

**I-866-OUR-VOTE  
(1-866-687-8683)****Disclaimer:**

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**VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS****1) How can an individual register to vote in Wisconsin?**

There are three ways to register to vote in Wisconsin:

- a) In person: A voter may register to vote at the municipal clerk's office until 5 p.m. on the day before the election. A voter may also register in person at voter registration drives or other designated places within the community, such as a fire station, public library, community center, or independent living center. Check with your local clerk's office for designated registration locations.
- b) By mail: A voter may register to vote by completing the Application for Voter Registration Form (Form EB-131) and returning it via mail to the municipal clerk's office. The form must be postmarked or received 20 days before the election date.
- c) At the polls on Election Day.

**2) Must an individual register to vote?**

Yes, as of 2006 any individual wishing to vote in Wisconsin must be registered to vote in order to vote.

**VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS****3) Where can voter registration forms be obtained?**

There are several ways to obtain an Application for Voter Registration Form (Form EB-131). The form can be downloaded from the Wisconsin State Elections Board website at <http://elections.state.wi.us/subcategory.asp?linksubcatid=1637&locid=47>. Application forms can also be obtained by contacting your municipal clerk's office.

**4) Are there restrictions on registering to vote using a photocopied voter registration form?**

There is no express statutory provision prohibiting the use of photocopied registration forms, although, presumably, a copy with an original signature would be preferred. Only registration applications prescribed by the Government Accountability Board will be accepted.

## 5) Are there restrictions on the use of the National Voter Registration Form?

The National Voter Registration Form can be used in Wisconsin. Presumably, voter registration drives using the National Voter Registration Form are subject to the same requirements described in **Questions #14-17**. If using the National Voter Registration Form in Wisconsin, the political party affiliation and race/ethnicity fields may be left blank.

## 6) Are there restrictions regarding the use of registration form information?

Yes, but only in limited circumstances. The registration lists prepared by the municipal clerk are generally open to public inspection, and any person may obtain a copy of the registration list at the office of the clerk. Also, the municipal clerk may furnish lists of registered voters to candidates who represent at least a portion of the voters in that municipality.

However, persons who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking may request to be listed confidentially on the registration and poll lists. The name and address of the protected person is not listed on the registration and poll list, but rather, the protected person is given a voter identification card with a unique identification serial number assigned by the municipal clerk.

A person wishing to be listed confidentially must register in person at the office of the municipal clerk and make a written request for confidentiality using the Elector Request for Confidential Listing (EB-146) form. To be eligible for confidential listing, an individual must provide **one** of the following:

- a) A copy of a temporary restraining order or injunction;
- b) An affidavit from a sheriff or chief of police, dated within 30 days of the date of the individual's request for confidentiality;
- c) A statement signed by an operator or agent of a shelter, dated within 30 days of the date of the individual's request for confidentiality, indicating that the operator operates the shelter and the requesting individual resides in the shelter; or
- d) A statement signed by a representative of a domestic abuse or sexual assault victim service provider, which states the requesting individual's full name and the fact that the individual received services from that provider within the 24 month period prior to the date of the statement.

Access to this information shall only be granted in limited circumstances.

## 7) Are there restrictions regarding pre-filling information on registration forms?

No. There is no express statutory provision restricting the use of pre-filled information on registration forms. However, any inconsistent information on registration forms, such as an incorrect county or zip code, may delay the registration process. See **Question #13**.

## **COMPLETING VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS**

### 8) How long must you live in an election district before you are eligible to vote?

A person must have been a resident of a Wisconsin election district or ward for ten (10) days before the election. If, however, a person has been a resident of a Wisconsin election district or ward for less than ten (10) days before the election, that person may be entitled to vote for president and vice president, but for no other offices.

### 9) Are there any restrictions on registering to vote using a P.O. Box, college campus, or dorm address?

A person may register to vote using any address he or she considers to be his or her legal residence. The residence of a person is the place where his habitation is fixed, without any present intent to move, and to which, when absent, the person intends to return. No person gains a residence in a Wisconsin election district if he is there for temporary purposes only, and no person shall lose a residence in a Wisconsin election district if he leaves for temporary purposes with an intent to return.

A post office box is not a residence, and may not be used as a residential address. However, a PO Box may be used as the voter's mailing address on the Application for Voter Registration Form (Form EB-131). Similarly, a rural route box without a number should not be used as a residential address.

