Providing Identification for Voting in Texas

Effective for all elections with voting beginning on or after January 1, 2018, including the March 6, 2018 Primary Elections.
Updated Procedure

1. The voter should be asked whether the voter possesses one of the acceptable forms of photo ID on List A that is either current or not expired more than four years.

2. If the voter says “yes”, the voter is required to present that form of photo ID.

3. **NOTE:** If a voter has continued access to their acceptable form of photo ID, but, for example, forgets to bring their acceptable form of photo ID to the polling place and/or left it, for example, at home or in their car, the voter still possesses the acceptable photo ID and must use it to vote. Accordingly, if the voter states that the voter possesses, but did not bring to the polling place, an acceptable form of photo ID, the voter may vote a provisional ballot and bring the acceptable form of photo ID or completing a natural disaster affidavit because the voter’s acceptable photo ID is inaccessible due to certain natural disasters, with the county voter registrar, within 6 days to cure their ballot (or return to the polling place with the acceptable form of photo ID before the polls close on Election Day and vote then).

4. If the voter says “no”, ask the voter whether the voter cannot reasonably obtain an acceptable form of photo ID on List A. If the voter indicates “yes”, you must inform the voter that he or she can **present a supporting form of ID on “List B” and complete a “Reasonable Impediment Declaration.”** If the voter presents a supporting form of ID and completes the Declaration, the voter will then complete their check-in, and proceed to the voting booth to cast a regular ballot. If this voter did not bring a supporting form of ID to the polling place, the voter may vote a provisional ballot and “cure” by appearing at the county voter registrar’s office within 6 calendar days of election day and presenting an acceptable form of photo ID, showing a supporting form of ID and executing a Reasonable Impediment Declaration, or qualifying for one of the exemptions (disability, natural disaster, or religious objection to being photographed), or return to the polling place with their supporting form of ID before the polls close, and execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration and vote then.
Addresses

• You should not compare the address on any ID (List A or List B) to the address on the list of registered voters.  
  – THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO MATCH!!!

• You are only required to confirm with the voter that the address on the list of registered voters is correct. (§63.0011)  
  – For example, by asking the voter: “Do you still live on Main Street?”  
  – This allows the voter to update their registration records.
If the voter says...

- Yes: This confirms that their registration records are up-to-date, the voter should:
  - Complete the check-in process once the voter has shown a List A ID or if the voter qualifies, has shown a List B ID and completed the Declaration, and proceed to voting a regular ballot.
If the voter says...

• No: This means that the voter needs to update their address with the voter registrar, the voter should:
  
  • Complete a Statement of Residence.
  • Complete the check-in process once the voter has shown a List A ID or, if the voter qualifies, has shown a List B ID and completed the Declaration, and proceed to voting a regular ballot.
List A – Acceptable Forms of ID

There are 7 forms of ID on List A:

1. Texas Driver License issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS);
2. Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS;
3. Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS;
4. Texas Handgun License issued by DPS;
5. United States Military Identification Card containing the person’s photograph;
6. United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person’s photograph;
Expiration Dates

• Updated Procedure:
  – For voters aged 18-69, an acceptable identification from “List A” must not have expired more than 4 years before being presented at the polling place.
  – A person 70 years of age or older may use a form of identification from List A that has expired if the identification is otherwise valid.
  – **NOTE**: This is different than some previous elections where the expiration date was required to be not more than 60 days.
Expiration Dates

• Remember – some ID cards do not expire, including:
  – Texas Identification Cards for persons aged 60 or older may be permanent and marked “INDEF.”
  – Texas Election Identification Certificates (EIC) for persons aged 70 or older are permanent cards.
  – Some military ID cards are permanent, including Uniformed Services ID cards and Veterans Affairs ID cards. These are usually marked “INDEF.”
  – Certificates of Naturalization and Certificates of Citizenship do not expire.
List B – Supporting Forms of ID

If a voter does not possess one of the forms of acceptable photo identification in List A, and the voter cannot reasonably obtain such identification, the voter may execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration and present a copy or original of one of the following supporting forms of identification:

- a government document that shows the voter’s name and an address, including the voter’s voter registration certificate;
- current utility bill;
- bank statement;
- government check;
- paycheck; or
- (a) a certified domestic (from a U.S. state or territory) birth certificate or (b) a document confirming birth admissible in a court of law which establishes the voter’s identity (which may include a foreign birth document).
REASONABLE IMPEDIMENT DECLARATION

Instructions: If a voter appears on the official list of registered voters, but does not possess an acceptable form of photo identification under Section 83.001(a) of the Texas Election Code, the voter shall present an acceptable form of photo identification to the polling place to allow the voter to cast a regular ballot.

