**New Photo ID Law: Tennessee**

Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2012

On January 1, 2012, Tennessee’s new law requiring a state- or federally-issued photo ID to vote went into effect. This flyer addresses some common questions about the new law.

**DO I HAVE TO SHOW ID?**

Most likely. If you are voting in person, you must show a government-issued ID that includes your name and photo.

You won’t need to show a photo ID if you live and vote in a nursing home, vote by mail, are hospitalized, have a religious objection to being photographed, or are low-income and don’t have enough money to pay for a photo ID (see “What if I don’t have any ID?” below).

**WHAT ID CAN I SHOW TO VOTE?**

You can use a Tennessee driver’s license, a U.S. passport, a photo ID issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security, a photo ID issued by the federal or any state government, a U.S. military ID, or a state-issued handgun carry permit with your photo, even if they are expired.

**WHAT IF I AM A FIRST-TIME VOTER?**

If you registered to vote by mail, you have to vote in person the first time you vote [unless you’re a permanent absentee voter]. If you bring expired photo ID to the polls or qualify for an exemption from the photo ID law, you will need to show a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or any other government document that shows your name and address.

**ARE THERE ANY PHOTO IDS THAT WILL NOT WORK?**

You cannot use college student IDs, even from public universities. You cannot use photo IDs that are not from the federal government or a state government.

**WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE ANY ID?**

If you forgot to bring your ID, it’s usually better to go get it. If you don’t have time or an ID, you can cast a provisional ballot. For your provisional ballot to count, you have to show the right ID to the county election commission office by closing time on Thursday, November 8. Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-7-112.

You can get a free ID by going to the nearest Driver Service Center, showing them proof of citizenship (usually a birth certificate) and two proofs of TN residency and signing an affidavit stating that you do not have a valid government-issued photo ID for voting purposes.

If you are low-income and can’t afford a copy of the documents required to get a free photo ID, you may still vote if you sign a form stating under oath that you are indigent and have been unable to get a photo ID for voting without paying a fee.

**Having problems getting a photo ID?  Call ACLU-TN at (615) 320-7142.**