### **10) If I enter or leave the state because of school, can I register to vote?**

Student status is not a consideration in determining residence for purposes of establishing voter eligibility. A student's residence is typically the place of his parent's residence, unless the student has elected to establish a residence elsewhere, either through registration or other similar act. Therefore, use of a college address is permissible provided that this is where the applicant has established his legal residence. If legal residence is in Wisconsin, a student may vote absentee.

### **11) Are there any identification requirements to register to vote?**

Yes. Proof of residence is required of (a) first time voters registering by mail, (b) individuals who register in person **after** the registration cut-off date, and (c) individuals who register to vote on Election Day. Proof of residence is not required if the individual registers in person before the registration cut-off date. Acceptable forms of identification include:

- a) a current and valid Wisconsin driver's license;
- b) a current and valid Wisconsin I.D. card;
- c) an official I.D. card or license issued by a Wisconsin governmental body or unit;
- d) an employer-issued photo I.D. card, issued in the normal course of business, but not a business card;
- e) a university, college or technical college fee card or I.D. card with photo, full name, and current address;
- f) a utility bill for the period commencing not earlier than 90 days before election day;
- g) a bank statement;
- h) a real estate (i.e., property) tax bill or receipt for the current year or the year preceding the date of the election;
- i) for anyone other than a first time voter, a current residential lease which is effective for a period that includes election day; or
- j) a pay check or a government check or other document issued by a unit of government.

The proof of residence provided must contain the applicant's full name, complete residential address, and state the municipality to which the applicant belongs. Mail addressed to the applicant cannot be considered proof of residence. If an applicant cannot provide proof of residence, an applicant's residency information can be corroborated by another elector residing in the same municipality. The corroborator must sign the applicant's registration form and provide acceptable proof of his own residence.

Furthermore, federal law requires that an applicant supply a driver's license number or the last 4 digits of his social security number in order to register to vote. Such information may be provided on the Application for Voter Registration Form (Form EB-131). Any form lacking this information cannot be processed until such information is provided.

## **12) Are there any identification requirements in order to vote?**

Yes. An individual must show proof of residence at the poll prior to voting if he (a) is a first time voter who registered by mail but did not provide proof of residence when submitting the application, (b) registered in person after the registration cut-off date, or (c) registered at the polling place on Election Day. For acceptable forms of proof of residence, please see **Question 11**.

A first time voter who registers by mail but does not provide proof of residence with his registration form and does not bring proof of residence to the polling place may be entitled to vote by provisional ballot upon execution of an affirmation that the individual is a qualified elector of the district and is eligible to vote in that election. The provisional ballot will not be counted unless the voter provides proof of residence no later than 4 p.m. on the day after the election. Provisional ballots are not given to individuals attempting to register on Election Day who do not provide proof of residence or a corroborator.

## **13) What are the rules regarding missing or illegible information on registration forms?**

The form of the application to register shall require the applicant to provide the following information: full name; date; residence location; citizenship; date of birth; age; Wisconsin driver's license number or the last 4 digits of the applicant's social security number, if any; whether the applicant has resided within the ward or election district for at least 10 days; whether the applicant has been convicted of a felony for which he or she has not been pardoned, and if so, whether the applicant is incarcerated, or on parole, probation, or extended supervision; whether the applicant is disqualified on any other ground from voting; and whether the applicant is currently registered to vote at any other location. The form shall also include a space for the applicant's signature, and a statement that all statements are true and correct.

A registration form cannot be processed if it lacks the applicant's driver's license number or the last 4 digits of his social security number. If the information supplied by the applicant on the form is insufficient to accomplish registration, the clerk will contact the applicant within 5 days, if possible, and request that the applicant appear at the clerk's office or other registration center in order to complete a proper registration form or substantiate the information presented on the submitted form.

## **14) Can a person whose name has changed since registering vote on Election Day?**

Yes. A registered voter may change his name on the registration and poll lists by appearing in person or mailing to the clerk a signed request to change his name on his voter registration. Such requests may be made by filling out a new Application for Voter Registration Form (Form EB-131) and marking the "Name Change" box. Alternatively, a registered voter may choose to change the name on his voter registration on Election Day, provided he notifies the inspector of the change prior to voting.

