

FAQs: 2016 Photo ID Law Implementation

Q: Hi, Could you explain in general, the rationale for these photo IDs which are NOT acceptable for voting purposes....These ID do not satisfy the requirements because.....?

A: They do not fit any of the 8 categories of acceptable forms of photo ID as dictated by state law. We list of some examples of the IDs that don't fit any of the 8 categories because we receive the most questions about them.

Q: What is the status of technical college ID?

A: Technical College IDs may be used as proof of identification.

Q: Do we need to keep copy of proof of identification on file in the clerk's office?

A: Yes, for any voter requesting an absentee ballot by mail.

Q: Can the voter use an out-of-state driver license for proof of Identification?

A: No.

Q: Do we take a copy of the ID when someone comes in and fills out an Absentee Ballot request?

A: Voters must provide photo ID each time they vote in-person absentee in the clerk's office.

Q: Provisional Info sheet, if clerk is part time can it be specified that they need to make an appointment with the clerk to bring in required information?

A: Yes.

Q: What if a person registering at the polls on Election Day have proof of ID, but will not or cannot provide DL #, can they be registered and vote provisional?

A: Yes, that is one of the three situations when a voter may cast a provisional ballot.

Q: GAB123is refers to providing proof of residence. however, the note at the bottom says no provisional ballot may be issued if registering? Which is it?

A: The note states that no provisional ballot may be issued if the voter is attempting to register in-person on Election Day and does not have proof of residence. A first-time voter who registered to vote by mail prior to April 4, 2014 and did not provide proof of residence will appear on the poll book as "POR Required." This type of voter is allowed to cast a provisional ballot if they do not have proof of residence.

Q: I have a new DL that I received as a duplicate for a lost license. It states in the upper right corner 'Not for Federal Purposes.' Does this mean it cannot be used for photo ID in a federal election?

A: No, it can be used as photo ID for all elections.

Q: Can you use a college Tech School ID to vote at your home address if the college ID is in another voting jurisdiction.

A: You can use a technical college ID for proof of identification if the address does not match, but you can't use it as proof of residence if the address does not match.

Q: What about the WI DL you show that says "valid without photo"?

A: Voters who have a religious objection to being photographed can request this type of ID.

Q: Under Application requirements it states that voter registrations that are postmarked after the 20th day before the election cannot be accepted. Please explain.

A: Voter registration closes at 5 pm the 20th day before an election. A voter can only register in the clerk's office through 5 pm the Friday before an election or at the polls on Election Day.

Q: If an absentee voter currently has a notation in SVRS that they have shown a photo ID back in 2012(?) when it was required, is that sufficient now and if so, will it carry over and still show in WisVote?

A: Yes, a by-mail absentee voter with proof of identification on file does not need to provide it again for by-mail absentee voting unless they change their name or address.

Q: Is POR only for NEW registrations? Or do all voters need to show it?

A: For first-time voters or voters who changed their name or address and need to re-register.

Q: May the proof of enrollment document that accompanies the Student ID be shown electronically?

A: Yes.

Q: Does a vehicle registration from DOT count as proof or residence?

A: Yes, it's a document issued by a unit of government.

Q: Should we keep a copy of in person if they tell us that they will be asking for one mailed in the next election?

A: No, they need to provide it with their by-mail application.

Q: I want to be sure I heard you correctly. In reference to if the inspectors do not believe the id conforms to name or picture, they still issue the ballot but then challenge it, correct? The webinar notes say they may refuse to accept the proof of id.

A: Yes, the election inspectors challenge the voter's ballot.

Q: Just a quick question - if voter spoils their PV ballot, is that considered one of their "up to three" ballots?

A: No.

Q: In-person absentee voting, do we need to make a copy of their proof of ID?

A: No, the voter must show proof of identification every time he or she votes in-person.

Q: Does a PV sign the poll book?

A: If they come back with their missing documentation on Election Day. Otherwise, no.

Q: So the only time that the bottom right may be used ATTN ELECTION INSPECTORS would be in an instance where electors at eligible facilities were not served by a SVD?

A: Yes, but it could also be at eligible facilities served by SVDs, but the SVDs made two visits, the voter was unable or unwilling to vote during the visits and the clerk mailed the ballot to the voter. In this case, the voter must include proof of identification or the signature of the care facility representative.

Q: For instance - if a woman just got married and has not changed her last name on her WI DL (photo ID), if the photo is recognizable can you accept that photo ID?

A: If the name on the photo ID does not conform to the name on the poll list, she should vote using her former name and re-register when she receives an updated photo ID.

Q: Should we make copies of the proof of residence to keep with the registrations?

A: Yes, if voter is registering in the clerk's office.

