

## Name Changes

### *Wisconsin's New Voter Photo ID Law*

#### Do I need to show a Photo ID?

- A valid photo ID must be provided when voting by absentee ballot or at the polling place, unless you are part of a group exempted by statute.

#### When does my name change become effective for voting purposes?

- **For voting purposes, a name change is not effective until you have updated the name with an agency that can issue acceptable photo ID.** Usually this will be the Wisconsin DMV, but it can include the US Department of State (passports), a branch of the armed services, a federally-recognized Indian tribe, or an accredited college or university. Even if you have recently married or divorced, or changed your name by court order, if you have not updated your name with an agency that can issue acceptable photo ID, you should continue to register and vote under your previous name. If you register under the new name, and it is listed on the poll list, but your photo ID shows your previous name, the poll workers may insist that you vote by provisional ballot.
- **If you are updating your name with the Wisconsin DMV, you must first change your name with the Social Security Administration (SSA).** Once your name has been changed with SSA, you can change your name with the DMV immediately.

#### Do I need to re-register to vote with my new name?

- **Yes. If your name changes, even if you are at the same address, you must fill out an updated voter registration application.** Be sure to give your prior name in the space provided.

#### If I hyphenate my name is that close enough?

- **Wisconsin law requires that the name on photo ID “conforms to the individual’s voter registration form.”** Since the entire previous name is contained in the new name, the G.A.B. has decided these names “conform.” However, the G.A.B. recommends that your voter registration should always be updated to the name on your photo identification.

#### Where can I get more information?

- Go to <http://ssa-custhelp.ssa.gov> and click the link to “Change a name on a social security card.” Or call your local Social Security office.
- Go to <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/name-change.htm> or call your local DMV or the statewide number 608-266-2353.

For detailed information about the Voter Photo ID law, visit [bringit.wi.gov](http://bringit.wi.gov).  
For other information on the Government Accountability Board, visit <http://gab.wi.gov>  
or call the G.A.B. Help Desk at 608-261-2028.