

VOTING RIGHTS FOR TRANSGENDER TEXANS



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This content is intended to serve as general information;
it is not legal advice nor intended as legal advice.

The right to vote is pivotal to giving everyone a voice in our democracy, no matter the color of your skin or how you identify, and transgender Texans are no exception. Between attacks on the right to vote and state agencies making it more difficult to have a state ID that may match a transgender person's gender identity, it is important to make a plan to vote. We're here to help you understand the rules so you can cast your ballot!

REGISTERING TO VOTE

To register to vote in Texas, do I need a Texas driver's license?

No. To register to vote, if you don't have a Texas ID, you can use the last four digits of your social security number. To vote, you will need to show another form of identification, such as a passport. The full list of options can be found [here](#).

Should I register with my real name or the name on my ID?

Register with whichever name is on your ID. If you've changed your name since the last time you voted, we recommend re-registering with your new name! Just make sure you update your ID too, or you'll have to register with your former name.

Can I change my name or my gender marker on my ID in Texas?

You can change your name on your ID with a valid court order, so long as it is not attached to an order to also change your gender marker. Unfortunately, state agencies [have made it virtually impossible](#) to currently update the gender marker on their state IDs. So, we recommend getting two separate court orders — a name change order and a gender marker change order — and using the name change order to update your ID. Marking gender is optional on Texas's voter registration form; you can register to vote without selecting any gender.

CASTING YOUR BALLOT

What do I need to vote?

Like all Texans, to vote in person you need one of the accepted forms of photo ID:

- Texas driver's license
- Texas state ID card
- Texas Election ID Certificate (EIC)
- US passport or passport card (book or card)
- US Citizenship Certificate (no expiration) with a photo
- Texas handgun license
- Military identification with a photo

These IDs must be in their physical form — similar to how registering to vote in Texas cannot be done online, no digital or mobile IDs will be accepted at polling locations.

Naturalized citizens who have a temporary or limited-term driver's license or state ID card (issued before you became a citizen) must also present their naturalization certificate or naturalization card.

But you may be able to vote even if you do not have one of these IDs! Here's how:

- If you do not possess an acceptable voter ID and have a reasonable impediment to possessing an ID, tell the poll worker you want to complete a "reasonable impediment declaration." This simple document lets you explain the difficulty that prevented you from getting a photo ID. Reasonable impediments to getting a photo ID include work schedule, lack of transportation, disability or illness, family responsibilities, lost or stolen identification, lack of documents needed to obtain a photo ID, and photo ID applied for but not received.
- Fill out the form and present it to the poll worker. Poll workers can't question or challenge you about not having a photo ID, or the reason you give on your "reasonable impediments declaration."
- Show one of the following documents:
 - Current utility bill
 - Bank statement
 - Paycheck
 - Voter Registration Certificate
 - Certified birth certificate
 - Government check
 - A government document that shows the voter's name and an address

What if my ID is expired?

To vote, you can use an ID that is expired by up to four years if you're under 70, and by any length of time if you're 70 or older.

What do I do if my name, gender marker, or photo on my identification is outdated?

State law only requires that the election worker be able to verify your identity based on the ID presented, and that the name on your ID be “substantially similar” to the name on your voter registration. Names may be substantially similar if they are:

- Only “slightly different”
- Common nicknames
- Missing or have in a different place an initial, a middle name, or a former name

If the reviewing election worker makes a determination that your name on the presented ID document and your voter registration are substantially similar, you will be asked to fill out a “Similar Name” form stating that you are the same person on the list of registered voters.

If an election worker cannot match the name on your identification to the list of registered voters, or if the election worker cannot verify your identity based on your presented identification, you are still eligible to cast a provisional ballot. For a provisional ballot to be counted in this situation, you will have to visit your county voter registrar’s office and present acceptable identification within six calendar days.

If you have issues being accepted for voting, call the Election Protection Helpline at 866-OUR-VOTE or 888-VE-Y-VOTA (en español).

What if someone inside or outside of the polling place is harassing me or interfering with my right to vote based on my gender identity or expression?

Inside and outside of the polling place, harassment is unacceptable and unlawful, and the election workers on duty should intervene to help you stay safe and cast your ballot. Should they fail to do so, call your county elections office or the Election Protection Hotline 866-OUR-VOTE or 888-VE-Y-VOTA (en español) once you are safe to do so. Even if the election workers successfully intervene, we recommend reporting the incident to the Election Protection Hotline.

If you are nervous in general about voting as a transgender person, we recommend bringing friends with you! Voting is more fun with a group, and there’s safety in numbers. Just remember: the only people who can enter a polling place are voters or people formally assisting voters.

If at any point you feel you are in physical danger and no one is intervening, prioritize your safety first and call 1-866-OUR-VOTE once you are safe.

What if I have a question that isn’t addressed here?

You can check out our main [Election Hub](#), which includes information about voting by mail, the [Texas Freedom Network’s Election Hub](#), [Vote411](#), the [Texas Secretary of State website](#), or your local County Clerk website. And you can call 1-866-OUR-VOTE to speak with someone at the Election Protection Hotline!