Q: If an address doesn't matter for Photo ID, why does a voter have to provide a new copy of their Photo ID if they re-register with a new address?

A: It's what the law requires.

Q: I know we can't deny someone the option to vote provisionally, but can poll workers strongly encourage voters to get photo ID and come back that day to vote normally in lieu of voting provisionally?

A: What does "strongly encourage" entail? The can encourage the voter to do so, but the voter has until 4 pm the Friday following the election to provide the information to the clerk as well.

Q: Does "request absentee ballots be sent to me until I am no longer confined or fail to return a ballot" mean that I should have a list of people who have previously requested this? Or do they need to request one each time/each year?

A: Indefinitely confined voters receive ballots until they don't return one for an April, November or Special Election, at which time you send them the five day notice that they need to contact you within 30 days to stay on the list.

Q: If a person in a nursing home or care facility and no SVDs are available can a person at the Care Facility have a ballot & absentee application mailed to the person at the facility?

A: I'm not sure what you mean by not available. If you have five registered voters in a qualified facility and at least one absentee ballot request on file, you must send SVDs. If you don't, at the voter's request you can send an absentee ballot request form to a registered voter at a facility.

Q: Snowbirds that come in to the Clerk's office and fill out an application for an absentee ballot be mailed to them. Do they need to provide a copy of their ID to be attached to the application, or do we just need to see their ID at that point and make a note of it on the application?

A: Yes, by-mail must include a copy of the photo ID.

Q: I have an older couple that is confined to their home and always request absentee ballots. Can they witness each other's signatures?

A: Yes.

Q: The two times I had someone show a military ID they both had indefinite for the expiration date. I was told by the GAB that this was valid. I do not see this in the training materials. Is that true?

A: Some military IDs do not have an expiration date. They are acceptable forms of proof of identification.

Q: To clarify, a person submits Photo ID with the request for absentee ballots through 12/31/16. They do NOT need to resubmit a photo ID with their form for all elections in 2017?

A: By-mail absentee voters only need to provide a copy once. It remains in effect unless they change their name or address and need to re-register.

Q: Can you use a photocopy of a DL for POR and Proof of ID?

A: Photocopies can be used for proof of residence. For proof of identification, the original document must be provided, unless it's a by-mail request.

Q: We can mail an absentee ballot if we don't have a photo id on file?

A: No. Contact the voter using the "Missing Photo ID" form we have on our website.

Q: If I vote absentee by mail, then next election vote absentee in person son can I use my ID on file?

A: No. Every time an elector votes in person (clerk's office absentee or in-person at the polls), he or she must provide proof of identification.

Q: For indefinitely confined voters, shouldn't we wait until the envelope is returned to make sure the witness has signed the certificate envelope before initialing that the photo ID requirement has been met?

A: Yes.

Q: Does it have to be the Clerk's initials or can it be the Election Inspector that is working prior to the Election for Absentee ballots?

A: It can be staff working in the clerk's office.

Q: Voter supplied photo ID for absentee ballot by mail. we have it on file. next election voter goes to the polls. third election requests by mail absentee ballot. that photo ID from first request is still on file and meets requirement, correct.

A: Yes, unless the voter has changed his or her name or address.

Q: GAB 122 why do we have to initial if they have to meet or be exempt from providing ID?

A: To let your election inspectors know that they have provided proof of identification or met the proof of identification requirements.

Q. Can a greeter view the photo ID to be sure a voter has an acceptable form of ID, then the voter shows the photo id again to the poll book workers before signing?

A: Yes.

Q: Where would a voter get the GAB-133?

A: Contact the GAB Help Desk and ask for a copy.

Q: Please comment on election day set up at polls - I have 3 election board members at each table. Which one of the poll workers looks at the photo ID? The 3rd person at the table issues the ballot - are they the ones to look at the photo ID?

A: The two election inspectors managing the poll list need to review the proof of identification.

Q: Where do we keep the copies of the IDs if these people request absentee ballots each spring?

A: Keep it with the registration form.

Q: Does Richard B. Smith conform with Bob R. Smith?

A: No.

Q: Where does the PV# come from?

A: It's a consecutive number starting with PV#1, PV#2...

Q: So, each time someone comes in and drops off an absentee request, I will have to look up their registration to see if there is a copy of the ID?

A: If it's a by-mail application, yes. If they are voting in-person absentee in the clerk's office, you need to see the proof of identification before giving the voter a ballot.

Q: Recent Chief Inspector training provided locally the trainer stated that BOTH inspectors at the poll books must make sure the ID is conforming. You are stating only 1 is necessary. Can you confirm for us which is correct?

A: Both inspectors managing the poll list must review the proof of identification.