

Voter Integrity

Strengthening Elections Through Voter ID



OUR
AMERICA

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Executive Summary

Voter Identification is critical to the integrity and credibility of our elections because it is the best way to make sure that the only people who vote are people who are eligible to do so. That means it is vital to increase public confidence in the election process.

Voter ID is popular with voters across party lines and ethnic lines and is standard practice in nearly every large, western democracy. In fact,

“73% of Americans support strengthening election integrity by requiring photo identification for in-person voting.”

To protect election integrity, Americans need to:

-  Require a government-issued ID to vote in person
-  Provide free access to government-issued IDs
-  Allow provisional voting for those without a government-issued ID

Primary Reform

Adopt Voter ID

Summary

Some believe that reforming elections requires outside-the-box thinking. However, simple reforms like adopting voter ID can ensure every eligible vote is counted – and ineligible votes are not.

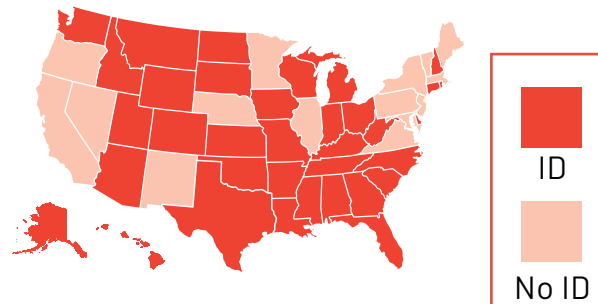
Requiring identification to vote and making it easier to obtain a government-issued ID is key to securing election integrity.

Voter ID Laws

As of 2023, 35 states have laws requesting or requiring voters to show some form of identification at the polls. Among these, 19 states ask for a photo ID and 16 states accept non-photo IDs. Yet, the remaining 15 states and D.C. use other methods to verify the identity of voters. Most frequently, other identifying information provided at the polling place, such as a signature, is checked against information on file.

Signature verification slows down the counting and recounting process as it is extremely difficult to match signatures. And when signatures do not match, the ballots are merely thrown out. Meanwhile, photo identification requirements would make use of a human's specialized ability to recognize faces. Authenticating votes via photo identification is more efficient and more reliable than mere signature verification.

As of 2023, **only 35 states have laws** requesting or requiring voters to show some form of identification at the polls.

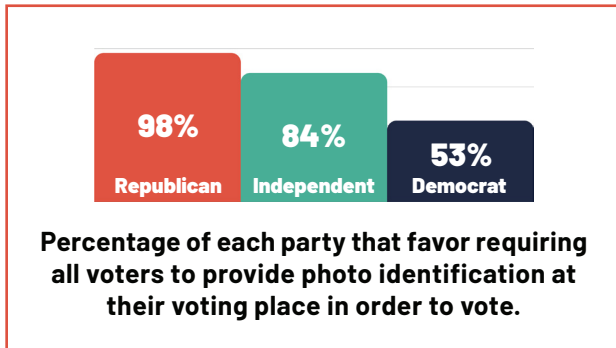
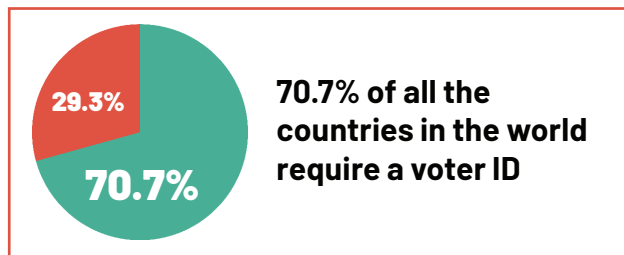


Voter ID is Popular

Voter ID is popular with voters across party lines and ethnic lines. In 2022, a Gallup Poll found that 97 percent of Republicans, 84 percent of Independents, and 53 percent of Democrats favor requiring all voters to provide photo identification at their voting place in order to vote.



Further, 77 percent of people of color and 80 percent of white adults support Voter ID. These results were echoed by an Our America poll which found that 73% of Americans want a photo ID to secure election integrity.



Opposition to Voter ID

Opponents of Voter ID argue that too many people can't afford an ID and will be left unable to vote. Opponents of voter ID further argue that requiring photo identification will mean fewer minority votes because they are overrepresented among the poorest Americans.

Voter ID Internationally

As of 2021, 46 out of the 47 European countries require photo identification to cast a vote. That includes countries like Sweden, Norway, France and Finland, to name a few.




Meanwhile America's neighbors, Canada and Mexico also require ID to vote. In fact, 70.7% of all the countries in the world require a photo voter ID.

