



Missouri Catholic Conference Quick Facts

Legislation Relating to Photo ID Voting Requirements

The Missouri General Assembly has passed a proposed constitutional amendment and accompanying legislation that would establish new requirements regarding identification requirements for voting.

KEY PROVISIONS OF PROPOSALS

HJR 53

The proposed constitutional amendment—HJR 53—states that a person seeking to vote *may* be required by statute to verify their citizenship and Missouri residency by providing election officials with a valid government issued photo ID.

HJR 53 will be submitted to voters for their consideration at the general election on November 8. All proposed constitutional amendments must be approved by a simple majority.

HB 1631

The “statute” HJR 53 is referring to is HB 1631, if this legislation becomes state law. Governor Nixon has vetoed HB 1631. The General Assembly has the option of overriding the governor’s veto at the veto session, which is scheduled for September 14.

HB 1631 requires that voters provide photo identification to vote. HB 1631 provides that a person without photo identification can obtain one free of charge.

Anyone without photo identification *can* obtain a ballot as follows:

- Show a form of non-photo identification
- Sign a statement (under penalty of perjury) affirming they are the person on the voter rolls, and
- If required by the local election authority, allowing a photograph of them to be taken by the local election authority

The requirement to present a photo ID shall not apply if the General Assembly fails to appropriate funds for free photo IDs.

In sum, HB 1631 does the following:

- Requires a photo ID for voting with certain exceptions
- Requires the state to provide a non-driver’s license photo ID free of charge for those without one
- Indicates photo IDs will not be required if the state fails to provide the free photo IDs
- Requires “a statement, under penalty of perjury” that a voter must sign if they appear without a photo ID
- Permits local election authorities to require persons without photo identification to be photographed and the photograph to be kept in the voter registration files of the election authority