

Voting with Photo Identification



Presented By:
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Constitutional Initiative

In 2011, the voters of the State of Mississippi passed Constitutional Initiative 27 to amend the state constitution to require voters who cast a ballot in person to present government issued photo identification before being allowed to vote.



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Enabling Legislation

In 2012, the Mississippi Legislature passed House Bill 921 (HB921), the enabling legislation for Constitutional Initiative 27. HB921 requires voters who cast a ballot in person to present one (1) of nine (9) forms of acceptable photo identification.



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Effective Date

Beginning with the primary election on June 3, 2014, all voters are required to present an acceptable form of photo identification before casting a ballot in person either in the precinct on Election Day, or in the Circuit Clerk's Office during the absentee voting period.



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Acceptable Photo Identification

- ✓ Driver's license;
- ✓ Photo ID card issued by any branch, department, agency or entity of the State of Mississippi;
- ✓ United States passport;
- ✓ Employee photo ID card issued by any branch, department, agency or entity of the United States government;
- ✓ License to carry a pistol or revolver;



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Acceptable Photo Identification

(cont.)

- ✓ Tribal photo ID card;
- ✓ United States Military ID, containing a photo of the voter;
- ✓ Student photo ID issued by an accredited Mississippi university, college or community/junior college;
- ✓ Mississippi Voter Identification Card; and
- ✓ Any photo ID issued by any branch, department, agency or entity of the United States government or any state government, such as a driver's license issued by a state other than Mississippi.



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Current and Valid

Acceptable photo ID presented at the precinct on Election Day or at the Circuit Clerk's Office during absentee voting must be current and valid.

Valid means the presented photo ID does not appear to be a fake or forgery.



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Current and Valid (cont.)

Current means the photo ID has no expiration date at all, or was not issued more than ten (10) years prior to the date the photo ID is presented either in the precinct on Election Day or in the Circuit Clerk's Office during absentee voting.



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Absentee Voting by Mail, E-Mail and Fax

Voters who cast an absentee ballot by mail, e-mail or fax are NOT required to present or provide a copy of photo ID.



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Religious Objection

Voters who have a religious objection to being photographed are NOT required to present photo ID; however, these voters MUST vote by affidavit ballot and, within five (5) business days after the Election, complete an Affidavit of Religious Objection in the Circuit Clerk's Office for the affidavit ballot to be counted.



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Residents of State Licensed Care Facilities

Voters who reside in a state-licensed care facility, and who vote in person in a precinct located in the same state-licensed care facility in which they reside, are NOT required to present photo ID. These voters cast a "regular" ballot, not an affidavit ballot.



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Voting with Photo ID

If the Poll Manager(s) determine:

1. The presented ID is an acceptable form of photo ID,
2. The presented photo ID "fairly depicts" the voter, and
3. The voter's name as it appears on the presented photo ID is "substantially similar" to the voter's name as it appears on the poll book,

then the voter may cast his/her ballot.



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**Is the Presented ID
Acceptable Photo ID?**

Poll Managers must verify the photo ID presented by each voter is one of the nine (9) forms of acceptable photo ID.

A voter who cannot present acceptable photo ID at the precinct on Election Day or in the Circuit Clerk's Office during absentee voting is entitled to vote by an affidavit ballot.



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**Does the Photo on the Presented
ID Fairly Depict the Voter?**

Poll Managers must verify the photograph on the presented ID "fairly depicts" the voter.

If the poll manager does not believe the voter is the person depicted in the presented photo ID, or cannot make that determination, the poll manager must confer with the bailiff.



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**Does the Photo on the Presented
ID Fairly Depict the Voter (cont.)?**

If the bailiff does not believe the voter is the person depicted in the presented photo ID, or the bailiff is unable to make that determination, the voter is entitled to vote by an affidavit ballot.



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Is the Name Substantially Similar?

Poll Managers must verify the voter's name as it appears on the presented photo ID is "substantially similar" to the voter's name as it appears on the poll book.



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A Name is Substantially Similar If:

- The name on the presented photo ID is only slightly different from the name as it appears on the poll book,
- The name on the presented photo ID is a customary variation or abbreviation of a formal name, or vice versa, such as Bill, Billy, Will for William, Kim for Kimberly, or Rick, Richie or Dick for Richard,



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A Name Is Substantially Similar If:

- The name on the presented photo ID includes an initial or middle name that does not appear on the poll book, or vice versa, or
- A first name, middle name, former name, maiden name or initial of the voter's name appears in a different order on the presented photo ID than the name appears on the poll book.



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A Name is Substantially Similar If:

- If a voter's middle or last name on the presented photo ID is different from the name as it appears on the poll book due to marriage or divorce, the voter may cast a "regular" ballot if:
 - A part of the name, the address or the date of birth on the presented photo ID matches a part of the name, the address or the date of birth on the poll book.



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Is the Name Substantially Similar?

If the poll manager does not believe the voter's name as it appears on the presented photo ID is substantially similar to the voter's name as it appears on the poll book, or if the poll manager is unable to make that determination, the poll manager must confer with the bailiff.



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Is the Name Substantially Similar (cont.)?

If the bailiff does not believe the voter's name as it appears on the presented photo ID is substantially similar to the voter's name as it appears on the poll book, or if the bailiff is unable to make that determination, the voter is entitled to vote by an affidavit ballot.



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Voting by Affidavit Ballot

If the Poll Manager(s) determine:

1. The presented photo ID is not an acceptable form of photo ID, or
2. The presented photo ID does not "fairly depict" the voter, or
3. The voter's name as it appears on the presented photo ID is not "substantially similar" to the name as it appears on the poll book,

then the voter is entitled to vote by an affidavit ballot.



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Voting by Affidavit Ballot (cont.)

