

VOTING IN WISCONSIN



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

ACLU
Wisconsin

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 **Common Cause**

Wisconsin
Holding Power Accountable

INTRODUCTION

One of the cornerstones of our democracy is access to free and fair elections. Information is power, and that’s why the ACLU of Wisconsin, Common Cause Wisconsin, and Disability Rights Wisconsin have teamed up to assemble this resource to be your go-to nonpartisan voting guide for the 2024 Election Cycle.

This has information about all things related to voting, including voter ID requirements, absentee and in-person voting, and resources on how to find more information about how you can vote. It always provides valuable information for voters with special circumstances, such as voting with a disability, criminal conviction, who have changed their names, and people experiencing homelessness and how they can participate in voting this year.

For more information, feel free to visit any of our websites

ACLU of Wisconsin: aclu-wi.org

Common Cause Wisconsin: commoncausewisconsin.org

Disability Rights Wisconsin: disabilityrightswi.org



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VOTER ELIGIBILITY

In Wisconsin, to be eligible to vote, you must be:

- ▶ **18 years or older by Election Day**
- ▶ **A U.S. citizen**
- ▶ **A Wisconsin resident for at least 28 days before Election Day**
- ▶ **Registered to vote (or registering on Election Day)**

WHEN TO REGISTER TO VOTE

To vote in Wisconsin, you must be registered. To see if you’re registered at your current address, [check online](#).

You must register if:

- You’ve never voted in Wisconsin before;
- You’ve moved since you voted last in Wisconsin – even if you just moved across the street or to a new apartment in your building;
- You changed your name (by marriage, divorce, etc.) since you last voted (*If you changed your name, you must first update your name IN PERSON at the Social Security Office and the DMV*);
- You haven’t voted in four years or more (and have been taken off the voter registration rolls); or
- You were taken off the voter registration rolls because of a felony conviction, and now you’re “off paper” and are eligible to vote again.

More info on voting if you have a criminal conviction is available [here](#).

2024 ELECTION DATES

February 20

Spring primary

April 2

Spring general election and presidential preference primary

August 13

Fall primary

November 5

Fall general election



HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE IN MANY WAYS, including by mail, online, at your clerk's office, and on Election Day. Register online or find out if you are registered at your current address [here](#).

Bring proof of residence to register in person on Election Day or to your local clerk. Proof of residence can be a hard copy or electronic (shown from your phone or laptop). Some examples of acceptable proof of residence include:

- A current and valid State of Wisconsin ID or driver's license
- A utility bill (within 90 days of registering to vote)
- A check issued to you by the government
- A bank statement
- A real estate tax bill from the current year
- A paycheck or paycheck stub
- Any other official identification card or license issued by a Wisconsin governmental body or unit
- Residential lease effective when registering to vote

*Student registration information can be found on **page 9**

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT:

- ▶ myvote.wi.gov/Register-To-Vote
- ▶ commoncausewisconsin.org/p/voter-registration.html
- ▶ elections.wi.gov/Register
- ▶ aclu-wi.org/VotingRights

3 WAYS TO VOTE

1 AT THE POLLS

Of course, you can also vote in person at the polls on Election Day! [You can find your polling place here](#). Polls in Wisconsin are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Remember: if you are waiting in line when polls close, you are still allowed to vote. Stay in line!

And don't forget your ID. A form of photo ID is required to vote, but your name need not match exactly, and your address need not be current. Acceptable forms of ID for voting in person are:

- A Wisconsin DOT-issued driver's license, *even if driving privileges are revoked or suspended, with or without a star in the right-hand corner.*
- A Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card, with or without a star in the right-hand corner.
- A Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card or driver's license without a photo issued under the religious exemption
- Military ID card issued by a U.S. uniformed service
- A U.S. passport
- An identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin (May be used even if it expires before the most recent general election.)
- A photo identification card issued by a Wisconsin-accredited university or college that contains a date of issuance, the signature of the student, and an expiration date no later than two years after the date of issuance. (May be used even if expired before the most recent general election.)
 - If the university or college ID is expired, the student ID must be accompanied by a separate document that proves current enrollment.

More information about Voter ID and possible exceptions that might apply to you is available [here](#).

