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Ohio voter ID amendment heads to Nov. 2026 ballot

Haley BeMiller

State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohioans will decide in November whether to enshrine voter ID rules in the state constitution.

The Ohio House approved a proposed amendment on June 10 that requires a photo ID to vote at the polls – which is already state law. The vote was the final step for a resolution that GOP lawmakers fast-tracked to ensure it would make

the Nov. 3 ballot.

The measure now heads to the Ohio Ballot Board, which will craft the language that voters see on the ballot.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy and other supporters say the amendment will strengthen Ohio's current election system. They also cite polls that show Republicans and Democrats generally favor voter ID requirements.

The issue even grabbed the attention of President Donald Trump, who ex-

pressed his support and criticized Democrats for opposing it.

"Voter photo ID requirements ensure that we have confidence in our elections," Rep. Adam Bird, R-New Richmond, said. "These requirements ensure that we know the person at the poll is who they say they are."

The amendment reinforces a law enacted in 2023 that requires certain unexpired forms of photo ID, excluding

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Gibsonburg grocery to shut doors on June 27



From left, Andy Kirwen, Brenda (Kirwen) Norton, and Bill Kirwen posed for a photo for the store's 100th anniversary. PHOTOS BY DOUG HISE/SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-MSG

Rebecca Brooks

Fremont News-Messenger
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gibsonburg will soon lose its century-old Kirwen's Supermarket as the family announced it will close the 104 W. Madison St. store June 27.

"It's time," Bill Kirwen said. He said that he and his siblings Brenda Norton and Andy Kirwen, who have been running the family business, are all retirement age and "way beyond." The next generation of Kirwens were doing their own things and not interested in taking over the operation, he said.

The family had hoped to find a buyer

On Jan. 4, the Kirwen family decided to post a closure notice on Facebook. After that announcement, interested buyers started calling both the store and the city, so the closing was postponed.

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Kirwen's Supermarket in Gibsonburg, will be closing after 103 years.

'SUCCESS SEQUENCE'

DeWine to decide on requirement for schools

Jessie Balmert

State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio schools might soon be required to teach students that graduating high school, getting a full-time job and having children after marriage will set them up for success.

During their marathon session before summer break, Ohio lawmakers approved teaching students the Christian lobbyist-backed "success sequence."

If signed into law by Gov. Mike DeWine, students in grades 6-12 would receive at least one lesson on how graduating, working, and having children within marriage would reduce their likelihood of living in poverty. Parents could not opt their children out of the instruction, which is a requirement for high school graduation.

Center for Christian Virtue President Aaron Baer cheered the bill's passage, saying that lawmakers were making "Ohio a national leader in preparing students for lifelong success." Several states, including Tennessee and Indiana, have passed similar laws, and conservative legislators are working to add the curriculum elsewhere.

Critics say the sequence doesn't guarantee success and alienates children from families that don't match the simplistic model.

"Teaching that graduation, then work, then marriage, then equals success also leaves out all of the unique

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