



NC Photo ID Amendment

November 3, 2026 statewide ballot | Voter one-page guide

Ballot question: “Constitutional amendment to require all voters, not just those presenting to vote in person, to present photo identification before voting.”

In plain English: The North Carolina Constitution currently requires photo identification for in-person voting. This amendment would expand the constitutional requirement to all voters, regardless of how they cast their ballot.

For context: North Carolina law already requires absentee-by-mail voters to provide a copy of an acceptable photo ID when returning their ballot or complete an ID Exception Form if they qualify for an exception. The amendment would therefore add to the state Constitution a requirement that is already established in state law.

A FOR vote means...	You support changing the state Constitution to require photo identification for all voters, regardless of how they vote.
An AGAINST vote means...	You oppose expanding the constitutional photo ID requirement beyond in-person voting. The Constitution’s current photo ID requirement would remain limited to in-person voting.

Arguments supporters make -

- **Creates one standard for all voters:** Supporters argue that the same constitutional photo ID requirement should apply to every voter, regardless of how they cast their ballot.
- **Provides an additional identity safeguard:** Supporters say requiring photo ID for all methods of voting provides another means for confirming voter identity.

- **Makes the requirement more permanent:** Supporters argue that placing the requirement in the Constitution makes the statewide photo ID standard less susceptible to changes in ordinary state law.
- **Allows exceptions:** The amendment permits the General Assembly to enact laws governing the photo ID requirement that “may include exceptions.”

Arguments opponents make -

- **Current law already requires ID for absentee voting:** Because absentee voters already must provide an ID copy or qualify for an exception, opponents question the need to place the requirement in the Constitution.
- **Does not guarantee today’s exceptions:** The amendment says state law “may include exceptions,” but it does not place the current exceptions themselves into the Constitution. Opponents argue that future legislatures could narrow or change those protections while the constitutional ID requirement remained in place.
- **Could create barriers for military and overseas voters:** Military members and other U.S. citizens voting from overseas already must provide a copy of acceptable photo ID or complete an ID Exception Form. Opponents argue that placing the ID requirement in the Constitution without guaranteeing today’s exceptions could make voting more difficult for these voters if those protections are narrowed in the future.
- **Constitutional requirements are harder to change:** Opponents argue that details of the election administration are better handled through state law which can be adjusted as voting procedures, technology, and voter needs change.

Questions to ask before voting -

- What problem is this amendment seeking to address?
- What are the advantages or disadvantages of putting this requirement in the Constitution when state law already requires ID for absentee voting?
- Should specific photo ID exceptions be protected in the Constitution or determined by state law?

Bottom line: This amendment would expand North Carolina’s constitutional photo ID requirement from in-person voting to all voting methods. The amendment would place the broader requirement in the Constitution while leaving the details—including exceptions—to state law.