2 IN-PERSON ABSENTEE VOTING

You don't have to wait for Election Day to vote at the polls! In-person absentee voting, or "early voting," is available in many locations across Wisconsin. More information about in-person absentee voting, including where to vote, is available [here](#).

3 ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL

Any registered Wisconsin voter is eligible to request an absentee ballot. An absentee ballot can be requested online at myvote.wi.gov/en-us/voteabsentee; by mail (download the application at elections.wi.gov/wec-form/absentee-ballot-request); by email to your clerk's office; or in-person at your clerk's office. You should request your absentee ballot at least two weeks before the election and return it via mail no later than seven days before the election, or hand-deliver it to your clerk's office, polling place, or central count location (if your community uses one) by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

If you have an absentee ballot, follow the instructions to fill it out correctly. Remember that you need a witness! You and your witness must sign the envelope, and your witness must write their FULL address on it.

YOUR VOTE

IS YOUR

POWER

**2024
ELECTION
DATES**

February 20
Spring Primary

April 2
Spring general election
and presidential
preference primary

August 13
Fall primary

November 5
Fall general
election



SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN VOTING

VOTING AFTER A CRIMINAL CONVICTION

People convicted of a felony can vote in Wisconsin once they are “off paper.” People who have been only charged with a felony but not convicted are still eligible to vote. This means that most people in Wisconsin jails are eligible to vote, including those awaiting trial who have not yet been convicted and those with a misdemeanor as their most serious conviction. To be “off-paper,” you must have been convicted of a felony, and have completed any term of confinement, probation, or parole on that offense. If you are otherwise “off-paper” but have outstanding fees and fines from a felony conviction, you should reach out to the Election Protection hotline to discuss your individual situation before registering.

[Document on voting after a conviction](#)

PROVISIONAL VOTING

If an individual cannot provide the required proof of identification at the polling place on Election Day, they may vote provisionally. Every provisional voter must complete a Provisional Ballot Certificate Envelope. While at the polling place, the elector votes the ballot, seals the voted ballot in the Provisional Ballot Certificate Envelope, and returns the sealed envelope to the election inspector. Provisional ballots are not counted until the required proof of identification is provided to the election inspectors by 8 p.m. on Election Day at the polling place or to the municipal clerk or deputy clerk by 4 p.m. on the Friday after the election.



VOTING IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN ID

You can get a free Wisconsin state ID card for voting purposes by following these steps:

1. Go to the Department of Motor Vehicles to apply
2. Bring the following, if available:
 - Proof of name and date of birth (such as birth certificate)
 - Proof of identity (social security card, Medicaid/Medicare Card, etc.)
 - Wisconsin residency (utility bill, government mail, lease, etc.)
 - Proof of U.S. citizenship (U.S. birth certificate or citizenship paperwork)
 - Social security number
3. You can still get an ID for voting if you don't have all or any of these. Just bring what you have to the DMV, fill out two forms (form MV3004, and form MV3012), and you will get a photo ID document in the mail that you can use in time for voting

