

Wisconsin

Registration Deadline

Wisconsin has several “safe harbor” deadlines: forms should be received or postmarked by the second Wednesday before an election (13 days for a federal general election). However, municipal clerks may accept late-filed forms as long as the registration lists can be revised to accommodate the applicant before Election Day. On showing proof of residence or filing a corroborating affidavit signed by another voter with proof of residence, an applicant may also register in person at the clerk’s office through the day before Election Day, to receive a certificate allowing her to vote. Finally, an applicant may also register at the polls on Election Day.¹

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Database Implementation Status

Wisconsin is currently constructing a top-down, centralized voter registration system, in which municipal clerks will have direct access to a statewide database. Wisconsin’s vendor, Accenture, was not able to complete the construction of the system by January 1, 2006.²

Entering Voter Registration Information

Who inputs voter registration information? Municipal clerks generally review and enter information from voter registration forms in their jurisdictions into the statewide system.

What happens to voter registration forms submitted at state registration agencies? Because it offers Election Day registration, Wisconsin need not accept registration forms at various state agencies under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. The Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) does not accept voter registration forms. Any forms received by the state will be forwarded to the appropriate municipality for review and entry.

How are most forms submitted? In the Election Assistance Commission’s 2004 survey, Wisconsin did not report the distribution of how its voter registration forms were submitted.³

Voter Registration Form

The relevant portions of the voter registration form are included at the end of this section.

Processing of Forms Without Identifying Numbers

How will the state treat an application with an affirmative indication that the applicant has no valid identifying number? Wisconsin has no stated policy.

How will the state treat an application without an identifying number and without an affirmative indication that the applicant has no such number? The application is considered “pending.” If uncorrected (see below), the applicant will have to re-register on Election Day.

How will the state treat an application listing an identifying number that is either incomplete or illegible? If the applicant is otherwise eligible, she will be considered registered.

Matching Against Motor Vehicle and Social Security Records

What fields from the voter registration form will the state seek to match to motor vehicle or Social Security records? Identifying number, name, date of birth.

How precise is the match standard? Wisconsin uses a “substantial match” standard.

How much human intervention is involved in determining whether information is matched? The system will first return a list of records with an exact match of the identifying number; the municipal clerk has the discretion to determine whether a likely match exists among the possible matches returned. If no record is found with a matching identifying number, the municipal clerk will access the system manually to seek a substantially matching name and date of birth.

Description of matching process: When an applicant’s information is submitted, the system will attempt to return a list of records with an exact match of the identifying number; the municipal clerk then has the discretion to determine whether a likely match exists among the possible matches returned. If no record is found with a matching identifying number, the municipal clerk will access the system manually to seek a substantially matching name and date of birth. If an incomplete identifying number is submitted, and the municipal clerk finds a substantially matching name and date of birth, the clerk will affirmatively enter the appropriate identifying number in the voter registration record.

Wisconsin will also mail each registrant a registration notice. If the notice is returned as undeliverable, the registration will be rejected.⁴

What are the consequences if the state cannot find a match ? If the applicant is otherwise eligible, she will be considered registered, but will have to show identification at the polls.

Notice and Opportunity to Resolve Errors

Does the applicant have the opportunity to correct a missing or incomplete identifying number, without submitting a new form? Yes. The applicant may correct missing or incomplete information at any point before Election Day, or she may re-register on Election Day by submitting a new form.

Does the applicant have the opportunity to resolve a failed match, without submitting a new form? Yes. The applicant may submit information to resolve a failed match at any point before Election Day, or she may re-register on Election Day by submitting a new form.

If information on an otherwise timely application is corrected after the voter registration deadline, is the correction timely? Yes. The applicant may correct information at any point before Election Day.

Description of notice and correction process: The municipal clerk will attempt to notify by mail an applicant whose identifying number is missing, incomplete, illegible, or unverified. The notification will inform the applicant that she must provide the clerk's office with proof of residency before Election Day or at the polls. The applicant may attempt to resolve the error at any point before Election Day by phone, mail, or in person. The applicant may also re-register at the polls on Election Day.

