

KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS: Voter ID and the Woonsocket Special Election

The Woonsocket District 49 Special Election
Primary is January 21, 2014.

The General Special Election will be held
February 25, 2014.



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This information is designed to help protect your right to vote as the state's new photo ID law takes effect. 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 the Woonsocket Board of Canvassers at 401-767-9223 or going to <http://sos.ri.gov/vic>.
- Bring photo identification to the polls. However, **if you are a registered voter and do not have photo identification, you cannot be turned away** – see inside.
- Ask for help if you need it.

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 are still able to cast your vote by use of a provisional ballot, which is explained in more detail below.

What are the accepted forms of ID?

Accepted forms of ID include:

- a valid Rhode Island driver's license;
- a valid Rhode Island voter identification card;
- a state or federal ID card;
- a valid U.S. passport;
- a valid U.S. military ID card;
- a valid ID card from an institution of higher education located in the United States;
- a government-issued medical card; or
- any of the following IDs if they have your photo: employee ID card, credit or debit card, ID card from a commercial establishment; health club ID card, insurance plan ID card, or public housing ID card.

**NOBODY SHOULD BE TURNED AWAY
AT THE POLLS SOLELY FOR NOT
HAVING PHOTO ID;
A PROVISIONAL BALLOT SHOULD BE
GIVEN.**

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 the 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.

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