

# Fact Sheet about New Voter ID and Proof of U.S. Citizenship Requirements to Register to Vote

- In Kansas you now have to show an acceptable form of Photo ID when you Vote at the Polls. This sheet details the new rules.
- If you are approved as a Permanent Advance Voter you do NOT have to show a Photo ID to vote at home. A Kansan with a permanent disability will be approved as a permanent advance voter, but they have to submit the form. This sheet shows you how.
- All Kansans who register to vote AFTER Jan. 1 2013 will have to show proof of US citizenship to be able to vote. If you registered to vote prior to this date, this does not apply to you. This sheet details the new rules.
- A Video detailing the new rules (called “Get Ready to Vote in Kansas”) can be found at the following Web Sites:
  - [www.youtube.com/DRCKansas](http://www.youtube.com/DRCKansas)
  - [www.drckansas.org](http://www.drckansas.org)

**To Vote, You Must be Registered to Vote:** First things first. To vote in Kansas you must first be registered to vote. Registering to vote is quick and easy. You must be registered to vote at least 21 days prior to election day. On the internet you can go to [www.KsDisabilityVote.org](http://www.KsDisabilityVote.org) to learn how to register to vote.

After you are registered to vote, the first rule you need to know about is the new Kansas “Voter ID” law. This law says you must show an identification card – or an “ID” – that has your picture on it when you go to vote.

## “What photo IDs are OK?”

You can use several of these types of ID to prove that you are you, including:

- A driver's license
- A nondriver's ID card
- A U.S. passport
- A Kansas college ID
- A U.S. military identification document
- A government-issued employee badge
- A concealed carry gun license

Other forms of ID are also acceptable. You can find a full list and more details at [www.GotVoterID.com](http://www.GotVoterID.com).

## **“I have a permanent disability. Can I be excused from the photo ID requirement?”**

Excellent question. Yes, you can be excused from the photo ID requirements for voting but only if these two things are true for you:

#1) You must have a permanent disability or illness. Having a permanent disability or illness means it will last the rest of your life.

And #2) You must be approved as a permanent advance voter. Permanent advance voters are people who mail in their voting ballot every election instead of voting in person at a polling place.

If you meet these two requirements, you do not need a ID to vote. If you do not meet these two requirements, you will need a photo ID to vote.

## **“Becoming a permanent advance voter sounds cool. How do I apply?”**

Applying to become a permanent advance voter is quick and easy. Go to [www.KsDisabilityVote.org](http://www.KsDisabilityVote.org)

The deadline to submit your application to become a permanent advance voter is at least 4 days before election day.

## **“What happens once I become a permanent advance voter?”**

You will automatically get your ballot in the mail for each election. Then you can vote in the privacy of your own home. You return your ballot by mail.

No more remembering when the next election is. No more hassles of having to find transportation to the voting place. Permanent advance voting ... what could be more convenient?

## **“What if am not on the permanent advance voting list, but I still want to vote by mail? Do I provide ID?”**

If you want to vote by mail and you are not on the permanent advance voting list, you will have to provide a copy of your ID or more information when you mail in your vote. You will have to either:

#1) Provide a photocopy of your photo ID – remember the list I gave earlier of OK forms of ID

#2) Or, you will write your full Kansas driver’s license number or nondriver ID number in the space on the ballot form

## **“What if I don’t have a photo ID? What can I do?”**

If you don’t have a photo ID, you must do one of these things to vote:

- #1) you must get an accepted photo ID and show it to vote, OR
- #2) you must be approved as a permanent advance voter, as we just talked about.

Go to [www.KsDisabilityVote.org](http://www.KsDisabilityVote.org) for more information about your options.

## **“Can I get a Kansas ID for free?”**

Yes, you can get a free Kansas ID. Once you are registered to vote you can apply for a free nondriver ID card.

This next point is very important. You must first register to vote to get a free Kansas ID.

Go to [www.KsDisabilityVote.org](http://www.KsDisabilityVote.org) to download the form to get a free Kansas ID, or to register to vote or to get more information

## **“What if all I have is an expired ID?”**

*If you are 65 years old or older, you can use an expired photo ID, like an expired driver’s license. If not, you need a current ID from the above list.*

## **“I could not get my picture ID card because I didn’t have the right documents. What can I do now?”**

You have three things you can do:

#1. If you were born in Kansas, you can get a copy of your Kansas birth certificate. You get this for free from the Kansas Office of Vital Statistics.

#2. If you were born outside Kansas you can pay to get your out-of-state birth certificate. Or you can get a Kansas Voter ID Document for free.

OR #3. If you have a permanent disability and you are approved as a permanent advance voter, you do not have to provide a photo ID.

Go to [www.KsDisabilityVote.org](http://www.KsDisabilityVote.org) to learn how to get a free birth certificate, a Kansas voter ID document, or to apply for a permanent advance ballot.

For more information about the new Voter ID requirements, go to [www.GotVoterID.com](http://www.GotVoterID.com)

## **New Proof of Citizenship Requirements for Kansans who Register to vote AFTER January 1, 2013**

Now we'll look at the new Kansas law that requires first time voters to prove they are a United States citizen.

This law only applies to Kansans who register to vote for the first time AFTER January 1, 2013. So if you registered to vote in Kansas before then, this law does not affect you.

For those who register to vote after January 1, 2013, you must provide your County Election Office a copy of a document that proves you are a US citizen. You must do this either when you register to vote or at least one day before the election you want to vote in.

### **“What can I use to prove my citizenship?”**

You will need to give the County Election office a copy of one of these:

- A birth certificate that shows you were born in the U.S.
- A U.S. passport, either valid or expired
- U.S. naturalization documents that show you have become a U.S. citizen
- A Bureau of Indian Affairs card number, tribal treaty card number or tribal enrollment number
- A final adoption decree showing the your name and U.S. birthplace

There are also other documents that work. For a full list of ways to prove your U.S. citizenship for voter registration, visit [www.GotVoterID.com](http://www.GotVoterID.com)

And remember – you only need to prove you are a U.S. citizen if you are a new registered voter **after** January 1, 2013.

Finally, if you have trouble finding acceptable documentation, you do have the right to make a formal appeal to prove your US citizenship, even if you don't have the documents I listed earlier. This appeal is made in a hearing of the State Election Board. The form to request an appeal can be found at the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.kssos.org/forms/elections/RCD.pdf> or by going to [www.KsDisabilityVote.org](http://www.KsDisabilityVote.org). Contact the Kansas Secretary of State's Office for more information on how to make this appeal.

We hope these answers help you use your right to vote! Your vote is your voice ... use it!

If you have a disability and need help understanding these new laws, the voting process, or any other disability rights issue, please contact the:

**Disability Rights Center of Kansas**

[www.DRCKansas.org](http://www.DRCKansas.org)

877-776-1541

[www.KsDisabilityVote.org](http://www.KsDisabilityVote.org)

For more information on photo ID or citizenship requirements for newly registered voters, or other voting questions, contact the:

**Kansas Secretary of State's Office**

[www.SOS.Ks.gov](http://www.SOS.Ks.gov)

800-262-VOTE.

[www.GotVoterID.com](http://www.GotVoterID.com)