By far, it is the international standard to show an ID to vote, a standard embraced by the majority of democratic nations. That makes it a leading solution for safeguarding elections against potential voter fraud.

Studies show there's no cause for concern. Voter ID requirements do not negatively impact voter turnout and may actually increase turnout. Such was the case in Georgia's 2022 election. While some feared the newly enacted photo voter ID law would suppress the vote, Georgia voters "shattered turnout and participation rates" in the midterm elections. After all was said and done, a total of 0% of Black voters reported having a poor voting experience.

People are used to needing a photo ID in their everyday lives. Things that require a photo ID include prescription drugs, a marriage license, driving a car, and applying for government benefits just to name a few.

Opportunities for Reform

-  **Require a government-issued ID to vote in person**
-  **Provide free access to government-issued IDs**
-  **Allow provisional voting for those without a government-issued ID**

An Ohio Case Study

An example of a particularly strong Voter ID law is HB 458 passed in 2022 in Ohio. This example is useful because Ohio is a swing state in that it represents people with different beliefs, so different parts of the country can relate to it. They used to accept many different options as valid forms of photo identification.

Under HB 458, voters can no longer use a Social Security card, birth certificate, insurance card, utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document as voter identification. Also, a “registration acknowledgment notice” from the county board of elections is no longer an option, either.

As of April, those without a valid driver’s license from Ohio or any other state can obtain a photo ID through the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles free of charge, to use at the polls.

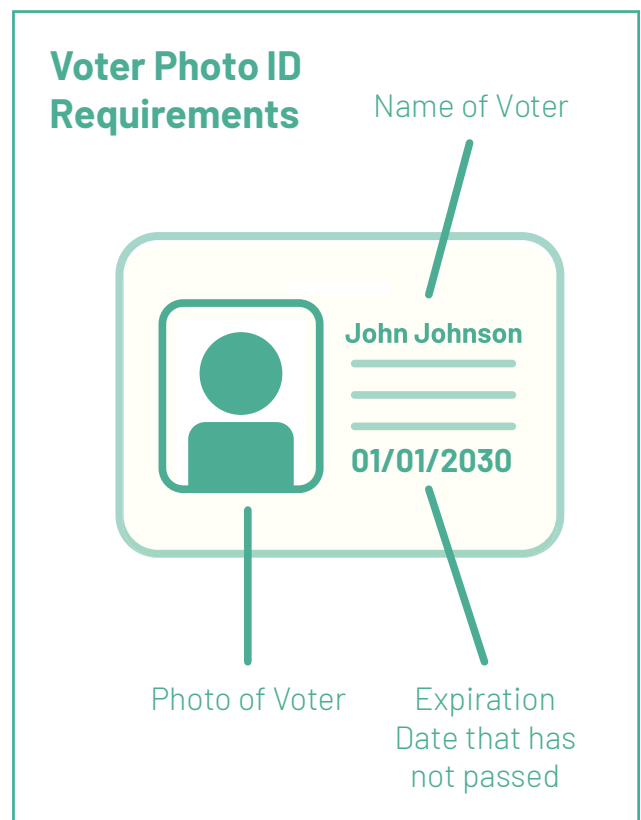
HB 458 Summary

Types of valid photo identification:

- Ohio driver’s license
- State of Ohio ID card
- Interim ID form issued by the Ohio BMV
- A US passport
- A US passport card
- US military ID card
- Ohio National Guard ID card
- US Department of Veterans Affairs ID card

All photo IDs must have the following:

- An expiration date that has not passed
- A photograph of the voter
- The voter’s name, which must substantially conform to the voter’s name as it appears in the Poll List or in the Poll Book



Unacceptable ID Examples



Non-Ohio ID



Birth Certificate



Social Security Card



Checks or Bank Statements

Unacceptable Identification:

- Driver's license or photo identification card issued by a state other than Ohio
- Social Security card
- Birth certificate
- Insurance card
- Utility bill
- Bank statement
- Government check
- Paycheck
- Other government document
- Any registration acknowledgment notice from the county board of elections.

Provisional Ballots

If you do not have any of the approved forms of identification, you may cast a provisional ballot.

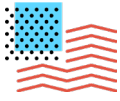
- If you do not provide one of the approved forms of photo ID, you will still be able to vote using a provisional ballot. However, for that ballot to be counted, you must return to the board of elections no later than four days following Election Day to provide a qualifying form of identification. If you do not have a photo ID because of a religious objection to being photographed, you may complete an affidavit of religious objection and have your provisional ballot count.



If you cast a provisional ballot. You have

4 Days

following Election Day to provide a valid form of ID for the vote to be counted



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