



# Shasta Election Times

SHASTA COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

November 2015

## A Poll Worker's Guide to Voter ID Requirements – California

### Why all the confusion over voter identification requirements?

Different states have different requirements. As of April 2015, **32 states** enforced voter identification requirements. A total of 17 states required voters to present photo identification while 15 accepted other forms of identification. In some states, a voter who is unable to present valid identification may still be permitted to vote without casting a provisional ballot. In others, such voters are required to cast provisional ballots.

Proponents of voter identification requirements maintain that voter ID laws are necessary in order to prevent voter fraud. Critics, meanwhile, contend that voter fraud is very rare and identification requirements cause unequal rights. Critics also say that can be categorized as a poll tax, because a voter would have to purchase ID to vote.

### Does California require a voter to show identification?

No precincts in California can ask for identification from a voter. California does not have a state voter identification law for in-person or vote-by-mail voters.

### Do voters need identification when they go to vote?

If the voter's name and address is on the roster of voters they will not need identification. You will ask the voter to state their name, locate their name in the roster, repeat their name and address and ask them to sign the roster (EC section 14216).

If our office is unable to verify the voter applicant's stated DMV or SSA information, then they will be required to show Identification. Ask for ID if the roster states "ID required".

A first time voter **may** need to show identification if they registered by mail without giving their California driver's license or state identification number or the last four digits of their social security number. Shasta County currently has 68 voters that **may** have to show identification. That is 0.0755555556% of voters in Shasta County may be asked for identification in 2016.

### Customer Service

We all want to support a person's right to vote by providing a provisional ballot if necessary. A provisional ballot is a safeguard. It ensures that a person whose name **does not** appear in the roster of voters but is registered and eligible to vote will not be prevented from voting (EC Section 14310).

Shasta County Clerk and Elections 1643 Market Street Redding, CA 96001 530.225.5732

### Key Points to Remember on Election Day

- Never ask a voter for identification unless marked on the roster of voters
  - Ask the voter to state their name and address, you locate it and repeat their name and address and ask them to sign the roster
  - Ask for identification in the event that a voter is marked "ID Required" on the active roster
- Primary identification includes: Driver's license, passport, credit/debit card, health club
- Secondary identification (with name and address) includes: utility bill, bank statement, sample ballot

More examples of acceptable identification can be found on the Secretary of State's Resource Website: <http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/en/voter-info/voter-identification-laws.htm>

### Three Communication Tools for Poll Workers:

#### Wait. Recognize. Listen.

1. **Wait.** Don't interrupt a consumer's question. Process it first, then respond reasonably and respectfully.
2. **Recognize.** Be aware of people's feelings, needs and accommodate them with courtesy.
3. **Listen.** Listen before speaking to fully understand what the voter needs. Put assumptions aside.

