

# Photo ID and Municipal Elections?

## New Photo ID requirements now in effect

State law has changed related to the requirements to provide photo ID at the polls. These changes took effect January 1, 2013.

While some municipalities have transferred election authority to the county, all municipal election officials need to be aware of these changes. Municipal Election Commissions (MECs) that continue to conduct elections have new responsibilities under the law and must take steps to ensure these responsibilities are met.

Voters will be asked to show one of the following Photo IDs at the polling place:

- S. C. Driver's License
- ID Card issued by the S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles
- S.C. Voter Registration Card with Photo
- Federal Military ID
- U.S. Passport

Voters who have one of the IDs listed above are ready to vote. Be sure to bring your Photo ID with you to the polling place.

Voters who do not have one of the IDs listed above should get one before voting. Free Photo IDs are available at DMV or at the county voter registration office.

**EVERY VOTE MATTERS.**  
EVERY VOTE COUNTS.



## Voters without Photo ID

If a voter forgets to bring his Photo ID with him to vote, the voter may vote a provisional ballot that will count only if the voter shows his Photo ID to the election commission prior to certification of the election.

**MECs must ensure the name of any voter that provides Photo ID during this time is recorded on a list. At the provisional ballot hearing, the MEC will rule to count the provisional ballots cast by voters who have since provided the proper ID.**

If a voter can't get a Photo ID prior to election day, the voter will be allowed to vote after signing an affidavit stating he has a reasonable impediment to obtaining Photo ID. The reasonable impediment could be a disability or illness, a conflict with the voters work schedule, lack of transportation, a religious objection to being photographed, or any other obstacle the voter finds reasonable. To cast a provisional ballot under the reasonable impediment exception, the voter must provide his non-photo voter registration card.

**The MEC must ensure poll managers are provided with updated provisional ballot envelopes and updated notices of the provisional ballot hearing.**

**MECs must count provisional ballots cast under the reasonable impediment exception unless someone proves the voter has lied on the affidavit. Evidence would have to be presented to the MEC proving the voter lied. Without such evidence, the MEC must rule to count these ballots. The MEC may not judge whether the listed impediment is reasonable. Only the voter determines whether the listed impediment is reasonable. The MEC can rule only on whether the voter lied on his affidavit – either about his identity or about having the listed impediment.**

**In addition to the items above, MECs must:**

- Provide updated Poll Manager training to all poll managers
- Provide updated Poll Managers Handbooks
- Provide Photo ID posters

**Contact your county voter registration and elections office to request training for poll managers and municipal election officials, photo ID materials, and voter education events in your town.**