



Student Voting Guide for Wisconsin

2014 Registration Deadlines and Election Dates

General Election Registration Deadlines

- In-person registration closes on October 15 (the third Wednesday before Election Day).
- After that, late registration may be accomplished in person at your municipal clerk's office up until the Friday before Election Day, here October 31
- Lastly, registration at the polls on Election Day is available

Early Voting Period

- Early voting runs only on weekdays for two weeks before an election, ending at 5 p.m. or the close of business (whichever is later) on the Friday before Election Day (October 20 – 31).

General Election: November 4

Voter registration forms, polling place locations, and more information can be found at the Government Accountability Board's website: <http://gab.wi.gov/voters>

The Higher Education Act requires most colleges and universities to make a good faith effort to distribute voter registration forms to every student. Does yours?

Register at School or Home?

Students have a choice about where to register to vote:

School residence:

- Students attending college in Wisconsin may register to vote at their school address if they presently intend to make it their residence and to return there after any temporary absence like summer vacation. They do not have to plan to reside at that address permanently or after graduation.

Home residence:

- Some students may choose to register or remain registered at their home (prior) address in Wisconsin or outside the state if they intend to return there after college. In this case, a student may need to vote by absentee ballot.
- Wisconsin residents who move away for college can keep their Wisconsin voting residency so long as they still consider Wisconsin the location of their primary residence and do not register or declare residency elsewhere. These students may request to vote absentee.

For other state's registration information visit:
www.campusvoteproject.org/studentguides

What Type of ID Do I Need to Register?

Except for military and overseas voters, all other registrants in all circumstances must provide a copy of or show proof of residency when registering to vote or reregistering to change a name or address (a new registration form is required for each such change). If you fail to provide proof of residency, a registration application will NOT be processed and you will NOT appear on the rolls when you go to vote. Proof of residency must contain the voter's name and current address and be current and valid on Election Day (unless otherwise specified). The full list of acceptable proof-of-residency documents is as follows:

- A current and valid Wisconsin driver license or identification card;
- Any other official ID card or license issued by a Wisconsin governmental body or unit;
- A university, college, or technical college identification card (must include photo) ONLY if the voter provides a fee receipt dated within the last 9 months or the institution provides a certified housing list to the municipal clerk;

(more ID options on the next page)

www.campusvoteproject.org

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What Type of ID Do I Need to Register? (continued)

- *Public* university correspondence & documents including admissions correspondence, financial aid notices, report cards, schedules, and MyUW-Madison / Student Center webpage screen;
- Any identification card issued by an employer in the normal course of business and bearing a photo of the card holder, but not including a business card;
- A real estate tax bill or receipt for the current year or the year preceding the date of the election;
- A gas, electric, or telephone service statement (utility bill) for a period beginning no earlier than 90 days before Election Day;
- Bank statement;
- Paycheck;
- A check or other document issued by a unit of government;
- An affidavit on public or private social service agency letterhead identifying a homeless voter and describing the individual's residence for voting purposes; or
- Residential lease that is effective on date of registration. (Not valid if registering by mail.)

Wisconsin's voter registration form asks for your Wisconsin driver's license or ID number, if you have one, or if you do not, the last four digits of your Social Security Number. Failure to provide this information could lead to you having to show additional identification when you vote that shows your picture or your name and address. Make sure to provide this information on the registration form so the state can verify your identity and you don't run into problems when you cast your ballot. The municipal clerk will follow up with you if they couldn't match you based on the number you provided; the voter's registration application is not rejected.

What Type of ID Do I Need to Vote?

Both in-person and absentee Wisconsin voters MUST show one of the following types of photo ID at the polls or submit a copy with the absentee ballot request.

