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New ID Restrictions for Voting Q&A

In recent months there have been many questions regarding the implementation of a new law (the "photo voter ID" law) which adds several restrictions on voting in Wisconsin. Here are some of the most common questions and answers. While I did not vote for these changes, I think it is important to provide information so neighbors are prepared before they get to the polls. If you have additional questions, please contact me directly.

Jim Holperin

Q: When will I be required to show photo identification to vote?

A: Voters will be required to show photo identification at every election starting with the 2012 Spring Primary.

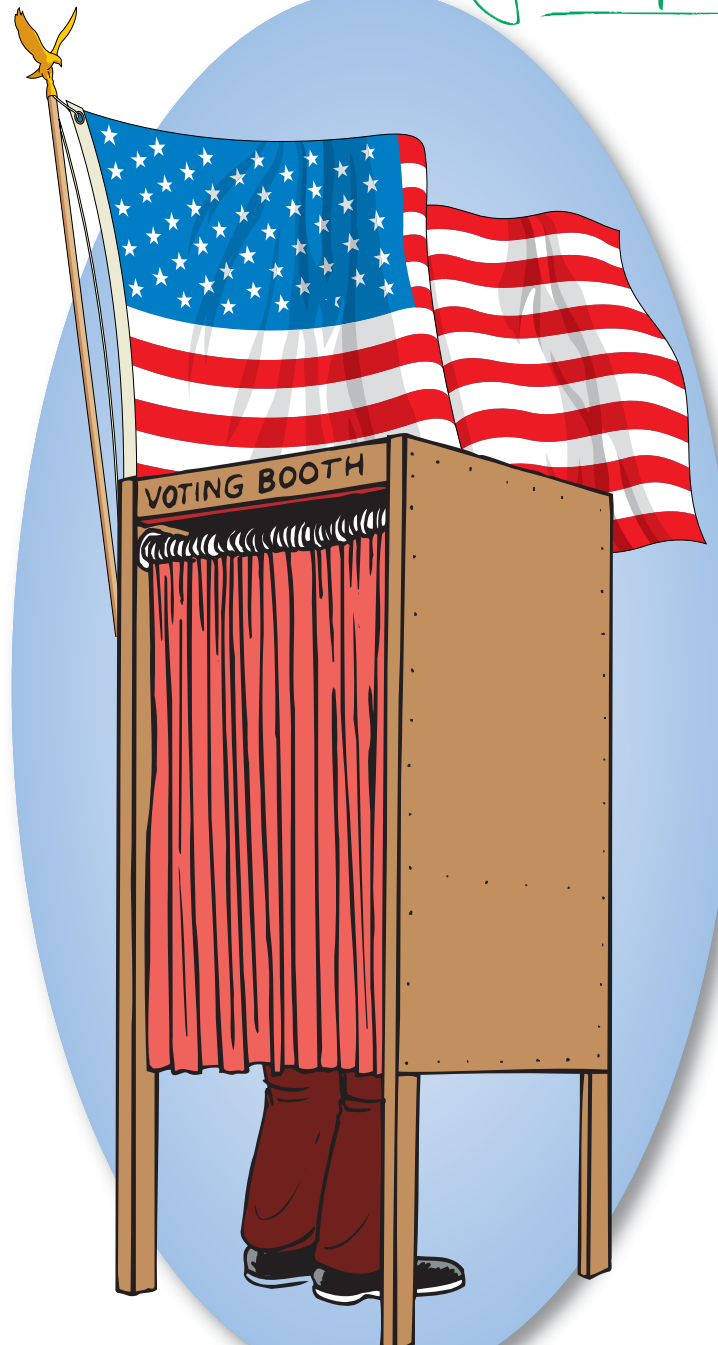
Q: What IDs are acceptable?

A: Below is a list of acceptable IDs:

- Wisconsin DOT-issued driver's license
- Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card
- Identification card issued by a U.S. uniformed service (military ID)
- U.S. passport
- Certificate of naturalization issued no earlier than two years before the date of the election it is presented
- An unexpired driver's license or identification card receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT
- Identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin
- An unexpired identification card issued by a Wisconsin-accredited university or college that contains a date of issuance, student signature and expiration date no later than two years after the date of issuance

Q: What is the monetary cost of IDs for voters?

A: The Wisconsin Department of Transportation will waive the regular \$28 fee and provide FREE ID cards to any individual who will be at least 18 years of age on the date of the next election, if they specifically state the ID is for voting purposes. This is true for voters applying for new, renewed or reinstated IDs. Be sure to check the box on your application form stating the ID is for voting purposes and also let the attendant know when you get to the counter.



Q: Does the address on the ID need to be current and match the address on the voter list?

A: No. However, if the address listed on your photo ID is no longer current, you may need to provide proof of residency as well when you go to vote.

Q: Can I use an ID that is expired for voting purposes?

A: Yes, if it expired after the date of the most recent general election.

Q: What are election inspectors verifying with the ID?

A: Election inspectors are verifying that the name on the ID matches the name on the poll list and that the photograph resembles the elector.

Q: Are any voters exempt from having to show a photo ID?

A: The following voters are exempt from having to show a photo ID:

- A military or overseas voter who votes by absentee ballot
- A voter who has a confidential listing, as result of domestic abuse, sexual assault or stalking, may show their confidential ID card or provide the election inspector with their name and confidential ID serial number
- An absentee voter who is indefinitely confined because of age, physical illness, disability, or infirmity and who has qualified to receive absentee ballots automatically may submit a statement with their ballot signed by an individual who witnesses them voting to verify that the name and address are correct
- An absentee voter who resides in a nursing home, qualified retirement home, community-based residential facility (CBRF), residential care apartment complex, or adult family home where special voting deputies are sent may submit a statement with their ballot signed by the special voting deputy to verify that the name and address of the voter are correct
- An absentee voter residing in a qualified retirement home, CBRF, residential care apartment complex, or adult family home where special voting deputies are NOT sent may submit a statement with their ballot signed by an individual who witnesses them voting to verify that the name and address are correct

Q: How do homeless people vote now that a photo ID is required?

A: The Government Accountability Board and Department of Transportation will devise a policy to properly address how a homeless individual will prove their residence and their identity in order to obtain an ID for voting purposes.

Q: Can university or college student ID's be used as their identification and proof of residence?

A: Yes. To verify their identity the student can present a valid student ID that contains a photo of the cardholder along with an issuance and expiration date. To also use the ID for proof of residence, the student must show a fee payment receipt issued to the cardholder by the university or college dated no earlier than nine months before the date of the election or their name must be on the list of current students provided by the university.

Q: Are mail-in absentee voters required to provide photo identification?

A: Yes. All mail-in absentee voters will be required to send in a photo copy of photo ID with their request for an absentee ballot, unless they request the ballot by fax or email, in which case they must submit the photo copy of their photo ID with the absentee ballot itself. This requirement will also go into effect starting with the February 2012 Primary.

Q: Once a mail-in absentee voter provides photo identification, do they need to continue providing ID with subsequent requests?

A: No. Once a mail-in absentee voter has provided a photo ID, they do not need to provide an ID again with subsequent absentee ballot requests unless their name or address changes.

Q: What if I do not present a photo ID at the polls or mail it in with my ballot?

A: If a voter does not present a photo ID at the polls they will be offered a provisional ballot. Additionally, if a voter does not present a photo ID with an absentee ballot, the official must treat the ballot as a provisional ballot. In order for their vote to count, the voter must provide proof of identification at the office of the municipal clerk or board election commissioners no later than 4 p.m. on the Friday after the election.