1. Present this form to the voter, and ask the voter to provide a copy or original of one of the following forms of identification listed in Section 83.001(a) of the Texas Election Code:
   a. A certified copy of a birth certificate or other document confirming birthdate and place;
   b. A driver's license issued by the state of Texas;
   c. A government-issued photo identification card issued by a state or political subdivision of a state;
   d. An election identification certificate (EIC) issued by the Texas secretary of state;
   e. A U.S. military identification card issued by the Department of Defense;
   f. A U.S. passport issued by the Department of State;
   g. An identification card issued by the federal government.

2. If the voter cannot provide the acceptable form of photo identification, the polling place must allow the voter to cast a ballot.

3. The voter must sign the declaration before the election judge.

4. The election judge shall return the Declaration to the secretary of state.

5. The declaration is complete when it is signed by the voter and filed with the secretory of state.

TO BE COMPLETED BY VOTER

Name:

DATE OF BIRTH:

SIGNATURE:

TO BE COMPLETED BY ELECTION OFFICIAL

Certified copy of a document that establishes the voter's identity is attached. An acceptable form of photo identification must be provided to the voter at the polling place.

DATE OF BIRTH:

SIGNATURE:

DATE OF ELECTION:

SECTION:

EXPLANATION:
Reasonable Impediment Declaration

• The voter must indicate one of the following impediments:

1. Lack of transportation
2. Disability or illness
3. Lack of birth certificate or other documents needed to obtain acceptable form of photo ID
4. Work schedule
5. Family responsibilities
6. Lost or stolen identification
7. Acceptable form of photo ID applied for but not received
Declaration of Reasonable Impediment

• If the voter states that they do not possess and cannot reasonably obtain an acceptable form of photo ID, you may not question the voter as to why.
  – If the voter states that they do not possess an acceptable form of photo ID from List A, and the voter, in response to your question as to whether they cannot reasonably obtain an acceptable form of photo ID from List A, answers “yes,” that they cannot reasonably obtain an acceptable ID from List A, you should simply state that if the voter does not possess and cannot reasonably obtain an acceptable form of photo ID, they can show a supporting form of ID from List B, and execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration.

• You may not question the reasonableness of the voter’s reasonable impediment.
  – For example, if the voter checks “lack of transportation”, you may not challenge the voter’s access to a bus route or other means of transportation.

• A signed reasonable impediment declaration shall be rejected only upon conclusive evidence that the person completing the declaration is not the person in whose name the ballot is cast.
List A – Acceptable Forms of ID
Texas Driver’s License

Photograph: This ID must contain a photograph of the voter.

Expiration Date: Must be valid, or, for voters aged 18-69, expired within 4 years. For voters aged 70 or older, may be expired for any length of time so long as it is otherwise valid.

Name: If the voter’s name on list of registered voters in the precinct, does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.

NOTE: This form of ID should not be used if “Limited Term” or “Temporary Visitor” appears on the face of the card as this indicates the person is not a U.S. Citizen.
Texas Driver’s License – Under 21

NOTE: This form of ID should not be used if “Limited Term” or “Temporary Visitor” appears on the face of the card as this indicates the person is not a U.S. Citizen.

Photograph: This ID must contain a photograph of the voter.

Expiration Date: Must be valid, or expired within 4 years.

Name: If the voter’s name on list of registered voters in the precinct, does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.
Election Identification Certificate (EIC)

**Expiration Date**: Must be valid, or, for voters aged 18-69, expired within 4 years. **For voters aged 70 or older, may be expired for any length of time so long as it is otherwise valid.** Also, EICs do not expire for persons who acquire them at age 70 or older.

**Name**: If the voter’s name on list of registered voters in the precinct, does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.

**Photograph**: This ID must contain a photograph of the voter.
Texas Personal Identification Card

Expiration Date: Must be valid, or, for voters aged 18-69, expired within 4 years. For voters aged 70 or older, may be expired for any length of time so long as it is otherwise valid. NOTE: Some Personal ID Cards may not expire.

Name: If the voter’s name on list of registered voters in the precinct, does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.

Photograph: This ID must contain a photograph of the voter.

NOTE: This form of ID should not be used if “Limited Term” or “Temporary Visitor” appears on the face of the card as this indicates the person is not a U.S. Citizen.