- Wisconsin driver's license or ID card (must be current or expired after November 6, 2012 general election) [Suspended or revoked licenses are valid if they are in your possession.]
- Military or uniformed service ID card (NOT including a Veterans Identification Card issued by the VA)
- U.S. Passport (must be current or expired after November 6, 2012 general election)
- Certificate of naturalization issued on November 4, 2012 or later
- Tribal ID card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin
- College or university student ID card with a signature, an issuance date, and an expiration date no later than 2 years after the issuance date. Student ID must be presented with proof of current enrollment such as a tuition fee receipt or letter verifying enrollment. [At this time, it is unclear whether technical college IDs will be accepted, but FELN is working to gain clarity on this issue.]
- Unexpired receipt given after applying for Wisconsin driver's license or ID card
- Ticket/citation from the last 60 days if you had to surrender your driver's license

Photo ID does NOT need to have any address or a current address, just your name and photo. If the ID presented does not also qualify as proof of residence, the elector shall also present proof of residence, which must contain your name and current address.

Where Do I Vote?

- Polling place locator online at GAB's website: <https://myvote.wi.gov/>.
- Voters must cast their ballots in the correct precinct. Sometimes there are multiple precincts in one polling place, so confirm your precinct ahead of time and get in the correct line!

*This Guide was prepared by FELN staff who are not licensed to practice law in Wisconsin and FELN intends that the information contained herein is used only as a general guide. This document should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a licensed Wisconsin legal professional.
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How Can I Vote?

By Mail

- Wisconsin residents who want to remain registered in their home county and vote absentee may do so, as Wisconsin does not require an excuse to vote absentee. First-time voters can vote absentee in Wisconsin, even if they registered by mail.
- Wisconsin voters can request an absentee ballot by using the Application for [Absentee Ballot \(GAB-121\)](#) and mailing it to their local elections official or delivering it to the office. Requests for absentee ballots must be received by mail, email, or fax by 5 p.m. five days before the election (October 30, 2014) or completed in the general registrar's office by 5 p.m. four days before the election (October 31, 2014).
- Completed ballots must be returned by 8 p.m. on Election Day or postmarked no later than Election Day and received by the municipal clerk no later than 4 p.m. on the Friday after the election.
- Out-of-state students who are considering voting absentee in their home state outside of Wisconsin should first determine absentee requirements for their state. Some states do not allow voting by mail for voters casting a ballot for the first time in the state. Also, some states require copies of identification be mailed with an absentee ballot. Out-of-state students should determine if they want to vote absentee in another state or register in Wisconsin before the Wisconsin registration deadline.

Early In-Person Absentee

- A voter can vote early at their municipal clerk's office. Please check with your municipal clerk for office hours. You can find your clerk at [My Vote Wisconsin](#) by searching for your voter record or performing an address search. You can also find your clerk by searching through [the list of all Wisconsin municipal clerks](#).
- Early (In-Person Absentee) Voting now only runs on weekdays for two weeks before an election, ending at 5 p.m. or the close of business (whichever is later) on the Friday before the election (October 20 to 31).

On Election Day at the Polls

- You can also vote at your assigned polling place on Election Day. Not registered? Not a problem. As noted above, you can register at the polling place with proof of residency.
- The polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Common Questions

Will voting in Wisconsin affect my federal financial aid?

Where you register to vote will not affect federal financial aid such as Pell Grants and Perkins or Stafford loans or your dependency status regarding FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Will I lose my scholarship if I register to vote in Wisconsin?

Generally, no. If you receive scholarship money from a state, county, town, or a private entity (i.e., an entity other than the federal government) you should confirm that residency in a particular place is not a requirement of the scholarship and/or that voter registration in Wisconsin will not affect your eligibility.

Will registering to vote in Wisconsin affect my driver's license or car registration?

With few exceptions, registering to vote in Wisconsin will have no impact on changing your driver's license and motor vehicle registration. However, as a full-time student in Wisconsin, you may have to make these changes regardless of whether you register to vote in Wisconsin. For more information, you may wish to contact the Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles.

Will registering to vote in Wisconsin prevent my parents from claiming me as a dependent on their taxes?

No. Students are often told that registering to vote in a different state from their parents will make them lose their dependency status. This is not true. Where you register to vote will have no effect on your parent's tax status.

Does being an in-state or out-of-state student for tuition purposes affect my right to vote?

No. You may choose to vote in your college community or back home regardless of your tuition status.

According to the U.S. Supreme Court, students have the right to register and vote in their college towns if they meet the same requirements as everyone else. Misinformation, such as claims that registering to vote at school may jeopardize eligibility for financial aid or insurance, are sometimes used to discourage students from voting locally.