Identification Requirements at the Polls

Who must provide identification at the polls? An applicant whose identifying number was not verified and who has not previously submitted identification, a first-time voter registering by mail, and any applicant registering on Election Day, must provide identification.⁵

Forms of ID:

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| 1st-time voters registering by mail or voter without verified number: | current and valid photo ID current utility bill w/ name, address bank statement w/ name, address paycheck w/ name, address other gov't document w/ name, address |
| Election Day registrant: | proof of name and residence affidavit by corroborating voter |

What forms of identification are accepted? An applicant whose identifying number was not verified and who has not previously submitted identification, and a first-time voter registering by mail, must provide a current and valid photo ID, or a copy of a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or other government document with a current name and address.⁶ A voter registering on Election Day must provide proof of residence – including a current and complete name and residential address – or file a corroborating affidavit signed by another voter with proof of residence.⁷

What are the consequences of failing to show identification? The applicant may vote a “ballot under s. 6.97, stats.”⁸ This ballot will be counted if the municipal clerk or executive director of the municipal board of election commissioners determines that the vote was qualified to vote in the appropriate election district.⁹

Statutes and Regulations

WIS. STAT. ANN. ch. 6 generally concerns registration. WIS. STAT. ANN. § 6.36 directs the state elections board to establish and maintain a statewide voter registration system. There are no applicable regulations.

End Notes

¹ WIS. STAT. §§ 6.28, 6.29, 6.54, 6.55.

² electionline.org, *Assorted Rolls: Statewide Voter Registration Databases Under HAVA*, June 2005, available at <http://www.electionline.org/Portals/1/EB11.FINAL1.pdf>, at 24; electionline.org, *Statewide Voter Registration Database Status*, at <http://www.electionline.org/Default.aspx?tabid=288>; Ryan J. Foley, *Election Board Mulls Contractor Penalties*, WIS. STATE J., Sept. 29, 2005, at B1; John McCormick, *Illinois to Miss Deadline for Voter Rolls Law*, CHI. TRIB., Dec. 30, 2005, at 6.

³ Election Assistance Commission, *The Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office 2003-2004*, June 30, 2005, tbl. 2, available at http://www.eac.gov/NVR_Spreadsheets/NVRA_table_2.html. Due to rounding, the percentages listed may exceed 100%.

⁴ WIS. STAT. § 6.32(4).

⁵ *Id.* §§ 6.36(2)(c)(2), 6.55.

⁶ *Id.* §§ 5.02(6m), 6.36(2)(c)(2).

⁷ *Id.* § 6.55(7). Proof of residence includes: a state driver's license or ID card, any other government or employer ID (but not business cards), a credit card, a library card, a check-cashing or merchant courtesy card, a real estate tax bill or receipt for the current or prior year, a residential lease for the period including Election Day, a college fee or ID card, a pilot's license, or a utility bill from the last 90 days. *Id.* § 6.55(7)(c).

⁸ *Id.* § 6.79(2)(d).

⁹ *Id.* § 6.97.



Voter Registration Application

Submitted by Mail
(Office Use Only)

Confidential Elector ID#
(HINDI - sequential #) (Office Use Only)

SVRS ID #
(Office Use Only)

General Instructions:
Please Review Fully

Please use uppercase (**CAPITAL**) letters only. Fill in circles as appropriate. Return completed form to municipal clerk. This document can be made available in accessible formats to persons with disabilities, upon request.
NOTE: If this is a change of address, then upon completion of this application, your voting rights will be canceled at your previous residence.
If you are registering to vote in Wisconsin for the first time and submitting this application by mail, you must provide identification with this application. If you do not provide identification with this application, you will be asked for identification the first time that you vote. Please see reverse side for a list of acceptable forms of identification.

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|---|--|--------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | <input type="radio"/> New WI Voter <input type="radio"/> Name Change <input type="radio"/> WI Address Change | Municipality | <input type="radio"/> Town <input type="radio"/> Village <input type="radio"/> City | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | County | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| 2 | Wisconsin Driver License/ID Number | | | | | | | | | | | | | <input type="radio"/> I have neither a WI DOT-issued ID nor a Social Security Number. |
| | Social Security Number - Last Four Digits (if no license/ID number) | X | X | X | - | X | X | - | | | | | | |

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| 3 | Last Name | | | | | | | | | | | | | Suffix (e.g. Jr, II, etc.) | | | | |
| | First Name | | | | | | | Middle Name | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) | | | / | | | / | | | | | | | | | | | |

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|---|---------|---|--|--|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 4 | Current | Residence Address: Street Number & Name | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Apt. Number | | | City | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | State | | | ZIP + 4 | | | | | | | | | | |

