

Tom Corbett, Governor
Carol Aichele, Secretary of the Commonwealth

FAQ – Substantially Conform

Does the name on my Photo ID have to exactly match my voter registration?

No. The name on your Photo ID must “**substantially conform**” to the name on your voter registration. Poll workers, in consultation with the county board of elections, may use the same level of discretion and sound judgment as they used in enforcing the “first-time voter” identification requirements previously required. People often use nicknames, middle names and initials as a substitute for their given name. For example, a voter whose name is Joseph Earl Voter or Margaret Smith Voter may have a Photo ID that contains any one of the following:

Joseph E. Voter	Joe Earl Voter
Joseph Voter	Joe E. Voter
J. Earl Voter	J. Voter
J. E. Voter	Earl Voter

Margaret Smith Voter	<i>*Margaret Smith</i>
Maggy S. Voter	M. S. Voter
Maggy Voter	M. Smith Voter
Peg S. Voter	M. Voter

*In this example a voter who recently changed her name by reason of marriage presents a valid Pennsylvania driver’s license or Pennsylvania ID card accompanied by a PennDOT update card, which is sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the Voter ID law regarding proof of identification.