

# How to REGISTER & VOTE in Wisconsin



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®  
of the La Crosse Area

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## ★ Registering to Vote

To register to vote you must have lived in your district **at least 10 days** before the election.

If you have moved within the state during the 10 days prior to the election, you may register and vote only in your former district, either in person or by absentee ballot. **You can be registered to vote in only one place at a time.** You must provide the last address where you were previously registered.

**Proof of residence is required.** If you change your name or address you are required to update your voter registration information. To check the status of your registration, go online to the MyVote Wisconsin website: [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov).

### Acceptable Proof of Residence

Proof of residence that includes your full name and current street address **is required** with all registrations. Any one of the following is acceptable proof of residence:

- Current and valid Wisconsin driver license or Wisconsin state ID
- Any other official ID card or license issued by a Wisconsin governmental body or unit
- Employee ID card with a photo, but not a business card
- A university, college or technical institute identification card (must include photo), only if the bearer provides a fee receipt dated within the last nine months or the institution provides a certified housing list to the municipal clerk
- Public high school document
- Property tax bill or receipt for the current year or the year preceding the date of election
- Residential lease **if registering in person**
- Utility bill for the period that begins not earlier than 90 days before the day registration is made
- Bank statement
- Pay stub
- Check or other document issued by a unit of government.

Electronic statements displayed on your smartphone, tablet or computer are acceptable. Note: an Internet connection may not be available at your polling place.

### How to register during open registration (20 or more days prior to the election):

#### WITH Driver's License or ID from DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles)

**Register online** up to 20 days before the election. Voters who have a valid State of Wisconsin Driver License or State of Wisconsin ID card issued by DMV can register to vote online at: [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov). To register online, you must enter your name, date of birth, Driver License or ID number and address that matches what is on file with the Wisconsin DMV. If all of the fields match, you will be able to register to vote online without needing to print, sign or mail the form and without needing to send a proof of residence document. Voters who are not able to match their information with the information in the DMV database will be given the option to register by mail (instructions on [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov)).

**WITHOUT Driver's License or ID from DMV**  
**Register by mail** by downloading the voter registration form (EL 131) available online from [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov). You can also call or write your municipal clerk and ask that the form be sent to you by mail. Complete the online form, print it out and sign it, or complete and sign the form you get in the mail, and mail it to your city, town or village clerk. **Your completed form must include valid proof of residence and must be postmarked by the 20th day before the election.**

### To register less than 20 days prior to an election or on Election Day:

You may register at your municipal clerk's office by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before an election or at your polling place on Election Day.



## Who Can Vote in Wisconsin?

### To vote in the state of Wisconsin, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- 18 years of age or older
- A resident of Wisconsin
- Registered to vote

### You **cannot** vote if you have been:

- Convicted of a felony, until after the sentence has been served in full, including probation, parole or extended supervision.
- Declared incompetent to vote by a court.



## Voting: ID is Required

**A Voter/Photo ID is required** to vote in Wisconsin elections. A Wisconsin driver license or ID card is acceptable photo ID for voting. If you already hold an unexpired Wisconsin driver's license or identification (ID) card, or if you hold a Wisconsin driver license or ID card that has expired since the last general election (November 8, 2016), you have what you need to vote. Check [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) for other acceptable voter/photo IDs.

You can get a **free ID for voting if you do not have the documents for a regular WI-ID**. Go to the DMV to apply and bring the following, if available:

1. Proof of Name and Date/Country of Birth (such as Birth Certificate)
2. Proof of Identity (Social Security Medicaid/Medicare Card, etc.)
3. Proof of Residence (Utility bill, lease, etc.)
4. Proof of U.S. Citizenship (U.S. Birth certificate or citizenship paperwork)
5. Social Security Number

If you don't have all or any of these, you can still get an ID for voting. Bring what you have to the DMV, fill out 2 forms, and you will get a photo ID document in the mail that you can use in time for voting. If you need help, call Voter ID hotline: (844) 588-1069.

## Hours, Polling Places

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Find your polling place at [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) or call your municipal clerk's office. Sample ballots are available at your clerk's office, at your polling place and at [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov).

## Voting by Absentee Ballot

If you are a registered voter, you may vote by absentee ballot. For early in-person absentee voting, contact your municipal clerk for dates, locations and hours. To be counted, **your mail-in ballot must be received by Election Day**. It must be signed and witnessed **or your ballot will not be counted**.

## New Resident Voting for President Only

If you have lived in Wisconsin less than 10 days, you may still vote for president only. Ask for the Application for Presidential Ballot (EL-141) instead of the Voter Registration Application. You must provide proof of residence. You will be given a form that will cancel your previous voter registration.

## Provisional Voting

If you are given a provisional ballot, you must provide your municipal clerk's office with required documentation no later than 4:00 p.m. on the Friday after the election, **or your vote will not be counted**. Contact the municipal clerk or the Wisconsin Elections Commission if you have questions.

## Primary Elections

Primary elections are held to nominate candidates to be voted on in the general or spring elections.

**Spring Primary** - Third Tuesday in February.

**Presidential Preference Primary** - Held with the Spring Election in a presidential election year to indicate preferences for president within each political party.

**Fall Primary** - Second Tuesday in August.

## General Elections

**Spring Election** - First Tuesday in April to elect judicial and non-partisan municipal, county and education officials.

**Fall Election** - Even-numbered years on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November to elect U.S. senators and representatives, U.S. president, and state and county partisan offices.



## Your Elected Officials

Visit [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) to get the names and contact information of your elected officials and municipal clerk. You also can contact them through the websites and phone numbers below:

**Wisconsin Legislature** - [legis.wisconsin.gov](http://legis.wisconsin.gov)

Click on "Who Represents Me?" and enter your home address to access the web pages of your state representative and state senator.

**Wisconsin Legislative Hotline** - 1-800-362-9472  
This toll-free number connects you with your state representative or state senator.

**Wisconsin Governor** - [www.wisgov.state.wi.us](http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us)

**President of the United States** - [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov)

**U.S. Congress** - Click "Find Your Senators" at [senate.gov](http://senate.gov) and type your zip code below "Find Your Representative" at [house.gov](http://house.gov).

**The League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area ([lwvlacrosse.org](http://lwvlacrosse.org))** prepared this information to help you be ready to vote and participate in our democracy. LWV is a 501(c)(3) non-partisan, non-profit organization. LWV does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. Our members are women and men who take an active role in making our democratic government work by studying specific local, state and national issues in order to educate voters and to advocate for legislation.

This material is based on Wisconsin election laws and is believed to be correct and accurate as of the date printed. For the most current information, refer to the Wisconsin Elections Commission.