



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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South Carolina's Voter Photo ID Law

On May 18, 2011, Governor Nikki Haley signed a new voter identification law that will take effect when and if the law receives preclearance from the federal government. If implemented, the State Election Commission will begin public notification and voter education about the new law throughout the state. The new law would require all voters to show one of the following in order to be allowed to vote:

- a valid and current South Carolina driver's license;
- a current identification card containing a photograph issued by the SC Department of Motor Vehicles;
- a current U.S. Passport
- a current military identification card containing a photograph issued by the federal government; or
- a South Carolina voter registration card containing a photograph issued by the State Election Commission. (Voter registration cards with photos are not yet available.)

Until the legislation is approved, voters must continue to provide one of the following forms of ID to vote:

- S.C. Driver's License, or
- S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) ID Card, or
- S.C. Voter Registration Card

Identification cards from the S.C. DMV are free to SC residents over 17 years of age and valid for a period of five years. To obtain an identification card from the DMV you must be able to show a certified birth certificate. To obtain a birth certificate from South Carolina you need:

- documentation of any name change from the birth certificate (e.g. marriage license, divorce decree, adoption papers, etc.); and
- a photo ID, which can be:
 - a S.C. driver's license
 - a S.C. DMV photo ID card
 - a current U.S. passport
 - a current military ID card issued by federal government
 - an employee ID card

S.C. Voter Registration Cards with photo will be made available by the State Election Commission if and when the photo ID requirement to vote is implemented. These cards would not expire and would be free to registered voters. To obtain a photo ID from your county voter registration office when available, a **registered voter** must present:

- a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck/stub, or government document with your name and address in your county of registration, or
- S.C. Voter Registration Card without photo

Mail-in-absentee ballots are available to qualified registered voters; they do not require photo identification. For full details and instructions go to www.scvotes.org, or call the State Election Commission at 803.734.9060, or contact your county voter registration office. Don't delay applying for your absentee ballot. Applying several weeks ahead of time will insure time to complete the process.

If you already have a driver's license or one of the other IDs, then you don't need to do anything. You are ready to vote. Just be sure to bring one of the IDs with you to your polling place.

ID required **to register to vote** will not change. To register, you must provide:

- a current valid photo ID, or
- a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or other government document that shows your name and address in the county in which you are registering.