For assistance, call the DMV's voter ID hotline: **(844) 588-1069**

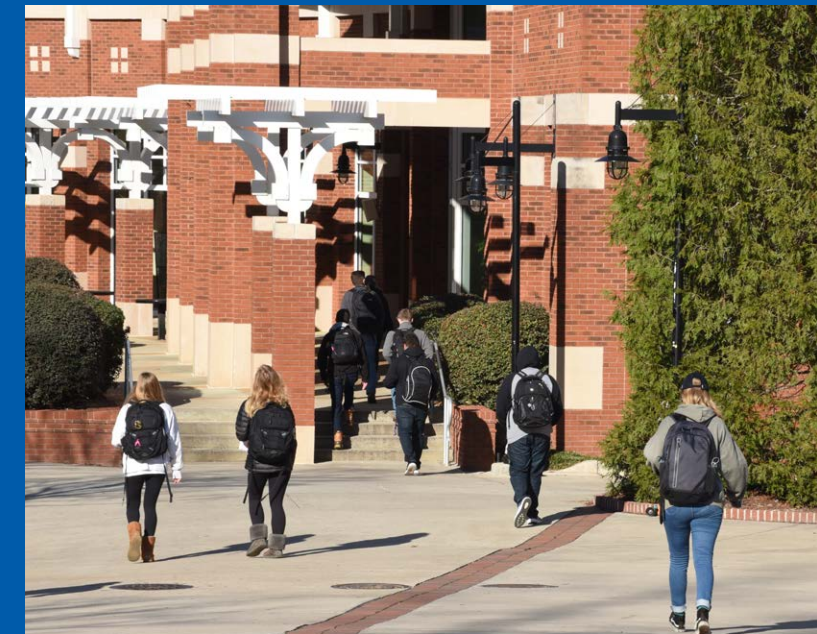
VOTING WHILE LIVING ON CAMPUS

If you are a student and living on campus during an election date, make sure you have everything you need to cast your ballot, including:

A university, college, or technical institute identification card (must include a photo, address not required) with one of the following:

- A fee payment receipt issued to the cardholder by the university, college, or technical college dated no earlier than nine months before the election date. *(The fee payment receipt must include the name and address of the student).*
- A certified and current list of students who reside in housing sponsored by the university, college, or technical college. *(This list should be provided by the university, college, or technical college, and the election official must verify that the student presenting the card is included).*

More information about what you need to vote as a student is available [here](#).



COLLEGE STUDENT IDS is it acceptable for voting purposes?

[UW 4-year schools](#)

[UW 2-year schools](#)

[WI private universities and colleges](#)

[WI technical and community colleges](#)

VOTING WHILE HOMELESS

You can vote if you don't have a home mailing address, but you will still need to provide documentation about where you normally reside when registering to vote. This physical location cannot be a P.O. Box, but it can be the address of a shelter, church, or even a description of a place like a specific street corner or park, as long as you normally reside there and have an intention to return to that location if you are temporarily located somewhere else. Note that even if a shelter does not permit you to use its address as a residential address, you can still use it for voter registration purposes if you normally reside there.

To provide proof of residency at the time of registration, you can provide any of the documents listed above that includes your registration address, if available to you, or if you reside at a location without a mailing address, you can provide a letter from any public or private social service agency (day shelter, church, meal program, etc.) identifying you and describing the physical location of your normal residence. When you vote, you do not need to prove your residence; you only need to provide proof of your identity. If you need help navigating these requirements, please call the **Election Protection Hotline on page 12.**

VOTING WHILE HOSPITALIZED

If you are in the hospital on Election Day or the seven days before Election Day, you can appoint an “agent” to bring you an absentee ballot. Hospitalized voters should follow these steps to request their absentee ballot:

1. Use myvote.wi.gov to complete an absentee ballot request form. In box 7 of the form, the voter must certify that they are hospitalized.
2. The hospitalized voter may then appoint anyone as their agent to request/deliver the ballot on the voter’s behalf. The voter may appoint anyone as their agent. The agent will need to provide their information on the absentee ballot application. The agent’s information should appear in box 7 of the form.
3. If the elector still needs to be registered, the elector must complete a voter registration application [here](#). The agent may deliver the registration along with the absentee ballot request. The voter must also provide a proof of residence document with their registration.
4. The agent for the hospitalized voter delivers a completed absentee ballot application or the written equivalent (and possibly the voter registration form) to the municipal clerk for the hospitalized voter’s municipality of residence.

5. The agent must also show a copy of the voter’s photo ID, or the voter’s original photo ID, to the municipal clerk when making the absentee ballot request. An agent must provide proof of identification before the municipal clerk may issue an absentee ballot to the agent.
6. The municipal clerk issues an absentee ballot, absentee certificate envelope, and uniform instructions in an absentee carrier envelope to the agent for the hospitalized voter.
7. The agent transports the absentee ballot to the hospitalized voter. The hospitalized voter fills out their ballot in the presence of a witness. The hospitalized voter places the voted ballot in the absentee certificate envelope and seals and signs the envelope. The witness also needs to sign the absentee certificate envelope. The voter may also choose their agent to serve as their witness.
8. The agent must deliver or mail the absentee ballot in the certificate envelope to the voter’s municipal clerk. Whether the agent personally delivers the ballot or mails it, it must be received by the municipal clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Hospitalized voters have until 5 p.m. on Election Day to make a request for an absentee ballot.

