



October 31, 2012

Dear Registrar of Voters:

As the Nov. 6 election approaches, it is crucial that voters and poll workers understand voter identification requirements in Connecticut. Different state and federal standards can be confusing to many people, some of whom erroneously believe that photo identification is required to vote in Connecticut. Our goals are the same as yours – we want to ensure that no eligible voter is denied the right to vote because of misunderstanding or misapplication of the law.

There are two levels of voter ID requirements in Connecticut. The following rules apply to the vast majority of voters:

- Legal forms of identification include any printed identification that shows the voter's name and address or the voter's name and signature or the voter's name and photograph. These include but are not limited to: a driver's license, Social Security card, U.S. passport, credit card, checkbook, college identification, employee ID or utility bill.
- Voters who don't present an accepted form of identification may still vote after signing a form (ED-681, Signatures of Electors Who Did Not Present ID) attesting to their identities. These voters may vote as usual and do **not** have to cast a provisional ballot.

Different rules apply only to those voters who registered by mail after Jan. 1, 2003 and are voting for the first time with federal candidates on the ballot and have a mark next to their names on the official registry list. All three criteria must be satisfied for these exceptional rules to apply:

- Legal forms of identification are a copy of a current and valid photo identification that shows the voter's name and address or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or government document that shows the voter's name and address.
- Voters in this category who don't present a form of identification as described above may cast a provisional ballot.

It's true that many voters will present a driver's license at the polling place. But we would request that you ask poll workers to refrain from specifically asking for a photo ID or driver's license. Phrasing the question in this way can give the voter the impression that they will be turned away if they don't have a photo ID, even when that is not the poll workers' intention.

Voter confusion has been exacerbated by news reports of restrictive and controversial voter identification laws in other states. With your help we can make sure that Connecticut's inclusive and reasonable law is applied clearly, consistently and accurately.

Thank you for your service to the public.

Sincerely,



Andrew Schneider
Executive Director
American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut



Scot X. Esdaile
President
Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches