

Photo-ID Requirements for Voting in Alabama
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Starting with the first primary election in 2014, voters will have to show a photo ID at the polls, or enclose a photocopy of one with their absentee ballot, in order to vote. The Secretary of State recently adopted regulations for the implementation of photo-ID.

The following are valid photo-IDs:

1. a valid Alabama driver's license;
2. a valid Alabama nondriver identification card;
3. a valid Alabama photo voter identification card;
4. a valid identification card issued by a branch, department, agency, or entity of the State of Alabama, any other state, or the United States authorized by law to issue personal identification, provided that such identification card contains a photograph of the elector;
5. a valid U.S. passport;
6. a valid employee identification card containing the photograph of the elector and issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the U.S. government, the State of Alabama, or any county, municipality, board, authority, or other entity of this state;
7. a valid student or employee identification card issued by a public or private college, university, or postgraduate technical or professional school located within the State of Alabama;
8. a valid U.S. military identification card; or
9. a valid tribal identification card.

All of these must be current. If they contain an expiration date, and the election is after the expiration date, none of the above are valid.

“Free” Voter-IDs

To try and avoid the “poll tax” issue, Voter-IDs are available without cost to anyone who does not have any of the 8 other valid forms of ID. Someone registering to vote can apply for their voter-ID at the same time they register. Voter-IDs will be available at drivers' license offices, Boards of Registrars offices, the Secretary of State's office, and at mobile units that are to be set up. To get a voter-ID, you must produce the following:

- 1) a photo identification document or a non-photo identification document is acceptable if it contains your full legal name and date of birth;
- 2) documentation showing your date of birth;
- 3) documentation showing that you are an Alabama registered voter (can be electronically verified by the processing office);
- 4) documentation showing your name and address as reflected in your voter registration record (can be electronically verified by the processing office).

Voter-IDs do not expire. They are valid so long as the person lives at the same address. If the person moves, then they must surrender the old one and obtain a new voter-ID.

Voting Without an ID

1. Provisional Ballots. Just like if a person's name is not on the voting rolls, a voter has the right to vote a provisional ballot without a photo-ID. However, it is then up to the voter to take the necessary steps, i.e. go to the courthouse and provide a photo-ID, by 5:00 pm the Friday after the election.
2. Identification by two poll workers. If two poll workers assigned to a polling place sign an affidavit that a person is a voter on the roll, that person can vote a regular ballot without a photo ID. A notary requirement was dropped from the final draft, so as long as two poll workers know someone, he or she can vote without ID.

Absentee ballots

Absentee ballots will have to include a photocopy of the voter's photo-ID in order to be counted. The only exceptions to that requirement are individuals entitled to vote absentee through Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (VAEHA).

References:

The photo-ID law itself is §17-9-30, Ala. Code 1975.

The Secretary of State's final rules on the law can be found at http://www.sos.alabama.gov/downloads/press/photo-voter-id-rules_FINAL.pdf

For voter registration forms, polling places, and other voting information, go to: www.alabamavotes.gov