



MISSISSIPPI Voter ID



ABOUT VOTER ID



GET A VOTER ID



REGISTER TO VOTE



FAQS



CONTACT US

VOTER ID

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1.844.MSVOTER



MSVoterID.ms.gov

Dear Mississippi Voter,

The majority of Mississippi voters cast a ballot in favor of a constitutional photo identification requirement. As Secretary of State and Chief Elections Officer for the State of Mississippi, the Mississippi Legislature tasked our Agency with implementing Voter ID.



Any registered voter who lacks an acceptable photo ID is eligible to receive a FREE Mississippi Voter ID Card, and we are committed to ensuring those individuals have one.

Mississippi's Circuit Clerks have worked tirelessly to implement and deliver Mississippi Voter Identification Cards. The Secretary of State's Office has also worked with multiple state agencies to facilitate the voter ID requirement. Our Office works closely with the Mississippi Department of Transportation to provide FREE transportation to any individual who needs assistance obtaining a Mississippi Voter ID Card. We work with the Mississippi Department of Health, Office of Vital Records to provide a FREE verification of birth record if an individual has no other means to verify their identity to receive a FREE Mississippi Voter ID Card. The Mississippi Department of Public Safety has also provided invaluable input in facilitating this requirement.

Voting is the key to our democracy. We are committed to ensuring everyone who is qualified to vote has the opportunity to cast a ballot. We will continue to work with you to implement the constitutional photo identification requirement and appreciate your help in the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Watson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Michael Watson
SECRETARY OF STATE



MISSISSIPPI VOTER ID - *EASY & FREE*

More than 62% of Mississippi voters approved a citizen-initiated Constitutional Amendment on November 8, 2011. The amendment requires Mississippi voters to present a photo ID before casting a ballot in person at the polls or in a Circuit Clerk's Office.

The Mississippi Voter ID requirement is effective for all elections held in Mississippi.

All Mississippians voting at the polls will be required to show a photo ID card. Also, individuals voting in person by absentee ballot in the Circuit Clerk's Office will be required to show a photo ID. Eligible voters casting an absentee ballot by mail will NOT have to show a photo ID.

If an eligible voter does not have any of the acceptable forms of photo ID, a Mississippi Voter Identification Card will be provided at no cost to the voter. Also, free transportation to a Circuit Clerk's Office to obtain a Mississippi Voter Identification Card will be provided to any voter needing travel assistance.

For more information or assistance, voters may call 1-844-678-6837 or visit the Mississippi Voter ID website at www.MSVoterID.ms.gov.

WHAT TYPES OF PHOTO IDs ARE ACCEPTABLE FOR VOTING?

Any one of the following types of photo IDs may be used on Election Day:

1. A driver's license
2. A photo ID card issued by a branch, department or entity of the State of Mississippi
3. A U.S. passport
4. A government employee identification card
5. A firearms license
6. A student photo ID issued by an accredited Mississippi university, college or community/junior college
7. A U.S. military ID
8. A tribal photo ID
9. Any other photo ID issued by any branch, department, agency or entity of the United States government or any state government
10. A Mississippi Voter Identification Card

If a registered voter does not have any of these acceptable forms of photo ID, a Mississippi Voter Identification Card will be provided at no cost to the voter at any Circuit Clerk's Office in Mississippi.

Call toll-free 1-844-678-6837 for more information or for assistance.

HOW DO I GET A MISSISSIPPI VOTER ID CARD?

It is EASY and FREE! All Mississippi Circuit Clerks are authorized to issue Mississippi Voter Identification Cards to all Mississippi registered voters who do not have any of the other acceptable forms of photo ID. **(See Page 2.)**

1. You must first be a registered voter in Mississippi. ***If you need to register, call toll-free 1-844-678-6837.***
2. Go to any Circuit Clerk's Office during regular business hours. (Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) ***If you need transportation, call 1-844-678-6837.***
3. Present ONE form of acceptable documentation. **(See Page 4.)**
4. If you do not have any of these identity documents, the clerk may verify your birth information if you can provide your full legal name, date of birth, the state where you were born and your mother's maiden name.
5. Complete and sign a Voter ID Application. Assistance will be provided, if requested.
6. Have your picture taken at the Circuit Clerk's Office.
7. Your Voter ID card will be mailed to you.
8. If the election is within 45 days, you will receive a receipt for your Mississippi Voter Identification Card from the Circuit Clerk. The receipt may be used temporarily as your photo identification when voting.

WHAT DO I NEED TO GET A VOTER ID?

Take any **ONE** of the following types of documents with you to the Circuit Clerk's Office:

1. Any expired, but valid, document having the voter's name and photograph issued by the U.S. government or any U.S. state
2. A birth certificate or any other document with the voter's full legal name, date and place of birth
3. A Social Security card
4. A Medicare card
5. A Medicaid card
6. A Mississippi Voter Registration Card
7. Any of the following, as long as it includes the voter's name and current address:
 - Utility bill issued within the preceding six months
 - Bank statement issued within the preceding six months
 - Paycheck issued within the preceding six months
 - Government check issued within the preceding six months
 - IRS Form W-2, Wages and Tax Statement issued within the current calendar year
 - Any other government document issued within the current calendar year

If a registered voter does not have any of these documents, the Circuit Clerk may verify the voter's birth information free of charge. Call toll-free 1-844-678-6837 for more information.