VOTING IN THE MILITARY OR OVERSEAS

If an individual is stationed overseas on a military assignment, temporarily overseas, for school, or permanently relocated overseas, they are considered an overseas elector.

Military and permanent overseas voters are subject to special procedures for voter registration and are the only types of voters not required to provide proof of residence. Temporary overseas voters are required to provide proof of residence.

All military and overseas voters and any absentee ballots issued to them are tracked in the Statewide Voter Registration System (WisVote). Most military and overseas voters have until 5 p.m. on the fourth day (Friday) preceding the election to make a request for an absentee ballot. If requested, the clerk must transmit an absentee ballot by email or fax to military or permanent and temporary overseas electors.



Military – A member of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine of the United States, Peace Corps, the commissioned corps of the Federal Public Health Service, the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, civilian employees of the United States and civilians officially attached to a uniformed service who are serving outside the United States, and any spouse or dependents of the above residing with or accompanying them.

Permanent Overseas – A U.S. Citizen who is not disqualified from voting and is qualified to vote except for residency but who last resided (or whose parent last resided) in Wisconsin before residing outside the United States. Permanent overseas voters should provide the last address in Wisconsin where they or their parents last resided before moving overseas. Permanent overseas electors only receive ballots for federal offices.

VOTING WITH DISABILITIES

In Wisconsin, all voters, including people with disabilities, have the following rights as protected by federal law:

- To vote privately and independently.
- Accessibility to the polling place, including an accessible route to enter the building.
- Use of an accessible voting machine that allows voters with disabilities to vote privately and independently.
- To receive assistance marking your ballot.
- To ask for reasonable accommodations at the polling place; examples include a chair to sit on, a magnifying glass, pen/paper, or a signature guide.
- Use an assistant to state your name and address when the poll worker requests if you cannot state your name and address.
- To vote curbside if you cannot get into your polling location due to disability.



Voters with disabilities can also have someone help them return their absentee ballot. Find more information on absentee ballot return assistance [here](#).

More information about voting with a disability is available [here](#).

TRANS AND NONBINARY VOTERS

All voters must present a photo ID to vote in person or when they vote absentee for the first time. Election workers are trained to accept photo IDs that “reasonably” look like the voter, ignoring minor changes in appearance like length or color of hair, facial hair, scars, and similar changes. There is also no reason that election workers should be checking the gender/sex marker on the ID. So, while you should be able to vote with your valid ID even if your appearance has changed if you are concerned that your photo ID could be refused, you should consider if you have an alternative ID that does match your current appearance, if there is time to acquire a new ID that does, or in the worst-case, attempt to use your valid ID, and if refused, cast a “provisional ballot,” described on [page 8](#).

VOTING IN A NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Certain jurisdictions must provide all voting materials in languages other than English, depending on the size of the non-English-speaking population there. If you vote in Milwaukee, West Milwaukee, Sharon, Curtiss, Arcadia, or Abbotsford, you can request voting materials, including a ballot, in Spanish. Numerous other cities, towns, and villages must provide voting materials in Native languages. If the place you vote is not required to provide those materials, or if you speak a less-common language, you are entitled to have an assistant help you vote in person or absentee – this could be a family member or a trusted translator. If you use this assistance, you must inform the election worker when you vote that you have brought translation assistance with you. If you don’t have someone to translate for you, call the Election Protection hotline on [page 12](#).

HELPLINES

If you run into issues on election day, during early voting, or in preparing to register or vote, you can contact Election Protection or the following agencies for assistance:

Election Protection Hotlines

English: 866-OUR-VOTE/866-687-8683

Spanish/English: 888-VE-Y-VOTA/888-839-8682

Asian languages/English: 888-API-VOTE/888-274-8683

Arabic/English: 844-YALLA-US/844-925-5287

Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline

Phone: 1-844-347-8683

Email: info@disabilityvote.org

More online resources at disabilityvote.org

HOW TO BECOME A POLL WORKER

Poll workers serve a vital function in our elections. They check in voters, help people register to vote, check photo IDs, and process absentee ballots. These positions are often paid, training is provided, and they can provide a great opportunity to become more involved in the democratic process. To become a poll worker, you must submit an application to the municipal clerk, where you are registered to vote. You can find your clerk's contact information and apply for poll work here.

