

One ID Columbus

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 in 10 Ohioans lacks a photo ID (Policy Matters Ohio).
- Upwards of 100,000 Columbus residents lack government-issued ID (City Council-sponsored feasibility study).
- These residents include victims of domestic violence, foster children, low-income elderly persons, undocumented immigrants, transgender residents, the homeless, and others.
- There are several factors that could prevent someone from obtaining a state ID or license including moving and losing identification cards, homelessness, not having the funds to obtain or replace the documents needed to obtain traditional identification (such as a birth certificate), and more.
- Those who lack valid identification are often afraid to report abuse, labor and housing violations, and crime to the appropriate authorities.

*Legislation for a municipal ID program was drafted in Summer 2017 and a feasibility study was completed in Summer 2019. Council has not taken any action since these were completed.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

CONTACT THE FOLLOWING CITY LEADERS:

Mayor Andrew Ginther

Contact: Kyndal Sowers KSowers@columbus.gov or Jannis Davis JMDavis@columbus.gov

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DID YOU KNOW?

- **Lack of photo ID can contribute to a sense of isolation** from the civic, cultural, and economic life of the community, and can decrease public safety by making residents lacking ID less likely to report suspicious or criminal activity to the authorities.

- **Driver's licenses or state ID's are NOT available to all.** Many Columbus residents find it either difficult or impossible to obtain the documents required by the state to obtain those state-issued ID's. To make photo ID accessible to all residents, municipal ID programs feature greater flexibility in the types of documents that applicants can present to qualify for an ID. The document lists are designed to reduce barriers to ID access, while still preventing identity fraud.

- **Properly designed municipal ID programs can provide significant new benefits to all residents,** including those who already have other forms of photo ID. Examples include consolidating transit fare payments, library borrowing privileges, access to cultural centers, and business discounts into a single multipurpose card.

SAMPLE E-MAIL/CALL SCRIPT

My name is _____ and I'm from the (organization). I strongly urge your office to take action for a municipal ID program for Columbus because (reason). This is especially critical now that so many people are further isolated and pushed into the shadows. A recent news story by Channel 6 highlighted that City Council has not taken further action to implement a local ID program. Please act now!

GET OTHERS INVOLVED

Spread the word to your friends, family, colleagues, and others in your organization!

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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