



PRESS RELEASE
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Senate Releases Photo ID Proposal

Raleigh, N.C. – Senate Republicans presented a proposal Thursday to require North Carolinians to show photo identification when they vote, fulfilling one of their most important promises – protecting the integrity of elections.

The Senate substitute to House Bill 589 guarantees anyone who wants to vote will have that opportunity. It establishes a list of valid government-issued photo IDs – including driver’s licenses, non-operator ID cards, tribal and military IDs and passports – that voters can present at their polling places. And it allows anyone without a valid photo ID to obtain one at no cost through the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The proposal also outlines a gradual implementation timeline, beginning with the 2014 elections, for informing voters and enacting the photo ID requirement, until the law is fully enforced in 2016.

“For years, an overwhelming majority of North Carolinians have voiced strong support for this common sense policy,” said Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger (R-Rockingham.) “This bill restores clarity, transparency and confidence in the voting process. It curtails questions of voter fraud by folks on both sides of the aisle and helps ensure every candidate wins or loses on his or her own merits.”

If the bill passes, North Carolina will join more than 30 states that already have a voter ID law.

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