NOTE: This form of ID should not be used if “Limited Term” or “Temporary Visitor” appears on the face of the card as this indicates the person is not a U.S. Citizen.
DPS Receipts with Photo
DPS Receipts with Photo

• Receipts are issued at DPS locations when you apply for a driver’s license, identification card, or EIC.
• They are printed on letter sized paper.
• They are used until real card is received by individual in the mail.
• For voters aged 18-69, the receipt should not be expired more than 4 years before being presented for voting. **For voters aged 70 or older, the receipt may be expired for any length of time so long as it is otherwise valid.**
Handgun License

Expiration Date: Must be valid, or, for voters aged 18-69, expired within 4 years. For voters aged 70 or older, may be expired for any length of time so long as it is otherwise valid.

Name: If the voter’s name on list of registered voters in the precinct, does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.

Photograph: This ID must contain a photograph of the voter.
Concealed Handgun License

This version of the CHL was issued through April 2014 and they are valid for 4-5 years.

This version of the CHL was issued through August 2015 and they are valid for 4-5 years.
U.S. Military Identification Cards

- The following standards should be used by poll workers to determine if a United States military card is acceptable:
  - The ID card is federal;
  - The ID card is military;
  - The ID card contains a photograph;
  - The ID contains an expiration date which is in the future or is the date of presentation, or a past expiration date which, for voters aged 18-69, was not more than 4 years from the date of presentation (for voters aged 70 or older, the ID may be expired for any length of time so long as it is otherwise valid), or the ID does not contain any expiration date.
U.S. Military Identification Cards

Military ID Cards may include, but are not necessarily limited to:

1. Department of Defense (DoD) Common Access Card (CAC)
2. Uniformed Services ID Cards
3. DoD Civilian Retiree Cards
4. Veterans Affairs ID Cards
DoD Common Access Card “CAC”

NOTE: The seals to the right of the picture will change according to branch of service.
Voting in Texas with a CAC

Expiration Date: Must be valid, or, for voters aged 18-69, expired within 4 years. For voters aged 70 or older, may be expired for any length of time so long as it is otherwise valid.

Name: If the voter’s name appears on the list of registered voters in the precinct, but does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.

Photograph: This ID must contain a photograph of the voter.
Exception

• CACs with a blue bar across the name signify that the cardholder is a non-U.S. citizen, and **may not** be a qualified voter.

• Contractors will have a green bar, which will be sufficient for use if other qualifications are met.
Uniformed Services ID Cards

• There are four versions of Uniformed Services ID Cards. All look similar, but are issued in four different colors.
Voting in Texas with Uniformed Services ID Cards

**Name:** If the voter’s name appears on the list of registered voters in the precinct, but does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.

**Expiration Date:** Must be valid, or, for voters aged 18-69, expired within 4 years. For voters aged 70 or older, may be expired for any length of time so long as it is otherwise valid. However, not all cards expire-some will say “INDEF” for indefinitely.

**Photograph:** This ID must contain a photograph of the voter.
Uniformed Services ID Cards

**Green** – Generally for members of the Individual Ready Reserves and Inactive National Guard.

**Pink** – Generally for retired members of the Reserves and National Guard under the age of 60, and certain dependents.

**Blue** – Generally for retirees, and members on Disability Retired Lists.

**Orange** – Generally for certain dependents (active duty), Medal of Honor recipients, disabled veterans, and others.
DoD Civilian Retiree Cards

**Photograph:** This ID must contain a photograph of the voter.

**Name:** If the voter’s name appears on the list of registered voters in the precinct, but does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.

**Expiration Date:** Must be valid, or, for voters aged 18-69, expired within 4 years. **For voters aged 70 or older,** may be expired for any length of time so long as it is otherwise valid.
Veteran Identification Card (VIC)

**Photograph:** This ID must contain a photograph of the voter.

**Name:** If the voter’s name appears on the list of registered voters in the precinct, but does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.

**Veteran Affairs IDs do not expire.**
Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)

Photograph: This ID must contain a photograph of the voter.

Name: If the voter’s name appears on the list of registered voters in the precinct, but does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.

VHICs may or may not have an expiration date. If a VHIC contains an expiration date, the VHIC must be valid, or, for voters aged 18-69, expired within 4 years. **For voters aged 70 or older, it may be expired for any length of time so long as it is otherwise valid.**
U.S. Certificate of Citizenship

REMEMBER – Certificates of Citizenship do not expire.
U.S. Certificate of Naturalization

REMEMBER – Certificates of Naturalization do not expire.
U.S. Passport

Photograph: This ID must contain a photograph of the voter.

Name: If the voter’s name appears on the list of registered voters in the precinct, but does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.

