



## **Know Before You Go: Virginia Photo Voter Identification: Q &A**

**Q: Do I need to show ID when I go to vote?**

A: Yes. This is not exactly new, because in Virginia, voters have been required to show ID to vote for many years. What's fairly new is that the ID must include a photo; this law took effect in 2014.

**Q: Do I need to get a new photo ID for voting?**

A: Not if you already have one of the accepted IDs; most voters do. See the list below. If you don't have any of these, we can give you a FREE voter photo ID.

**Q: What types of photo ID are allowed?**

A: Acceptable forms of ID are listed below. If a voter doesn't have any of those IDs, he or she can obtain a FREE photo ID from any Virginia voter registration office, good for voting purposes only.

Valid Virginia driver's license or non-driver ID issued by the Virginia DMV



US passport or passport card



Employee ID with a photograph



Student ID with photograph from a Virginia institution of higher learning



Any photo ID issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia, any of its political subdivisions, or the US Government

Examples: Military ID, MetroAccess ID



**Q: Does the photo ID have to be government-issued?**

A: No. While many forms of permitted IDs are government-issued, you could also use an employer or student photo ID, either of which may not necessarily be issued by a government entity. See above.

**Q: My employer is based in DC. Can I use my photo ID card?**

A: Yes. The employer doesn't have to be located in Virginia.

**Q: I go to school at Georgetown University and my roommate goes to George Washington University. Can we use our student IDs to vote?**

A: For student IDs, Virginia law specifically states the school must be located in Virginia. Georgetown is only in DC, so for you the answer is No. If your roommate attends class exclusively at GWU's DC campus, the answer is also No. If, however, your roommate attends classes at GWU's Virginia campus in Ballston, he can use his GWU student ID to vote. Your roommate should be prepared to tell pollworkers he attends class in Virginia, if it is not clear on his ID.

**Q: I don't own a car and I take public transportation. I still have my New York driver's license, which I use for car rentals, but I don't plan to get a Virginia license until it expires. Can I use my New York license as long as it is still valid?**

A: No. Virginia law is very specific that any driver's license used must be a valid Virginia license. We strongly encourage you to get a FREE photo voter ID so you won't have any problems when you go vote.

**Q: What are some examples of government-issued IDs, other than a driver's license or DMV ID card?**

A: Examples include a US Passport or passport card, a TSA Global Entry card, a military or military dependent ID (active or retired), any type of license that includes a photo, or a naturalization certificate. MetroAccess IDs are also accepted, because one of the entities of the issuing authority, WMATA, is the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Q: Can I show you a picture of my ID on my smartphone?**

A: No. You have to show the actual document when you go to vote.



**Q: What if I don't have any acceptable ID?**

A: You can get a FREE voter photo ID, good for voting purposes only, at any Virginia voter registration office.

**Q: I have a passport but it is expired. Can I use it to vote?**

A: That depends on when it expired. If a passport, driver's license, or any other type of ID with an expiration date expired within 12 months of the date of the election, it is considered valid and you can still use it to vote. However, if that's your only form of acceptable ID, we recommend you obtain a FREE photo voter ID so you won't run into any problems in future elections.

**Q: What happens if I go to the polls and don't have acceptable ID? Can I still vote?**

A: Yes, but you will need to vote a provisional ballot, which isn't counted on Election Day. Your ballot will only be counted if you provide the Electoral Board with a copy of your ID by no later than noon on the Friday after the election. The receipt the pollworkers give you when you vote a provisional ballot has specific information. If you don't have any of the acceptable forms of ID, you can go to your local voter registration office and get your FREE photo voter ID, even on Election Day! As long as you do so before noon on the Friday after the election, your ballot will count.

**Q: What do I need to bring with me to apply for my free photo voter ID?**

A: You don't need to bring any documents. You will complete an application and sign a statement saying you do not have any of the acceptable IDs. The election staff will verify your registration record, take your photo, and capture your signature; that's it! You'll receive your new photo voter ID in the mail in a couple of weeks.

**Q: Can I get a free photo voter ID at any voter registration office?**

A: Yes. You can go to any voter registration office in Virginia; you do not have to go to the office in your locality. If you are not registered to vote or need to update your address, the staff will obtain your new information and transfer it to the registrar in your locality. Meanwhile they'll still capture your photo and signature for the photo voter ID card. Once your information is processed, you receive your new photo voter ID in the mail.

**Q: If I already have one of the acceptable forms of photo ID, can I still get a free voter photo ID?**

A: The FREE photo ID is intended for voters who have no other form of acceptable ID. When you complete the application, you sign a statement affirming you have no other ID. If, however, you have either lost or misplaced your photo ID and it is right before the election date, we can issue a free temporary ID so you won't have any problems having your vote count.

**Q: What happens if there's not enough time to receive my ID in the mail before the election?**

A: Not to worry. The staff will give you a temporary ID, good for 30 days, which is accepted at the polls.

**Temporary Identification Document**  
To be used for voting purposes only



*Kitty Clark Stevenson*

**Voter's Name:**  
KITTY CLARK STEVENSON

**Voter ID Number:**  
108016937



**Temporary Identification Document**  
To be used for voting purposes only

This **Temporary Identification Document** was produced by a General Registrar, or designated staff, of the Commonwealth of Virginia solely for the purpose of allowing the voter identified on this document to vote in an upcoming election. This document is valid for 30 days after the date of issue located below.

This document shall be considered identification issued by a government agency and valid only for the purpose of casting a ballot.

