



Secretary of State

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Voter Registration Applicants without Identification

Elections Clearinghouse Notice

Issue # 21-06

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This clearinghouse is reissued to clarify language and procedure. It replaces Clearinghouse #11-06 "Voter Registration Applicants without Identification" issued August 2, 2011.

An applicant is registered to vote when all five pieces of *required* information are provided: name, residential address, birthdate, signature, and a mark attesting to citizenship. A driver's license number, state ID card number, or the last four digits of an applicant's social security number is *requested* on the Washington State Voter Registration form.

If identification information from the Department of Licensing or the Social Security Administration is provided and passes the statewide voter registration system (VoteWA) ID check, the applicant is fully registered to vote when it is accompanied by the other required information. (Note: Military and overseas voters are not required to provide identification when registering to vote.)

When identification information provided is not or cannot be verified through VoteWA's ID check process, the County Auditor must first check the accuracy of the information entered from the voter registration application. The County Auditor must correct any errors and again perform the automated ID check. The County Auditor may also use other available government resources to verify the voter's identity or contact the voter for identification information (WAC 434-324-040).

If the County Auditor is unable to verify the voter's identity, verifies the ID provided on the registration form is invalid, or the voter failed to provide any identification information at all, the voter shall be provisionally registered to vote and is sent an Identification Notice (WAC 434-250-045).

The Identification Notice must notify the voter that they are provisionally registered and caution the voter that if identification is not provided, the voter's ballot will not be counted. The notice must also list the acceptable forms of alternate identification, which include:

- Valid photo identification;
- Valid enrollment card of a federally recognized tribe in Washington State;
- A copy of a current utility bill
- A current bank statement
- A copy of a current paycheck; or
- A government document, other than a voter registration card, which shows both the name and address of the voter.

The Identification Notice must be sent to voters at the time of registration and, if the voter fails to respond, also at the time of each election.

The voter may provide identification prior to an election or along with their ballot. The County Auditor may provide an inner envelope separate from the security envelope for return of the photocopied identification. After it is received, the voter's provisional status is removed and they are not required to provide further identification.

Ballots must be issued to provisionally registered voters, but such ballots **will not be counted** until identification is provided.

Voters remain provisionally registered until they provide identification or through two federal general elections. If identification has not been received through two federal general elections, the registration shall be canceled.

For a refresher of the complete process, please review: RCW 29A.08.107, WAC 434-250-045, WAC 434-324-040, and WAC 434-324-045.