



BE PREPARED TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6!

A special Q&A on Pennsylvania's New Voter ID Law For Voters Living in Pennsylvania Care Facilities

Starting on November 6, 2012 – Pennsylvania's general election – all state voters must present an approved photo ID every single time they go to the polls. There are also new rules about voting by absentee ballot. *This dramatic change impacts all Pennsylvania voters, no matter how many years they have voted!*

It's up to you to make sure you have everything you need to vote!

If you don't have an acceptable photo ID, you need to know how to get one to use for voting. Since this can take several weeks, you'll want to start as soon as you can.

This Q&A is specially designed to provide information on voter ID for Pennsylvania voters who live in Pennsylvania care facilities. (We will tell you what this means in a minute.) It is up-to-date as of June 13, 2012. But the Pennsylvania Department of State is still making changes in the process for obtaining a photo ID for voting. For the most recent information or if you have questions we don't answer here, please call us at **1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683)**.

A. What photo IDs will be acceptable on November 6?

Several forms of **PHOTO IDs** will be accepted at the polls, including a **currently valid photo ID issued by a licensed PA care facility.**

B. What is a "PA care facility?"

Three types of facilities fall within the definition of "PA care facility" for purposes for Pennsylvania's voter ID law: Long-Term Care Facilities (sometimes referred to as "Nursing Homes"), Personal Care Homes and Assisted Living Residences.

C. How can I find out if where I live is considered a "PA care facility?"

Here is how you can find out:

1. **Licensed Long-Term Care Facilities:** <http://app2.health.state.pa.us/commonpoc/nhlocator.asp>
Statewide Contact: 1-866-286-3636
2. **Licensed Personal Care Homes:**
<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/searchforprovider/pchdirectory/index.htm>
Philadelphia, Delaware, Montgomery and Bucks Counties: 1-866-711-4115
Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, York Counties: 1-800-882-1885

3. **Licensed Assisted Living Residences** (13 total):

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/assisted_living_residence_directory/20226

Statewide Contact: 1-717-772-2570

D. What do photo IDs from a PA care facility have to include?

To be acceptable for voting, an ID issued by a Pennsylvania care facility must include **(1) your (voter's) name, (2) your photo, (3) the name of the PA care facility, and (4) an expiration date that is current** (in other words, the ID cannot have expired on the date you are casting your vote).

E. My photo ID doesn't have an expiration date.

That can be fixed easily. If your PA care facility puts a sticker on their photo ID card that has an expiration date that is current, that will be acceptable.

F. Does my photo ID have to be one of those laminated cards?

No, it's perfectly fine if your photo ID is in the form of a letter – as long as it has all the essential information included in Question D (above).

G. Can PA care facilities issue photo IDs to non-residents?

Yes. PA care facilities may also issue photo IDs valid for voting to its employees, even if they do not live in the facility.

H. If I live in a facility that has an assisted living wing and another wing for independent living, can I get a photo ID from that facility?

No. According to the PA Department of State, only voters who live in the assisted living wing can use a photo ID issued by a PA care facility. If you live in the independent living wing of the same facility, you are not eligible for a photo ID from that facility.

I. I live in a PA care facility that does not have any photo ID that I can use to vote. What should I do?

There are no current requirements that a PA care facility must issue or offer to issue a photo ID to their eligible residents that can be used for voting. If you live in a PA care facility that does not provide a photo ID, we recommend that you request that they do so. You will be doing a great service!

J. I have voted by absentee ballot for the last few elections. Can I still do this under the new voter ID law even if I live in a PA care facility that provides the right kind of photo ID?

Yes, you can. But there are some new rules you have to follow. Unless you are in the military or living overseas and applying for an absentee ballot, you must prove your identity by providing one of the following on your application for an absentee ballot:

1. Your driver's license number or PennDOT photo ID number, or

2. The last four digits of your Social Security number (if they don't have a driver's license), or
3. A copy of any photo ID that would be acceptable if you were voting in person at the polls (including your photo ID from a PA care facility), or
4. A non-photo driver's license or other non-photo ID issued by PennDOT (if you have a religious objection to being photographed).

For information on voting by absentee ballot, call 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772) or go to: http://www.votespa.com/portal/server.pt/community/how_to_vote/13515/voting_by_absentee_ballot

;

K. What happens if my absentee ballot application is rejected?

If you don't prove your identity properly, or proof can't be verified by your voter's county Board of Elections after they receive your application, you will still receive an absentee ballot. You will also get a notice that you must provide acceptable proof of your identity or your absentee ballot won't count.

In order for your absentee ballot to count, you have *six calendar days after the election* to prove your identity to your county Board of Elections. You can do this electronically, by mail, by fax – or show up in person at your county Board of Elections.

L. Where is my county Board of Elections?

For a list of County Boards of Elections around the state, go to <http://www.votespa.com/>. The Philadelphia County Board of Elections is located at 510 North Delaware Avenue, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19123.

You may still find yourself with questions after reading this Q&A, you can always contact the Department of State's Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation directly by calling 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772), going to <http://www.votespa.com/> or by e-mailing:

1. Voter ID Law questions and information - ST-VoterIDQuestions@ga.gov
2. Voter registration questions and information - ST-VOTERREG@pa.gov
3. Voting questions and information - ST-HAVA@pa.gov
4. Help America Vote Act questions and information - ST-HAVA@pa.gov