



California's Protection & Advocacy System
Toll-Free (800) 776-5746

Frequently Asked Questions about Voter Identification

October 2012, 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 current and valid photo identification or other document deemed, by regulation, to be satisfactory proof of identity.

I. Types of Photo Identification You May Provide:

- 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

See, Title 2, California Code of Regulations, Section 20107(d)(1)

II. Types of Identification You May Provide Without a Photo:

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

See, Title 2, 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 the County Election Official's office, or,
- Contact Disability Rights California

On Election Day

Northern California: 1-888-569-7955

Southern California: 1-888-733-7565

TTY - 1-800-719-5798

Before or After Election Day 1-800-776-5746

- Contact the California Secretary of State's hotline
- English: (916) 657-2166 or (800) 345-VOTE (8683)
- Spanish: (800) 232-VOTA (8682)

Disability Rights California is funded by a variety of sources, for a complete list of funders, go to <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/Documents/ListofGrantsAndContracts.html>.