

## WHO CAN VOTE



### Can I vote in Wisconsin?

- You can vote if you will be 18 years old or older on Election Day, are a U.S. citizen (by birth – including people born in Puerto Rico – or naturalization) and you live in Wisconsin.

### How long do I have to be a Wisconsin resident to vote here?

- You have to live in Wisconsin for 28 days before Election Day (by Oct. 10). If you move to Wisconsin from another state after Oct. 10, you can register and vote here only for President and Vice President with a “Presidential Ballot.”

### What if I’m a student?

- You can vote even if you are a student living away from your parents. You can choose to vote using your school address or your family’s home address. You may only vote once.

### What about non-English speaking citizens?

- You can vote even if you don’t speak, read or write English, as long as you are a U.S. citizen.

### What if I have a criminal conviction?

- You can vote if you are an EX-FELON, as long as you are “off paper” (not on probation, parole or extended supervision because of a felony conviction). If you’ve been charged with a crime but not convicted yet, you CAN vote. If you’ve been convicted of a MISDEMEANOR, you CAN vote—even while you are serving your sentence.

### What if I’m homeless?

- Homeless Wisconsin citizens have the right to vote. You can vote even if you live in a shelter or park.

## VOTER ID



### Is a photo ID required to vote?

- Right now, registered voters do **not** need photo ID to vote because courts have stopped Wisconsin’s Voter ID law. While we don’t expect this to change before November, that is not certain. Stay in touch with the ACLU of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Election Protection to be sure.
- If you have to register to vote and have a current Wisconsin driver’s license or state ID, you need to put the number of that license or ID card on the registration form—but **you can still register and vote even if you don’t have a Wisconsin license, state ID, or other photo ID**. See the registration section for more.

## REGISTRATION



### How do I register?

- You can register at the polls on Election Day. Until October 17, you can register by mail or with a Special Registration Deputy. You can register in person at your local clerk’s office until November 2. Find a list of the local clerks’ offices online: [gab.wi.gov/clerks/directory](https://gab.wi.gov/clerks/directory).

- You can get mail-in voter registration forms from your county auditor’s office, military recruitment offices, from most libraries, colleges and high schools, or online at <http://sdsos.gov/Elections>.

### What do I need to register?

- *A Wisconsin state driver’s license number or state ID number if you have one:* If you don’t have a license or a state ID, you can put the last four digits of your Social Security number on the registration form. If you lose or forget your license, get the number by calling DMV at (608) 266-2353 (press 4, press 0 to tell an operator your Social Security number, birthday, name and address) and write it on the registration form. It’s OK if the license has a different address than you live at now.
- If you register by Oct. 17 at your clerk’s office or with a Special Registration Deputy, you don’t need to show any papers to prove your address. Voters who don’t have proof of residence documents should register by Oct. 17!
- *If you register after October 17 or on Election Day,* bring a document with your name and voting address. This must be: a driver’s license or state ID card; a recent utility bill (electric, cell, phone, cable, etc.); a lease; a bank statement; a pay check; an employer ID card with your photo; a letter from a homeless shelter or agency that serves homeless people (like a church or meal program); or a college photo ID AND a university fee receipt or list of dorm residents. You can also use any government license, check or document (like public school report cards, hunting licenses, federal student loan notices, or Medicare statements). You can’t use credit card bills, collection notices, magazines, or personal mail to register.

### What if my proof of residence came in the mail right before Election Day?

- Although you have to live at your residence for 28 days before the election in order to vote there, the document you show as proof of residence to register does not have to be 28 days old. For example, you could use a utility bill from Nov. 1 to register on Nov. 6, as long as you’ve been living at the address on the bill since Oct. 10.

### Can my spouse, roommate or neighbor “vouch” for my residency?

- No. Corroboration (“vouching”) is no longer allowed to prove residency.

### How do I know if I’m registered?

- You can enter your name and birthday to look up your current registration status online at <https://myvote.wi.gov> or contact your municipal clerk’s office ([gab.wi.gov/clerks/directory](https://gab.wi.gov/clerks/directory)). If your name is in the system and it has your current address, you don’t need to register again.

### What if I moved since the last time I registered or voted?

- If you’ve moved since the last time you registered or voted, you have to register again at your new address. If you moved after Oct. 10, you need to register and vote at the address you lived at on or before Oct. 10.

## VOTING EARLY OR ABSENTEE



### Can I vote before Election Day?

- Yes. Any voter can vote before Election Day by casting an absentee ballot in person or through the mail. You do not need to provide a reason to get an absentee ballot or vote early. You do have to fill out an application to get an absentee ballot mailed to you.

### When can I vote early in person?

- From Monday, October 22 until Friday, November 2, you can vote “early” absentee in person at your clerk’s office.

### When and how can I vote absentee by mail?

- Mail, fax or email your municipal clerk a request for an absentee ballot by Thurs. Nov. 1. Unless you’re a permanent overseas or military voter, the clerk has to mail you the absentee ballot. You must mail the absentee ballot back to the clerk, making sure it is postmarked by Election Day (Tues. Nov. 6.) The clerk must receive it by 4 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 9.