If the Poll Manager(s) cannot determine if:

1. The presented photo ID is an acceptable form of photo ID, or
2. The presented photo ID "fairly depicts" the voter, or
3. The voter's name as it appears on the presented photo ID is not "substantially similar" to the name as it appears on the poll book,

then the voter is entitled to vote by an affidavit ballot.



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No voter is ever refused the right to vote, or turned away from the precinct because he/she does not have an acceptable photo ID.



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Voting by Affidavit Ballot (cont.)

A voter who casts an affidavit ballot because:

1. he/she does not have an acceptable photo ID,
2. the presented photo ID does not fairly depict the voter, or
3. the name as it appears on the presented photo ID is not substantially similar to the voter's name as it appears on the poll book,

has five (5) business days after the Election to present photo ID in the Circuit Clerk's office.



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MS Voter Identification Card

Registered voters who lack an acceptable form of photo ID may obtain the Mississippi Voter ID Card at any Circuit Clerk's Office free of charge by:

1. Completing an Application, and
2. Presenting any one of the following forms of documentation:
 - a. Photo Identity Document,
 - b. Any document which sets forth the voter's full legal name, date and place of birth, i.e., birth certificate,
 - c. Social Security Card,
 - d. Medicare or Medicaid Card,
 - e. MS Voter Registration Card, or



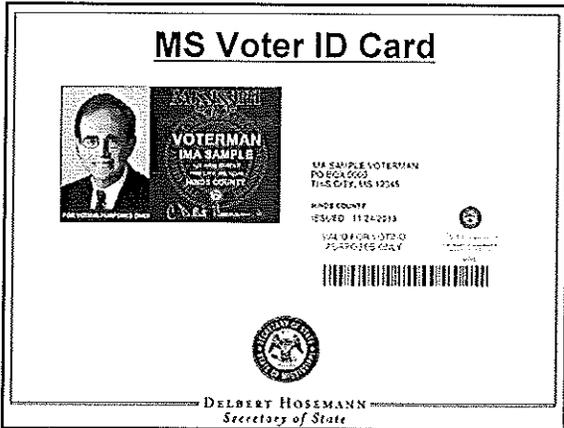
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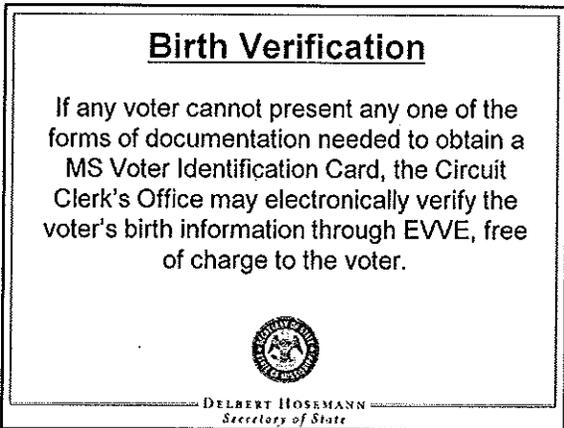
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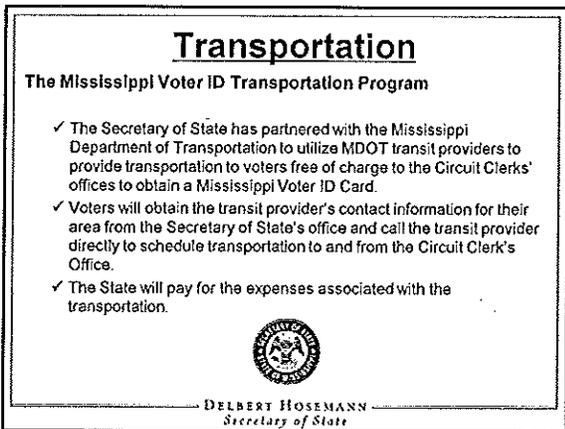
- f. HAVA Identification:
 1. Utility bill issued within the past 6 months,
 2. Bank statement issued within the past 6 months,
 3. Paycheck issued within the past 6 months,
 4. Government check issued within the past 6 months, or
 5. Any other government document that shows the voter's name and his/her residential address issued within the current calendar year, i.e., IRS W-2, Wage and Tax Statement.



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Education and Outreach

1.844.MSVOTER | MSVoterID.ms.gov

VOTER ID
EASY & FREE



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Acceptable Photo ID?



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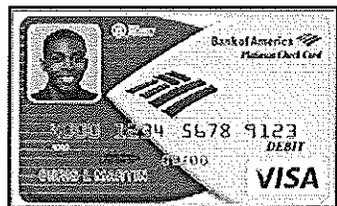
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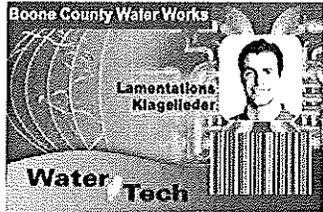
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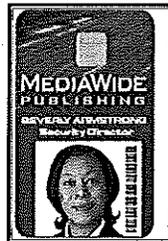
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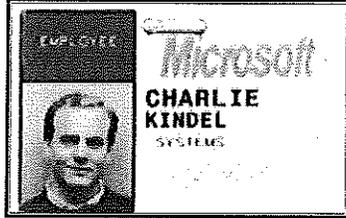
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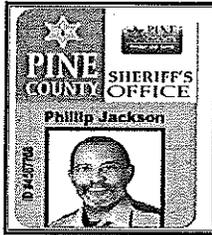
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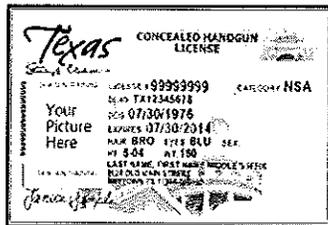
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