## **REGISTERING OTHERS TO VOTE**

### **15) What are the laws regarding third-party registration?**

There is no express statutory provision regarding third party registration or voter registration drives. For information regarding registering in person prior to Election Day, see **Questions 1, 11, 12, and 17**

**16) Are there any laws regarding submission of voter registration forms by individuals receiving compensation?**

No. There is no express statutory provision regarding the submission of voter registration forms by individuals receiving compensation.

**17) Is training required for voter registration drives?**

There is no express statutory provision regarding voter registration drives. However, Special Registration Deputies (SRDs) who register voters at the polls or during open registration are required to attend a training course. For more information on the training requirements of SRDs or other election officials, please see the Election Administration Manual's section on "Election Officials," at <http://elections.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=11818&locid=47>.

**18) Are volunteers or staff of voter registration drives required to be county or state residents?**

There is no express statutory provision regarding voter registration drives. However, Special Registration Deputies (SRDs) are required to be qualified Wisconsin electors. If an SRD is appointed by the municipal clerk, the SRD may only register individuals residing in the municipality of his appointment. If the Election Board makes the appointment, the SRD may register individuals in any part of Wisconsin.

## **REGISTRATION DEADLINES**

**19) What is the deadline to register to vote?**

The deadline to vote depends on the method of registration.

- a) By Mail: The registration application form must be postmarked or received 20 days before Election Day. For this election year, applications must be post marked on or before Wednesday, October 15, 2008 to vote in the November 4 election.
- b) In Person: A voter may register to vote at the municipal clerk's office until 5 p.m. on November 3, 2008, the day before the election. If you register with the municipal clerk after October 15, 2008, you must provide proof of residence at the time of registration, and you will be issued a Certificate of Registration, which you must present at your polling place before being issued a ballot.
- c) On Election Day: Voters may register at the polling place on Election Day until the polls close at 8:00 p.m. You must complete a Voter Registration Application and provide proof of residence.

**20) Is Election Day registration allowed?**

Yes. See Question 19.

**21) Does state election law allow for early or absentee voting?**

Yes. A qualified voter may vote by absentee ballot. Voters must request an absentee ballot in writing to the municipal clerk. The voter may either apply using the Application for Absentee Ballot form or submit a written request, as long as the voter signs the request and the request includes the following information: name; residential address; mailing address if any; statement of the elections for which the voter desires an absentee ballot; an indication of status as a military voter, if applicable; declaration that he/she meets the voting requirements; signature; date.

The deadline to submit an absentee ballot application for is 5:00 p.m. on the 5th day before the election, which is Thursday, October 31, 2008 for the November 2008 election. Exceptions to this deadline may be had in the following instances: (a) individuals applying in person at the clerks office (deadline: 5:00 p.m. the day before the election); (b) military and those indefinitely confined (deadline: 5:00 p.m. the 4th day preceding the election); (c) hospitalized and sequestered jurors (deadline: 5:00 p.m. on Election Day); and (d) for September and November elections - military personnel away from their primary residence (deadline: 5:00 p.m. on Election Day).

A municipality may elect to designate a site other than the office of the municipal clerk where voters may request and vote absentee ballots.

## **VOTER REGISTRATION LEGISLATION**

### **21) Is there any pending legislation that affects voter registration? If so, where is it in the legislative process?**

We are unaware of any pending legislation; however a link to the Wisconsin Legislature's recent activity in the election law arena is below.

<http://nxt.legis.state.wi.us/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=WI:Default&d=billhist&jd=top>

### **22) What applicable statutes are possibly affected?**

Chapters 5-12 of the Wisconsin Statutes govern elections held in Wisconsin. Chapter 6 specifically addresses issues of voter registration. The text of these statutes may be found at <http://nxt.legis.state.wi.us/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&d=stats&jd=ch.%206>

### **23) Are there any helpful elections official contacts?**

Wisconsin State Elections Board  
17 West Main Street, Suite 310  
P.O. Box 2973  
Madison, WI 53701-2973  
Phone: (608) 266-8005  
Fax: (608) 267-0500  
<http://elections.state.wi.us>

### **24) What web resources are available?**

The Wisconsin Government Accountability Board has a website dedicated to providing information on the voter registration process: <http://elections.state.wi.us/index.asp>. This site includes resources such as frequently asked questions and voting related forms. The National Campaign for Fair Elections is another resource: <http://www.nationalcampaignforfairelections.org/pages/Wisconsin>.