WHAT INFORMATION DOES A MISSISSIPPI VOTER ID CARD INCLUDE?



1. Photograph of voter
2. Full legal name
3. Legal residence address
4. Mailing address, if different
5. Date of issuance
6. County where voter is registered
7. Voter ID Card Number

Each card will be labeled as a “Mississippi Voter Identification Card” and will contain a variety of security features. The Mississippi Voter ID Card will be valid for as long as the voter remains qualified to vote in Mississippi. The card is valid for voting purposes ONLY.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When do voters have to start showing a photo ID to vote?

Individuals voting at the polls are required to show a photo ID at all elections in Mississippi. Individuals voting in person by absentee ballot inside the Circuit Clerk's Office are also required to show a photo ID.

What forms of photo ID are required on Election Day?

Any of the following photo IDs may be used:

- A driver's license
- A photo ID issued by a branch, department or entity of the State of Mississippi
- A United States passport
- A government employee ID card
- A firearms license
- A student photo ID issued by an accredited Mississippi university, college or community/junior college
- A United States military ID
- A tribal photo ID
- Any other photo ID issued by any branch, department, agency or entity of the United States government or any State government
- A Mississippi Voter Identification Card

May a voter use an expired photo ID on Election Day?

Yes, as long as it is an acceptable form of photo ID (*see list above*) and is not more than ten (10) years old. The expired ID must contain the name and photograph of the voter, and have been validly issued by the federal or a state government.

Who may a voter contact if he/she has questions about the photo ID requirement?

Please call the Secretary of State's Voter ID Hotline at 1-844-678-6837, visit www.MSVoterID.ms.gov or email MSVoterID@sos.ms.gov.

Who is exempt from the photo ID requirements?

- Voters who vote an absentee ballot by mail, fax or email
- Voters with religious objections to being photographed
- Any registered voter who resides at a state-licensed care facility and who votes in person at a polling place located in that state-licensed care facility

What happens if a voter does not have a photo ID on Election Day?

A voter who does not have photo ID on Election Day will be asked to vote by affidavit ballot at the polling place. The voter will then have five (5) business days to show an acceptable form of photo ID, or apply for a Mississippi Voter ID Card, at the Circuit Clerk's Office.

What if the voter does not have any of the acceptable forms of photo ID?

FREE Mississippi Voter ID Cards are available at any Circuit Clerk's Office.

Who qualifies for a FREE Mississippi Voter Identification Card?

Any eligible voter who does NOT have an acceptable form of photo ID qualifies for a FREE Mississippi Voter Identification Card.

Where is the closest Circuit Clerk's Office?

Visit the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ms.gov to find the closest Circuit Clerk's Office; call the Secretary of State's Voter ID hotline toll free at 1-844-678-6837 or visit the Voter ID website at www.MSVoterID.ms.gov.

How does a voter get a Mississippi Voter Identification Card?

To get a FREE Mississippi Voter Identification Card, the voter must bring any ONE of the following to the Circuit Clerk's Office:

- Any expired but valid photo identity document having the voter's name and photograph issued by the U.S. government or any U.S. state
- A birth certificate or any other document with the voter's full legal name, date and place of birth
- A Social Security card
- A Medicare card
- A Medicaid card
- A Mississippi Voter Registration Card
- Any of the following, as long as it includes the voter's name and current address:
 1. Utility bill issued within the preceding six (6) months
 2. Bank statement issued within the preceding six (6) months
 3. Paycheck issued within the preceding six (6) months
 4. Government check issued within the preceding six (6) months
 5. IRS Form W-2, Wages and Tax Statement issued within the current calendar year
 6. Any other government document issued within the current calendar year

If a voter does not have any of the documents listed, can the voter still get a Mississippi Voter Identification Card?

Yes, the Circuit Clerk's Office can verify a voter's birth information free of charge. The voter must give the Circuit Clerk the following information:

- Full legal name
- Date of birth
- State of birth
- Mother's maiden name

Can a voter get a free Voter ID card even if the voter has one of the other forms of acceptable photo ID?

No.

What if a voter needs transportation to the Circuit Clerk's Office to get the Mississippi Voter Identification Card?

FREE transportation will be available to voters who need help getting a Mississippi Voter Identification Card. For more information about this program, contact the Secretary of State's Voter ID Hotline at 1-844-678-6837, visit www.MSVoterID.ms.gov or email MSVoterID@sos.ms.gov.

What if a voter's driver's license has been surrendered to law enforcement authorities?

A voter whose driver's license has been surrendered to the Department of Public Safety or to local law enforcement authorities due to medical reasons, DUI test refusal, DUI, or for any other reason authorized by Mississippi law, is eligible to obtain a free Mississippi Voter Identification Card if the voter has no other acceptable form of photo identification. If a driver's license has been suspended but is still in the possession of the voter, the driver's license remains an acceptable form of photo identification.



Michael Watson
SECRETARY OF STATE

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