## VOTING ON ELECTION DAY



### Can I register to vote on Election Day?

- Yes, you can register to vote at the polls on Election Day. See the section on registration for details.

### Where do I vote?

- You can enter your address under Address Search at <https://myvote.wi.gov> to find your polling place. A lot of polling places changed in early 2012 because of redistricting, so double check to be sure you go to the right voting place.
- If you moved after Oct. 10, vote at the polling place for your old Wisconsin address, not your new one.

### When are the polls open?

- You can vote from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. **If you are in line at 8:00 p.m., stay in line –you must be allowed to vote.**

### How do I complete a ballot?

- Connect the two parts of the arrow with a line, using the pencil the poll workers provide.

### Do I have to sign the poll book?

- Yes. Voters must sign *one* poll book next to their names before getting a ballot. Voters cannot refuse to sign the poll book.
- If you usually sign with an “X” or other mark, you may sign the poll book with the same mark. However, you cannot make such a mark in protest if this is not your regular signature.
- If you can’t sign the poll book because of a disability, you need to tell the poll workers this. If the poll workers agree that you cannot sign because of disability, they will write “exempt” on the poll list and give you a ballot.

- If the poll workers don’t agree that you have a disability that keeps you from signing the poll book, then you have to vote a “challenged” ballot. You will have to answer some questions under oath. Your ballot may be marked and examined later, but you will get to vote.

### Can I get time off from work to vote?

- Yes, you have the right to take up to three hours away from work to vote. But you must ask your employer for time off before Election Day. Your employer can decide which three hours you can take off to vote. And your employer does not have to pay you for that time.

### Can I bring voting information to the polls?

- Yes, you can bring printed election materials (like newspapers or voter guides) to your polling place for personal use. However, don't show those materials to other voters, bring signs or wear buttons or articles of clothing that have campaign or partisan information on them.

### What If I am disabled or physically unable to enter the polling place?

- You can vote "curbside." Let the poll workers know you are waiting outside the polling place and the poll workers must meet you outside with your ballot.

### What if I need help voting?

- You are allowed to have help in marking your ballot—any person except for your employer or union representative can help you (even poll workers).

### Can I get a ballot in Spanish?

- Polling places in Milwaukee must have ballots available in Spanish. Other communities in Wisconsin do not have ballots in other languages, but citizens who do not speak, read or write English can get help voting.

### Can I vote for a political party instead of individual candidates?

- No. Voters cannot cast a straight party ticket. This means you must vote for each individual (President, Senator, Representative, etc.) by name.

## PROBLEMS AT THE POLLS

### What if I registered but my name is not listed in the poll book?

- If you are sure you are registered at your current address, give your name and street address to a poll worker to double check the list and ask if you are in the right polling place for your ward. If you are at the right polling place but your name is not on the list, you will have to register again.

### What if someone challenges my right to vote?

- If anyone challenges your right to vote, the chief inspector of the polling place should handle the conflict. Only people who are eligible to vote in Wisconsin and who have a reasonable basis to suspect you don't have the right to vote may make a challenge. Your appearance, your need for assistance or the language you speak are not allowable reasons to make a challenge. Call 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) if this happens to you.

### What if someone harasses me or if I experience intimidation at the polls?

- Report the problem to the chief inspector of the polling place. If the chief inspector isn't helpful, call 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) to talk to a Wisconsin Election Protection attorney or volunteer. You can refuse to talk to observers, media or exit pollsters. Taking pictures or video inside the polling area is not allowed (unless it's the media).

### What if I make a mistake on my ballot?

- If you make a mistake and want a new ballot, you may request one from a poll worker. You can get up to three total ballots. You also can ask for help from a poll worker if you need help in marking your ballot.

### How do I file a complaint if there is a problem?

- Tell the chief inspector of the polling place about the problem. You can call the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board at (608) 266-8005. You can contact Wisconsin Election Protection at 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) to talk to a trained volunteer who can document the problem.



[www.aclu.org/letmevote](http://www.aclu.org/letmevote)



## KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS

★ WISCONSIN ★

**Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2012**

Protect your right to vote! Keep this brochure handy and take it with you to the polls on Election Day.

## TIPS FOR AVOIDING PROBLEMS

- See if you're registered and find where to vote at <https://myvote.wi.gov>
- Vote early if you can. If you vote on Election Day, be prepared for lines, especially in the morning and after work.
- If you don't have an official document with your name and address, register before Oct. 17.
- Ask for help from poll workers if you need it. If you run into problems call Election Protection (1-866-OUR-VOTE / 866-687-8683).

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is a nationwide, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with more than 500,000 members dedicated to defending the principles of liberty and equality embodied in the Constitution and our nation's civil rights laws. The ACLU does not endorse or oppose any candidate or party, but we believe that no civil right is more important than the right to vote.

