



## Frequently Asked Questions About Voter Identification

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*July, 2021 Pub#5515.01*

### **Will I Need to Bring Identification to Vote at the Poll Site or Attach a Copy to My Vote-By-Mail Ballot?**

Unlike many other states, California does not have a restrictive Voter Identification (ID) law. Generally, a California voter will not have to bring identification to vote.

Under the Help America Vote Act and California Elections Code section 2150(7), when registering to vote, a person must provide **either**:

- Their current and valid driver's license, **or**
- State identification on the affidavit of registration, **or**
- The last four digits of his or her social security number

If a person does not have any of these numbers, the California Secretary of State will assign a unique number to the person.

### **When May I Be Asked To Show My ID?**

You may only be asked to show your ID under very limited circumstances:

- You are a first time voter and you registered by mail, **and**

- You did not provide your driver license number, or California identification number, or the last four digits of your social security number on your voter registration form

## What Type of ID May I Show?

You must provide either **(1)** a current and valid **photo identification** – including photo ID from non-state entities, like an employer – that has your name on it; **or (2)** some form of **identification without a photo**, but with your name and address. Acceptable types of identification for each are listed below.

### (1) Acceptable types of **Photo Identification**:<sup>1</sup>

- Driver's license or identification card of any state
- Passport
- Employee identification card
- Identification card provided by a commercial establishment
- Credit or debit card
- Military identification card
- Student identification card
- Health club identification card
- Insurance plan identification card

*Source(s): California Code of Regulations, Section 20107(d)(1)*

### (2) Acceptable Types of Identification **Without a Photo**:<sup>2</sup>

- Utility bill
- Bank statement
- Government check
- Government paycheck
- Voter notification card
- Public housing identification card

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<sup>1</sup> A valid photo ID is one that you usually present in day-to-day transactions and has both your picture and name

<sup>2</sup> A valid form of identification without a photo can be a document with your name and address. Unless it is a permanent document (i.e. a pardon or discharge), it must be dated after the last general election.

- Lease or rental statement or agreement
- Tuition statement or bill
- Discharge certificate, pardon, or other official document issued to the voter in connection with the resolution of a criminal case, indictment, sentence or other matter

*Source(s): California Code of Regulations, Section 20107(d)(2)*

## **What Can I Do If I Am Asked to Show ID and I Disagree?**

Before Election Day, the County Election Official's office determines who must show ID to vote. When you sign in to vote at the poll site, there will be a note next to your name showing that you must provide ID. The poll worker cannot ask you for ID unless the voting sign-in roster indicates that you must do so.

If you are asked to show ID and you disagree, you may cast a vote using a provisional ballot and you may also:

- Ask the poll worker to show you where in the voting sign-in roster it indicates you must provide ID, **or**
- Contact your County Election Official's office, **or**
- Contact Disability Rights California

## **Contact DRC's Voting Hotline at 1-888-569-7955 if:**

- You or someone you know feels discriminated against while voting because of your (or their) disability; OR
- You believe that state or federal voting-rights laws have been violated.

**For more information and a complete list of acceptable forms of ID, see [the Secretary of State's web page on Voter-ID](#).**