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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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S.J.R. 10
136th General Assembly

Resolution Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Gavarone and Timken

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SUMMARY

- Proposes an amendment to the Ohio Constitution to appear on the ballot in November 2026, to require electors to provide identification (ID) in order to vote, in accordance with laws passed by the General Assembly.
- Requires an elector to show photo ID when voting in person, with exceptions for those with a sincere religious objection to being photographed and for those who cast a provisional ballot and provide photo ID by a deadline after the election, as under the existing statute.
- Defines “photo identification” to include the same documents as are currently acceptable under the Revised Code, with a limited option for the General Assembly to approve additional forms of photo ID by law.
- Allows for the law to permit the use of nonphoto ID when voting by mail, as the statute currently does.
- Specifies that the General Assembly is not required to allow voting in any location or manner other than in person at a polling place on Election Day.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

The resolution proposes an amendment to the Ohio Constitution to require electors to provide identification (ID) in order to vote, in accordance with laws passed by the General Assembly. If approved, the proposal would not require any changes to Ohio’s current voter ID requirements found in statute, but it would limit the extent to which the current requirements could be changed in the future.

The proposal would appear on the ballot at the November 3, 2026, general election. If approved by the electors, it takes effect immediately.

In person voting

Photo ID requirement

Under the proposal, Ohio's voter ID laws must include a requirement that an elector show the elector's photo ID when voting in person at a polling place or other voting location designated by law. The laws must make two exceptions to the photo ID requirement:¹

1. If an elector does not have photo ID because the elector has a sincere religious objection to being photographed, the laws must provide an alternative method of verifying the elector's identity. Currently, such an elector must sign an affidavit, provide the last four digits of the elector's Social Security number, and cast a provisional ballot.²
2. If an elector does not show photo ID at the time of voting in person, the elector must be permitted to cast a provisional ballot and provide photo ID to the election officials by a deadline specified by law for the ballot to be eligible to be counted. Under existing law, that deadline is the fourth day after Election Day.³

Definition of photo ID

As used in the proposal, "photo identification" means one of the following documents that is issued by an agency of the state or the United States, includes the elector's name and photograph, and is not expired:⁴

- A driver's license or state ID card issued by the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles or its successor agency;
- A U.S. passport or passport card;
- A U.S. military ID card, an Ohio National Guard ID card, or an ID card issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor agency;
- Another document authorized by the General Assembly by law. Currently, the only type of permitted photo ID that would fall into this category is the interim ID form issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles that a person may use while waiting for the person's permanent driver's license or state ID card to arrive in the mail.⁵

Voting by mail

By its terms, the proposal would not require photo ID to vote by mail or by another remote method available in the future, but it would require some form of ID. The existing statute

¹ Proposed Ohio Constitution, Article V, Section 5(A).

² R.C. 3505.18, 3505.181, and 3505.19.

³ R.C. 3505.18 and 3505.181.

⁴ Proposed Ohio Const., art. V, sec. 5(B).

⁵ R.C. 3501.01(AA).

allows a voter who votes by mail to provide (1) a driver's license or state ID card number, (2) the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number, or (3) a copy of a photo ID.⁶

However, the proposal also states that it does not require the General Assembly to pass laws allowing electors to vote in any location or manner other than in person at a polling place on Election Day.⁷ Federal law currently requires Ohio to allow uniformed services and overseas absent voters to vote by mail in federal elections.⁸

HISTORY

| Action | Date |
|------------|----------|
| Introduced | 05-19-26 |

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⁶ R.C. 3509.05(B) and 3511.09(B).

⁷ Proposed Ohio Const., art. V, sec. 5(A)(1) and (C).

⁸ 52 United States Code 20302(a)(1).