

**Notes on EAC Testimony**  
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Tennessee has always had an I.D. provision that matches the signature of the voter with the signature on some other form of I.D. This requirement can be met with an affidavit of identity completed at the polling place.

Tennessee has always required by-mail registrants who are first time voters to vote in person the first time they vote.

Neither of these requirements changed due to provisional voting or the HAVA I.D. requirements for first time voters.

However, Tennessee implemented a provisional voting process that does require an additional verification of the person's address in order to cast the ballot.

Tennessee law specifies that provisional voters provide a "verification of residential address" which includes, but is not limited to, driver's license, lease agreement, utility bill or other document bearing the applicant's residential address.

Tennessee's law therefore now has three types of I.D. requirements: the standard signature requirement, the provisional voting requirement and the HAVA I.D. requirement for first time voters who are by-mail registrants.

Obviously, this distinction in I.D. requirements had the potential to cause much confusion to our poll workers and voters. Additionally, a dialogue with the Department of Justice as to what constituted proper I.D. added to the uncertainty. While my office emphasized to the county election commissions the importance of proper training, a certain amount of confusion was sure to arise.

Tennessee has a statewide voter registration database that has been and will be modified to ease the pressures caused by these various types of I.D. requirements. We now receive information from our Department of Safety and other NVRA agencies on a routine basis which provides processes that cut down the number of provisional ballots. For example, our database provides quick access for our counties to check and confirm the status of provisional voters both on Election Day and as we count the provisional votes.

Because we must now keep track of who is required to present the HAVA I.D. for first time voters, our database had to be modified. As Tennessee is one of the states that require a full social security number to register, we plan to soon be able to check social security numbers of applicants through our Department of Safety. This process should

allow the vast majority of by-mail registrants to skip the HAVA I.D. requirement and focus solely on the Tennessee requirement.

The HAVA requirements of provisional voting and I.D. for first time voters have created challenges for our state. While the statewide voter registration database will help to solve some of these problems, the difference in types of I.D. required will always cause a certain amount of tension.