**Issuing Locality:** ARLINGTON COUNTY

**Date of Issue:** 06/20/2014

**Expiration Date:** 07/20/2014

**Name of Registrar or Designated Staff:** Linda Lindberg

**Q: Do I need a photo voter ID to vote by absentee ballot?**

A: If you wish to vote an absentee ballot in person, you do need to show photo ID. The law applies to all persons who vote in person. Most voters who vote an absentee ballot in person in Arlington should be able to apply for the free ID and obtain a temporary ID when they go to vote absentee, if they don't already have acceptable ID. Check with your local office before going to vote.

**Q: My mother is disabled and seldom leaves the house. She usually requests a ballot by mail. Does she need a photo ID?**

A: No, a photo voter ID is not needed for voters who request absentee ballots by mail. However, if she is able to or interested in going to the polls on Election Day or voting an absentee ballot in person, she will need a photo ID. You might want to consider bringing her in to the voter registration office to get a FREE voter photo ID.

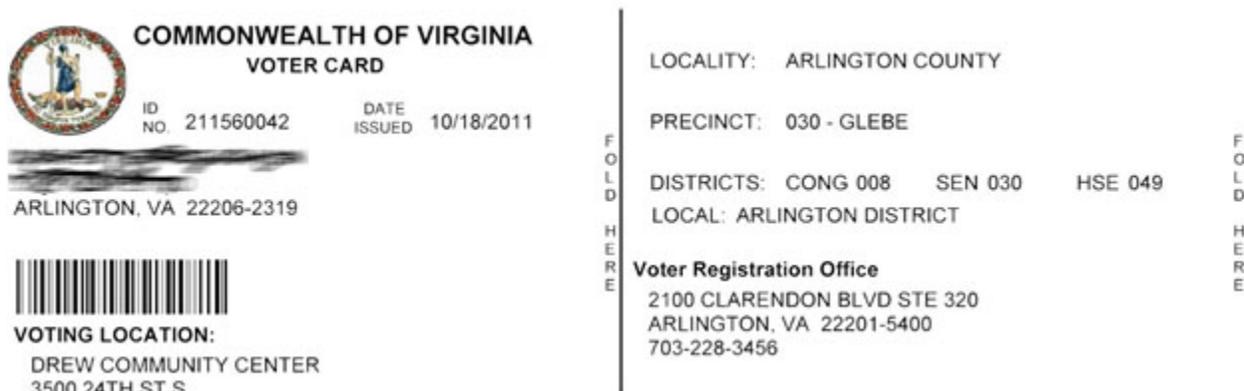
**Q: Do I need a photo ID if I do curbside voting?**

A: Yes, all voters who vote in person, whether at the polls or absentee, need to show photo ID. This applies to curbside voters (voters who vote a ballot outside the polling place on Election Day because they are unable to enter the polls) as well.

**Q: I still have my voter information card, which doesn't have a photo. Is that now worthless?**

A: Not at all, since it contains important information and will still be issued anytime someone registers to vote or updates his or her address. This card lists your polling place, your local registration office information, election district, and your Congressional, Virginia Senate, and Virginia House District information. If you live in a town, it will include town precinct information, which may be different from

county precinct information. Note that some localities may issue a full page notification with the same information instead of a wallet-size voter information card. Arlington continues to issue cards to its voters.



**Q: Can I get my free photo voter ID anywhere other than the voter registration office? It's difficult for me to get there during business hours.**

A: Check the Arlington County Elections website, <http://vote.arlingtonva.us>, during September and October. We will be scheduling photo voter ID outreach in several alternate locations around the County, such as senior centers, retirement communities, and community centers. Other Virginia jurisdictions may also offer extra hours for photo ID; find your city or county's contact information at the Virginia Department of Elections at <http://elections.virginia.gov>.

**Q: I moved last month and I haven't updated my Virginia driver's license, which still shows my old address. Will that be a problem?**

A: No. Your Virginia driver's license is still valid and can be used as your photo ID, even though it shows your old address. If you have already updated your voter registration record and received a new, non-photo voter information card, go to vote at your new precinct, listed on the card. When the poll worker asks you to confirm your residence address, he or she will verify that the address you confirm is the same as what is on our rolls, regardless of what is on your license.

If you haven't yet updated your voter registration address and you've moved within Virginia since the last Nov. election, you can still vote at your former polling place. Tell the poll worker you have moved. You will be taken out of line and be required to update your address before being allowed to vote.

**Q: For security reasons, I use a post office box address for mail delivery, and this is the address that is on my Virginia driver's license. Can I use my license as my photo ID?**

A: Yes. As mentioned in the question above, all voters are required to confirm their current residence address to the poll workers, who will compare the information against what is on our rolls. As long as your license is valid, the address listed doesn't matter for voting purposes. Many types of photo IDs don't include addresses at all.

**Q: I volunteer for a hospital and have a volunteer photo ID. Is that acceptable?**

A: Yes. This falls under the category of employer ID, even though you are a volunteer and not a paid employee.

**Q: I work for a federal government agency that issues photo employee IDs, but for security reasons, the name of the agency does not appear on the ID and I cannot reveal the name of my employer. Is my ID acceptable?**

A: Yes. As long as it is clear that the ID was issued by your employer during the normal course of business, your ID is acceptable. This includes certain government agencies that cannot be named!

For more information:

Arlington Elections (for Arlington residents)  
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 320  
Arlington, VA 22201  
703-228-3456 [voters@arlingtonva.us](mailto:voters@arlingtonva.us)  
<http://vote.arlingtonva.us>

Virginia Dept. of Elections (to find your local office)  
100 Bank St. 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219  
800-552-9745 [info@elections.virginia.gov](mailto:info@elections.virginia.gov)  
<http://elections.virginia.gov>