Expiration Date: Must be valid, or, for voters aged 18-69, expired within 4 years. For voters aged 70 or older, may be expired for any length of time so long as it is otherwise valid.
U.S. Passport Card

- Allows entry from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda at land border crossings or sea ports-of-entry.
- Wallet Size.
- Photograph: This ID must contain a photograph of the voter.
- Name: If the voter’s name appears on the list of registered voters in the precinct, but does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.
- Expiration Date: Must be valid, or, for voters aged 18-69, expired within 4 years. For voters aged 70 or older, may be expired for any length of time so long as it is otherwise valid.
Permanent Exemption

If a voter has applied for and received a permanent exemption to the photo ID requirement, they will provide a voter registration certificate with an (E) notation.

NOTE: Designation of (E) next to VUID Number.

Example: 1197099876 (E).
Permanent Exemption

• If the voter has a permanent exemption, and they present their voter registration certificate with the (E) next to the VUID, they do not need to also complete a Reasonable Impediment Declaration.
List B – Supporting Forms of ID
Copy of or Original of Other Government Document, Including the Voter’s Voter Registration Certificate

• MUST include voter’s name and an address. REMEMBER: The address on the supporting ID does not have to match the voter’s registration address.

• If the voter’s name appears on the list of registered voters in the precinct, but does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.

• Must be issued by the federal government, a federally recognized tribal government, or a state or local government in the U.S.
Copy or Original of Other Government Documents, Including the Voter’s Voter Registration Certificate

• Examples of Other Government Documents:
  – Driver’s licenses from other states
  – ID cards issued by federally recognized Native American tribes (if the ID card contains an address)
  – DPS Receipts (without a photo)
  – Current or expired voter registration certificates
  – For voters aged 18-69, expired Texas DPS-issued driver licenses or personal ID cards (over 4 years).
Copy or Original of Other Government Documents, Including the Voter’s Voter Registration Certificate

- Examples of Documents NOT included:
  - Social Security Cards (no address)
  - State College IDs (if no address)
  - State/Federal Employee ID Cards (if no address)
  - Library Cards (if no address)
Voter Registration Certificate

[Image of Voter Registration Certificate]

2/5/2018  Texas Secretary of State  43
Copy of or Original Current Utility Bill

- It may be a copy or printout.
- To be current, the utility bill must be the most recent version or at least dated within two (2) months of the date it is presented to an election official.
- The address on the utility bill does not have to match the address on the list of registered voters. However, per §63.0011, the voter should be asked if the address on the list of registered voters is current. For example, “Do you still live on Main Street?”
- If the voter’s name appears on the list of registered voters in the precinct, but does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.
Copy of or Original Bank Statement

- It may be a copy or printout.
- The address on the bank statement does not have to match the address on the list of registered voters. However, per §63.0011, the voter should be asked if the address on the list of registered voters is current. For example, “Do you still live on Main Street?”
- If the voter’s name appears on the list of registered voters in the precinct, but does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.
Copy of or Original Government Check

- It may be an original check or a copy of the check.

- The address on the government check does not have to match the address on the list of registered voters. However, per §63.0011, the voter should be asked if the address on the list of registered voters is current. For example, “Do you still live on Main Street?”

- If the voter’s name appears on the list of registered voters in the precinct, but does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.
Copy of or Original Paycheck

- It may be a copy or original of the check.
- The address on the paycheck does not have to match the address on the list of registered voters. However, per §63.0011, the voter should be asked if the address on the list of registered voters is current. For example, “Do you still live on Main Street?”
- If the voter’s name appears on the list of registered voters in the precinct, but does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.
Copy of or Original of a Certified Domestic Birth Certificate

- It may be a copy or original of the Certified Domestic Birth Certificate.
- It may be from another U.S. state or territory—does not have to be from Texas.
- The address on the certified domestic birth certificate does not have to match the address on the list of registered voters. However, per §63.0011, the voter should be asked if the address on the list of registered voters is current. For example, “Do you still live on Main Street?”
- If the voter’s name appears on the list of registered voters in the precinct, but does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.
Copy or Original of Document Confirming Birth Admissible in a Court of Law which Establishes The Voter’s Identity

- It may be a copy or original of the document confirming birth admissible in a court of law which establishes the voter’s identity.
- It may be from another country.
- The address on the document does not have to match the address on the list of registered voters. However, per §63.0011, the voter should be asked if the address on the list of registered voters is current. For example, “Do you still live on Main Street?”
- If the voter’s name appears on the list of registered voters in the precinct, but does not match exactly to the ID provided, a “Substantially Similar Name Affidavit” must be completed by the voter.