Voter ID

What kind of an ID does a voter need to vote?
A voter can use seven forms of ID to vote: Texas Driver License, Texas Election ID Certificate, Texas Personal ID Card, Texas Handgun License, US Military ID Card (with photo), US Citizenship Certificate (with photo), or a US Passport (book or card).

If the voter does not have any of these forms of identification, they may still be able to vote if they have a “reasonable impediment” preventing them from obtaining one of those forms of ID.

If they qualify, they will have to sign a Reasonable Impediment Declaration form affirming that they couldn’t get one and have an original or a copy of one of the following:
- Government document that shows the voter’s name and an address, including the voter’s voter registration certificate;
- Current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck; or
- Certified domestic birth certificate (from a U.S. state or territory) or a document confirming birth admissible in a court of law, which establishes the voter’s identity (may include a foreign birth document).

Reasonable impediments include lack of transportation, disability or illness, lack of birth certificate or other documents needed to obtain acceptable photo ID, work schedule, family responsibilities, lost or stolen photo ID, or photo ID applied for but not received.

Does a voter’s address on their ID need to match their registration address?
There is no address matching requirement in Texas. Showing a photo ID is used to prove identification, not proof of residence.

Is an expired form of photo ID acceptable?
If the voter is between 18 and 69 years old, their photo ID must be either 1) current or 2) not have been expired for more than four years. If the voter is over 70, it can be expired for any length of time. In addition, please note that U.S. Citizenship Certificates do not expire.

What if the name on a voter’s identification does not exactly match their name on their voter registration card or on the voter registration rolls?
Election officials will review the ID and if the name is “substantially similar” to the name of the voter on their voter registration card or on the list of registered voters, they will be able to vote. However, they will also have to sign an affidavit stating that they are the same person on the list of registered voters.

What if (1) someone refuses to show an acceptable form of identification or (2) they do not possess an acceptable form of photo identification and cannot get one due to a reasonable impediment, and refuse to show one of the forms of supporting identification?
Voters who refuse to show proof of identity will be allowed to vote by provisional ballot. However, refusal to show ID is not a valid ground for casting a provisional ballot, and the voter’s provisional ballot will likely not be counted.