
HOW WILL THE NEW VOTING LAW AFFECT ME?

2016 Tips for LGBTQ Voters

The General Assembly approved major changes to North Carolina's election laws. While some provisions are being challenged in court, the law will remain in effect until overruled. Like all North Carolinians, LGBTQ voters need to know how these changes will affect their ability to vote.

I want to encourage each and every one of us... to become liberators for ourselves and each other.
- Laverne Cox

THE BASICS

Who can vote?

To vote in North Carolina you must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old by the date of the next General Election
- Not serving a felony sentence (including probation or parole)
- Registered to vote in the county where you'll be voting

How can I register to vote?

You can find a voter registration form at the DMV, library, post office, county Board of Elections office, or where people sign up for public benefits (e.g., WorkFirst, SNAP, unemployment, Medicaid). You can also download one at demnc.co/vr-form

What are the voter registration deadlines?

The deadline to register is 25 days before an election. If you move, even within the same county, you need to update your registration to your current address.

WHAT ABOUT AN ID?

Do I need an ID to vote in North Carolina?

Despite new 2016 voting rules that require election workers to ask for photo ID at the polls, North Carolina voters can vote with or without a NC driver's license or other photo ID. If you do not have a valid photo ID, you may cast a special provisional ballot that will count by providing the last four digits of your Social Security number and your birth date. See the reverse for more options or visit GotIDNC.com for details.

What type of photo ID can I use to vote?

To vote a regular ballot inside the polls, you will need to show a NC driver's license, NC ID card, U.S. passport, military or veteran's ID, or tribal ID card. The NC license or ID card may be expired for up to 4 years. If the voter's ID is current at age 70, it's good for life. The address on the ID doesn't matter; it's used to verify identity, not residency. The photo on the ID must bear a "reasonable resemblance" to the voter, and the name should closely match the voter's name on the registration rolls.



What if I don't have an ID? You have three options under the new law:

(1) *You can get a free ID.* If you are a registered voter or eligible to register, you can get a free ID from any DMV office in the state. You'll need to bring identifying documents with you. Learn about how to get a free ID and other official documents at GotIDNC.com

(2) *You can absentee vote by mail.* The new law doesn't require a photo ID for voting by mail. Voters (or their near relatives) can request an "absentee" or mail-in ballot by using a form from the Board of Elections. No excuse is needed to vote by mail. For more information and a link to the request form, go to NCVoter.org

(3) *You can use a special provisional ballot.* It counts if you give a reason for not having an ID and show a non-photo ID or provide your birth date and last 4 digits of your SSN. See GotIDNC.com for more details.

LGBTQ-SPECIFIC FAQs

Will my marriage certificate from another state be accepted by NC DMV as proof of identity or name change? Yes! Under current law, an official marriage certificate from any U.S. state or territory or Canada should be accepted by the NC DMV as proof of identity or name change. If you run into a problem, ask to speak to a DMV supervisor or call 1-888-OUR-VOTE.

I am transgender and my ID does not match my name, sex, or current appearance. How can I get an updated ID? The process can be complicated. Transgender people may face obstacles to registering or updating their voter registration. For guidance, contact one of the following organizations: ACLU of North Carolina (919-834-3466; www.acluofnc.org), Equality NC (919-829-0343; www.equalitync.org), or the LGBT Center of Raleigh (919-832-4484; www.lgbt-centerofraleigh.org). Current voters who are transgender should change their name on the voter registration rolls as soon as possible to match the name on their current government ID. They should include their new name in Section 2, their new, matching ID info in Section 3, and the previous name and address

they used to register to vote in Section 7 (Previous Registration). Changing or selecting a gender in Section 6 is optional.

My family has all of my identifying documents and can't or won't give them to me. Now what? If you are old enough to vote, you can request your own official documents, like a birth certificate or school transcript. Gather any official documents you have – an old ID or driver's license, a utility or cell phone bill, your Social Security card, a tax return or W-2, any government document – and then ask for help from a group listed above to figure out how to get the documents for a free ID. Remember, you can vote with a special provisional ballot if you don't have the documents needed for a photo ID – see (3) in the section titled "What if I don't have an ID."

Remember, the Equality Act, the Supreme Court, and state-level non-discrimination ordinances will be decided by the officials you're voting on this year!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This handout was created and distributed by the ACLU of North Carolina, Democracy North Carolina and Equality NC. Please feel free to contact us with questions or requests for more information.



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