

KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS: Voter ID and the 2016 Election

The Party Primary election will be held
September 13, 2016

The General Election will be held
November 8, 2016.



American Civil Liberties Union of Rhode Island
128 Dorrance Street, Suite 220
Providence, RI 02903

Information accurate as of August 10, 2016. Subject to change. For updated information, visit www.riaclu.org.

This information is designed to help protect your right to vote under the state's photo voter ID law. Keep this handy, and take it with you to the polls on Election Day.

QUICK TIPS FOR VOTERS

- Check your voter registration status and locate your polling place by calling your local Board of Canvassers or going to <https://vote.sos.ri.gov/>.
- Bring photo identification to the polls. However, **if you are a registered voter and do not have photo identification, you cannot be turned away.**
- Ask for help if you need it.
- You do not need ID if you vote by mail ballot.

MORE INFORMATION

- Rhode Island Secretary of State Elections Division: (401) 222-2340 or <http://sos.ri.gov/elections/>
- ACLU of Rhode Island: (401) 831-7171

Do I have to show ID?

Rhode Island law requires you to show designated forms of photo identification in order to vote by regular ballot at the polls. However, **if you are a registered voter and do not possess photo ID, you can still cast your vote** by use of a provisional ballot, which is explained in more detail below.

What are the accepted forms of photo ID?

Accepted forms of photo ID include a current and valid:

- Rhode Island driver's license;
- Rhode Island voter identification card;
- State or federal ID card;
- U.S. passport;
- U.S. military ID card;
- Student ID card from an institution of higher education located in the United States; or
- Government-issued medical card.

If you experience any difficulty at the polls on Election Day, contact the ACLU of Rhode Island at (401) 831-7171.

What if I don't have any ID?

If you believe you are otherwise qualified and registered to vote and do not have proper photo identification, you cannot be denied the right to vote. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot, and should be given one.

If you are not offered a provisional ballot, ask to speak with the person in charge at your polling place. If you are still not given a provisional ballot, contact your local Board of Canvassers, the State Board of Elections, or the Secretary of State.

If you have time and have ID at home or work, it's usually better to get your ID and return to the polls to cast a regular ballot.

For information on obtaining a free voter ID, call the Secretary of State or go to <http://sos.ri.gov/elections/voterid/>.

What is the difference between a regular ballot and a provisional ballot?

A provisional ballot will not be fed through the voting machine. Instead, you fill it out and sign it. Once the polls close, the Board of Canvassers will review the ballot. The ballot will be counted if the signature you provided matches the one on your voter registration. When you vote at the polling place, you will be given information explaining how you can find out whether your vote was counted.

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