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# Guide for Getting an ID to VOTE

*This is a guide for people who want to help others get an ID for voting in NC by 2016. The ID requirement for voting is being challenged in court. The free ID from the NC Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is called a “no-fee ID” or “voter ID.” It is a non-driver’s ID card. It will only be issued to voters who sign a declaration, under penalty of a felony, that they do not have one of the acceptable photo IDs listed below.*

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## What ID is Required? When?

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*Election officials at the polls will ask voters in 2015 if they have a photo ID but **no photo ID is required to vote until January 2016.** The required photo ID must be one of these:*

- ▶ NC driver’s license or learner’s permit
- ▶ NC non-driver’s ID card
- ▶ US passport
- ▶ US military ID or Veteran’s ID card
- ▶ Member card from federal or NC recognized tribe

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## A Few Details To Keep In Mind

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**No student ID** is accepted.

**An out-of-state driver’s license** will work – but only for the first 90 days after the voter registers in NC.

Generally, the acceptable **ID must be current** (not expired). However:

- For **seniors**, an ID that was current on their 70th birthday can be used for life, even after it expires.
- A NC driver’s license or **ID from the DMV** may be used up to 4 years after it expires.
- The **military or veteran’s** IDs do not need an expiration date (they are current up to 8 years after the issuance date).

**The ID’s address** does not need to match the registration address; the ID is to verify identity, not address.

**Voters without a proper ID** in 2016 may use the options in the red box above or at the top of the next page.

### UPDATE IF YOU DON’T HAVE ONE OF THESE IDs:

In addition to options on the next page, you can cast a provisional ballot that will count if you give a reason you do not have ID and you either (1) provide your birth date and last 4 digits of your Social Security # or (2) show a voter registration card, utility bill, bank or government document with your name & address.

### Who is Exempt at the Polls?

**1. Curbside voters** - people eligible to vote from the curb because 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 either show the photo ID or a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or any government document with their name and current address.

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# What About People Without The Right ID?

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*Voters who are not exempt from showing an ID at the polls have two choices:*

## Option 1: Get a “no-fee state ID.”

A voter without an acceptable photo ID may apply for a free non-driver’s ID card from the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Some documents needed to get the ID may cost money, but two are free if the voter is registered and needs them to obtain a no-fee ID. The two are certified copies of a NC birth certificate and a NC marriage certificate (the completed marriage license) – the voter will need to sign a form confirming their registration and that the documents are needed to get the no-fee ID. See details on the next page.

## Option 2: No ID? Vote Absentee!

No photo ID is required to vote by mail – even in 2016. And, no excuse is needed to vote an absentee ballot by mail. Request an absentee ballot using the authorized form on the website of the county and state boards of elections. On the form, make sure to include an identifying number (driver’s license number or last 4 digits of your Social Security number) OR send in one of these with the request – a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or any government document with the voter’s name and current address. For more, see the State Board of Elections’ site: [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov).

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# How Can I Help Someone Without ID?

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*Citizens without an acceptable ID for voting are typically in major transition, or low-income or, they don’t drive. Some examples are: people returning from incarceration, people who are homeless, people with disabilities, out-of-state college or graduate students, seniors in rural communities, residents of rest homes, or survivors of domestic violence and natural disasters.*

Here are **3 promising strategies** for finding people who might need help getting an acceptable photo ID:

**1** **Visit local social service agencies and nonprofits and talk to clients.** Similar to a voter registration drive, you can ask permission from an agency or nonprofit to table or walk around with a clipboard inside of their building, or set up in a public area outside of the building. We have a story collection form (see insert) that you can use to capture people’s information and story for follow-up.

**2** **Spread the word with churches, Meals on Wheels, or other programs that serve homebound folks.** People who are unable to leave their home on their own are especially likely not to have a current driver’s license.

**3** **Call voters whose registration name didn’t match the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) database.** Democracy NC can provide you with a list of voters to call who couldn’t be found in the DMV database. *Caution:* This list contains many inaccurate or disconnected phone numbers. And, it’s possible that voters you reach do have an ID that will work – but some discrepancy in the name’s spelling caused the record to come back as a “no match.”

