VOTERS for TRANS EQUALITY

Voting While Trans Guide

Voting is a key part of our participation in society and having our voices heard in the issues that affect us all, and we have the right to vote regardless of gender identity. Having ID that doesn't match your gender identity or presentation should not affect your right to cast a ballot, in any state. But with increasingly strict voter ID laws, trans people may face barriers—both because of difficulties in obtaining an ID that's accepted, or because they might run into bias or misunderstandings of the law when it comes to their gender.

As the fight against restrictive voter ID and other voter suppression laws continues, knowing your rights can help avoid or solve problems at the polls. We want everyone to get out and vote! Find out what your state's laws are, what to expect at the polls, and what to do in case your right to vote is challenged.

VOTER CHECK LIST ☑

BEFORE ELECTION DAY

- ☐ Check your **voter registration status**. If you are not registered, **register now**.
- ☐ If you're registered, verify that the name and address on your registration are up to date, and if not, get those updated. **The ID Document Center** can guide you through the process.
- ☐ **Check to see if any ID is required when you vote in your state** and then get the appropriate form of ID if needed.
- ☐ If ID is needed in your state, make sure your name and address on your voter registration matches your name and address on your ID by the election. But don't worry if your gender identity or gender presentation doesn't match your name, photo, or gender marker, as that is **not required by law**.
- ☐ Consider signing up to **vote by mail**, also known as absentee voting, if your state allows it.
- ☐ After registering to vote, **sign up for election reminders** to stay updated.
- ☐ Reach out to friends and family to make a plan to vote together.

ON ELECTION DAY

- ☐ If ID is required in your state, bring it. It's helpful to bring your voter registration card, a utility bill showing the address where you are registered, and this document. You might also want to bring other IDs if you have them.
- ☐ If poll workers question your identity or eligibility to vote, show them a utility bill and the "Information for Poll Workers and Election Officials" section of this document.
- ☐ If you are still not allowed to vote, look for a volunteer attorney who may be there assisting voters. If no one is around, call the National Election Protection Hotline at **866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)**.
- ☐ If you are still not allowed to vote on a regular ballot, request a **provisional ballot**. If you are forced to use a provisional ballot, ask for follow-up instructions, as you generally must return to election officials within a few days to prove your identity in order for your ballot to be counted. If you cast a provisional ballot, call the National Election Protection Hotline at **866-OURVOTE (866-687-8683)**, which can help you make sure your ballot is counted.
- ☐ Bring a friend to the polls. Voting together can make the experience more enjoyable and encourages others to participate in democracy.

INFORMATION FOR POLL WORKERS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

The voter you are talking to is transgender, meaning that their gender identity is different than the gender that was recorded on their birth certificate. Transgender people are sometimes unable to update their IDs to reflect their identity for a number of reasons. This is not illegal. As long as the relevant voter data (usually the name and address) matches one of the acceptable forms of ID, the voter has the right to vote. Please do not be distracted by gender presentation when you are evaluating a voter's identity and eligibility to vote.

Other information that might be useful to you:

- **Gender discrepancies on ID are not a valid reason to deny a regular ballot.** Transgender voters may have ID that indicates a different gender than what they look like. They may not have had the opportunity to update their ID yet, or may not be able to do so in your state. This does not mean their ID is invalid or fraudulent for voting.
- Different clothing, makeup or hairstyle on an ID photo is not a valid reason to deny a regular ballot. Voters may look different today than on their photo ID for many reasons. The photo on an ID may show a different gender presentation. **As long as you can identify the voter from their picture, the ID is valid for voting.**
- A voter's transgender status and medical history is private. Although you may be curious or confused about a voter's appearance, asking personal questions is offensive, inappropriate, and not relevant to their right to vote.
- **Transgender voters are not doing anything wrong or trying to deceive you—they are just being themselves.** Transgender people have the right to vote just like everyone else, and it is your responsibility to ensure they are able to do so without hassle. If confusion about this person's right to vote persists, please speak to an election supervisor or election judge in your area to resolve any remaining questions.