Black and brown Americans, wealthy special interest groups that influence elections, and district maps that don't reflect our communities – these obstacles threaten our democracy. That's where the League's work comes in.

Source: [LEAGUE OF WOMENS VOTERS](https://www.lww.org/voting-rights)

<https://www.lww.org/voting-rights>