## Useful Agency Contacts

### NC Division of Motor Vehicles

DMV rules for IDs:

[www.ncdot.gov/dmv/driver/id](http://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/driver/id)

DMV offices:

[www.ncdot.gov/dmv/contact](http://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/contact)

or call 919-715-7000

### NC Board of Elections

[www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov); 919-733-7173

### Vital Records

[www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm) -

click on NC for info and to find local Register of Deeds or call 919-733-3000

### Social Security Administration

[demnc.co/ssahelp](http://demnc.co/ssahelp)

800-772-1213

### Veterans Affairs

[www.va.gov/statedva.htm](http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm);

919-807-4250

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# How to Get a “No Fee” Photo ID

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To help someone get a free ID, you'll need to assess exactly what kind of help the person needs. Some may have a NC driver's license that is expired or under a previous name; they will need to get it updated and pay the \$10 fee. Others may have some of the necessary documents to get a “no-fee” ID, but not all. Each case is unique.

## Follow these 3 steps to get a free ID for voting:

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### 1. DOCUMENTATION:

Voters will need to take certain documents to a DMV office and say, “I want to apply for a no-fee ID for voting.” They may go to a DMV driver license office or mobile unit in any county.

- See the list of DMV offices at [ncdot.gov/dmv/contact/](http://ncdot.gov/dmv/contact/).
- See the DMV mobile unit's schedule at [demnc.co/dmv-mus](http://demnc.co/dmv-mus).

### 2. REGISTRATION:

To get the free ID, the person must be registered to vote or register when they apply.

- If they are registered, the DMV will verify their registration. *Tip:* Speed up the process by bringing the registration card to DMV.
- If you are not registered to vote, you can register at the DMV.

### 3. DECLARATION:

This ID usually costs \$10. To get it free, the voter must sign a sworn statement that they do not have one of the acceptable IDs listed earlier. Lying is a Class I felony.

## What Kind of Documents are Needed?

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Voters must show documents with their full, legal name that prove identity, age and residence. They must also provide a valid Social Security Number. If DMV can't verify the person's SSN, they 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:* In some cases, DMV may let the voter sign an affidavit if they lack documents or, for example, have one with a maiden name. **Here is a partial list of the choices** (see [www.GotIDNC.com](http://www.GotIDNC.com) for more details):

### ◆ **Bring 2 of these prove identity; at least one must show date of birth to prove age:**

- A driver's license or ID card from another state, less than 1 year expired.
- Original Social Security card.
- W-2 or 1099 tax document.
- Certified birth certificate, marriage certificate, or divorce decree. \*\*
- Court approval of a name or gender change
- NC school transcript or registration signed by a school official.
- Diploma/GED from a NC school.
- Unexpired military ID, DD-214, Military Dependents Card, or Veteran Universal Access card.
- Valid document from Dep't of Homeland Security or US Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- Document from any court in the US for child support, adoption, criminal conviction, etc.

**\*\*Some of these are free in NC; see “Helpful Tips” box on the next page.**

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◆ **Bring 1 of these that shows street address:**

- Any government document (local, state or federal agency)\*
- Utility bill, including cable or cell phone.
- Housing lease, mortgage statement.
- Preprinted financial statement, like W-2, 1099, or bank statement.
- NC school transcript or registration signed by a school official.
- NC vehicle insurance policy.
- Letter from homeless shelter or transitional housing agency.

*\* This could be a license, bill, registration card, tax notice, letter or order*

◆ **If a document with the voter's Social Security Number is needed because DMV could not verify it, they will need to provide one of these:**

- 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 presenting the necessary documents, the voter will leave the DMV with a receipt. They should receive their photo ID in the mail within 6 to 8 weeks.

### Helpful Tips for Getting a Voter ID

- ◆ For document questions, ask a government agency (see “Useful Agency Contacts” box), check out [www.GotIDNC.com](http://www.GotIDNC.com), or call us: Democracy North Carolina, toll free 888-OUR-VOTE ext. 7918; [www.democracy-nc.org](http://www.democracy-nc.org).
- ◆ It is best to register to vote before applying for a free photo ID from NC DMV. The registration card will work as one of the documents to get the ID, and is also needed to get a free NC birth certificate or marriage certificate.
- ◆ Some documents, like a W-2 from an employer, can be used to prove both identity and residence at the DMV.
- ◆ Registers of Deeds offer a free birth or marriage certificate but rules differ by county. Some use <http://demnc.co/deed>. To order one free by mail, use the form at: <http://demnc.co/vital>
- ◆ A medical record can be used to get a replacement Social Security card. Go to Social Security Admin. link in “Useful Agency Contacts” box.
- ◆ This process can take weeks. Be patient and persistent.