



Wisconsin Voting Guide

This resource seeks to provide voters with a comprehensive, step-by-step guide to participate in any upcoming elections. **In order to vote in Wisconsin, the voter must meet the following criteria:**

- Be a U.S. citizen.
 - Be at least 18 years of age by the election.
 - Have resided at their address for at least 28 days by the election.
 - Have not lost their ability to vote.
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Step 1: Register to Vote

Voter registration is open until 5 p.m. 20 days before the election. Wisconsin requires 28 days to establish residency at a new address, and temporary absence does **not** affect residency as long as the voter intends to return. When the voter registers to vote, they must present a proof of residence document that shows their name and current address. A list of acceptable forms of proof of residence can be found [here](#). If the voter is unsure whether or not they are registered to vote, they may check their registration status online at MyVote.WI.gov.

The voter may register to vote in one of the following three ways:

Online

If the voter has a valid, unexpired Wisconsin driver's license or ID card **and** their address on file with the Department of Motor Vehicles matches the address at which they are registering to vote, they may register to vote online at MyVote.WI.gov. If the DMV does not have the voter's current address on file, they may update it on the DMV's website. The voter does **not** need to obtain a new driver's license or ID card.



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Mail/Delivery

If the voter does not have a valid, unexpired Wisconsin driver's license or ID card, they may complete the voter registration form online at MyVote.WI.gov and mail or deliver the completed form, along with a proof of residence document, to their municipal clerk's office. The voter can find their municipal clerk's office online at MyVote.WI.gov.

In Person

The voter may register to vote in person at their municipal clerk's office until the Friday before the election. Alternatively, the voter may also register to vote at their polling place on Election Day. Either way, the voter must present a proof of residence document. The voter may find their polling place online at MyVote.WI.gov.

Step 2: Request Their Absentee Ballot

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 5 p.m. the Thursday before the election. Anyone may request an absentee ballot in Wisconsin, and the voter does not need a specific reason to do so. The voter may have their absentee ballot mailed to an address different from the address at which they are registered to vote if they are not physically present at their registration address. **The voter should request their ballot as early as possible so there is adequate time to mail it back to their municipal clerk's office.**

Whether the voter is requesting an absentee ballot or voting in person (more on that below), Wisconsin requires all voters to present a photo ID in order to vote. A list of acceptable forms of photo ID and answers to frequently asked questions can be found online at BringIt.WI.gov. The voter may also call the Voter ID Helpline with any questions at 608-285-2141. Information about student IDs can be found [here](#).

The voter may request an absentee ballot in one of the following three ways:

Online

The easiest way to request an absentee ballot is online at MyVote.WI.gov. The voter must be registered to vote in order to request an absentee ballot. (If the voter is not yet registered to vote, they should follow the instructions above.) When the voter requests an absentee ballot, they will be prompted to specify the address to which they would like their absentee ballot mailed and upload a copy of their photo ID.



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Email

The voter may request an absentee ballot via email to their municipal clerk's office. The voter will need to include their name, the address at which they are registered to vote, the address to which they would like the ballot mailed (which can be different from their registration address) and the election(s) for which they would like to receive the ballot. The voter will also need to attach a copy of their photo ID.

Mail/Delivery

The voter may also mail or deliver the absentee ballot [request form](#) to their municipal clerk's office along with a copy of their photo ID. If the voter is already registered to vote, they may receive an absentee ballot request form from the Wisconsin Elections Commission. Please note that this mailing cannot be forwarded to a new address.

Step 3: Complete and Return Their Absentee Ballot

When the voter receives their absentee ballot, there will be three items inside the envelope: instructions for how to complete and return the ballot, the ballot itself and a return envelope. The return envelope is pre-addressed to the voter's municipal clerk's office and includes postage, so all they need to do is return it in the mail. **The completed ballot must arrive at the voter's municipal clerk's office or their polling place no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day. The U.S. Postal Service recommends that completed ballots be placed back in the mail one week before the election in order to arrive in time. The voter should check with their municipal clerk's office to see if there are any locations to drop off their ballot.**

The voter should read through the instructions so their ballot is completed correctly and will be counted. The voter will need to have someone witness them complete their ballot, and that person must sign their name and write their address on the certificate of the return envelope. The voter's witness may be any adult U.S. citizen except for a candidate that appears on the ballot. In order to ensure their ballot is completed correctly and will be counted, the voter should go through the following checklist:

- Use a black or blue pen to complete their ballot.
- Review their name and address on the return envelope to ensure it is correct.
- Once completed, place their ballot in the return envelope.
- Sign and date the certificate on the return envelope.
- Have their witness sign and write their address on the return envelope.
- Mail or deliver their completed ballot to their municipal clerk's office.



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Check the Status of Their Ballot

The voter may check the status of their ballot online at MyVote.WI.gov. This will show the date the voter requested the ballot, the date it was mailed to them and the date their completed ballot was received.

In-Person Absentee Voting (Early Voting)

Alternatively, the voter may vote absentee in person at their municipal clerk's office starting two weeks before the election and up until the Sunday before the election. (This is also referred to as early voting.) The voter should check with their municipal clerk's office for early voting locations and hours. Wisconsin requires all voters to present a photo ID in order to vote. A list of acceptable forms of photo ID and answers to frequently asked questions can be found online at BringIt.WI.gov. Remember to practice social distancing and wear a face covering while in public.

In-Person Voting on Election Day

Of course, the voter may also vote in person at their polling place on Election Day. The voter may find their polling place at MyVote.WI.gov and should make note that their polling place may have moved since the last election. Wisconsin requires all voters to present a photo ID in order to vote. A list of acceptable forms of photo ID and answers to frequently asked questions can be found online at BringIt.WI.gov. Remember to practice social distancing and wear a face covering while in public.

About Us

Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP) is a national nonpartisan project that helps administrators, faculty, staff and student leaders at America's institutions of higher education engage students in federal, state and local elections. CEEP views voting as a means to promote a more equitable and inclusive democracy and to address past and present disenfranchisement. To learn more, visit CampusElect.org or contact us at Info@CampusElect.org.