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|---|----------|---------------------------------------|--|--|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 5 | Previous | Mailing Address: Street Number & Name | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Apt. Number | | | City | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | State & ZIP + 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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|---|----------|-------------------------------|--|--|------|--|--|--|-------------|--|--|--|--|--|----------------------------|--|--|
| 6 | Previous | Last Name | | | | | | | | | | | | | Suffix (e.g. Jr, II, etc.) | | |
| | | First Name | | | | | | | Middle Name | | | | | | | | |
| | | Address: Street Number & Name | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Apt. Number | | | City | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| 8 | Please answer the following questions by filling in "Yes" or "No": 1. Are you a citizen of the United States of America? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No 2. Will you be 18 years of age on or before election? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No | | | | | | | | | | | | | If you filled in 'No' in response to EITHER of these questions, do <u>not</u> complete this form. |
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| 9 | I certify that I am a qualified elector, a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, having resided at the above residential address for at least 10 days immediately preceding this election, not currently serving a sentence including probation or parole for a felony conviction, and not otherwise disqualified from voting. I certify that all statements on this form are true and correct. If I have provided false information I may be subject to fine or imprisonment under State and Federal laws. <u>If completed on election day:</u> I further certify that I have not voted at this election. (Please fill in circle) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 10 | Corroborating Witness/ Assistant Signature | X | Corroborating Witness/ Assistant Address | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 11 | Elector Telephone Number | | | | | | | | | | | | | <input type="radio"/> I am interested in being a poll worker. |
| | Accommodation needed at poll location (e.g. wheelchair access): | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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|----|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 12 | If you do not have a street number or if you have no address, please use the map to show where you live: > Write the names of the crossroads (or streets) nearest to where you live. > Draw an 'X' to show where you live. > Use a dot to show any schools, churches, stores or other landmarks where you live and write the name of the landmark. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|---|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Signature of Elector | | X | Date (MM/DD/YYYY) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Office Use Only: Proof of Residence/ID: | | Office Use Only: Election Day Voter # | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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|---|------------------|---------------------------|------------|--------|------------|-------------|----------|------------|----------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| Office Use Only: Proof of Residence/ID: | | Office Use Only: Proof #: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Official's Signature (election official, or special registration deputy (with ID number)) | Office Use Only: | Ward | Sch. Dist. | Alder. | Cty. Supr. | Ct. of App. | Assembly | St. Senate | Congress | Other | | | | |



Voter Registration Application Instructions

General Instructions: **This form should be submitted to your municipal clerk, unless directed otherwise.**
Please Review Fully Each section on the front side of this document corresponds to the sections below (1-12). If you are registering to vote in Wisconsin for the first time and submitting this registration form by mail, attach a copy of one of the following forms of identification:

- a copy of a current and valid photo identification; or,
- a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, pay check, or government document that shows your complete name and address.

- 1 Indicate why you are submitting this application by filling in the appropriate circle (New Voter, Name Change and/or Address Change).
 If your municipal information has not been pre-printed, indicate the municipality and county of your residence. Ensure you use the formal names of your municipality and county. If in doubt please contact your municipal clerk to confirm this information.
- 2 Provide a Driver License or other WI Department of Transportation (DOT)-issued identification number. If you have not been issued a WI Driver License/WI DOT-issued identification card, provide the last four digits of your social security number. If you have neither a driver's license or other WI DOT-issued identification number, nor a social security number, indicate this by filling in the appropriate circle.
- 3 Provide your current first and last names in the spaces provided. If applicable, please provide your suffix and/or middle name. Enter your formal names, as indicated on official government documents; no nicknames. Provide your month, day, and year of birth where indicated. Remember to use your birth year, not the current year.
- 4 Provide your home address (legal voting residence). This residence must be located in Wisconsin. The full house number should be filled in, including those with house numbers ending in a fraction like "1/2."
 You may not enter a post office box as a voting residence. A rural route box without a number should not be used.
- 5 If your mailing address is different from your home address, supply your mailing address in the space provided. Overseas electors: supply your complete overseas mailing address information.
- 6 If your name has changed, indicate your previous first name, last name, middle name and suffix if applicable; no nicknames. Provide this information regardless of the time elapsed since your name change.
- 7 If you have a previous address, provide the relevant information in the space provided, even if you have moved from another state. Provide information regardless of the time elapsed since you were located at the previous address.
- 8 Answer questions 1 and 2. If you answered "no" to either question, you are ineligible to vote and should not to complete this form.
- 9 Please read carefully. By filling in the circle, you are certifying that you meet eligibility requirements to vote. If you do not meet these requirements, do not fill in this circle.
- 10 If you are completing this application on election day or in the office of the municipal clerk after the official close of registration, you must provide acceptable proof of residence. If you are unable to do so, you may have any qualified elector residing in your municipality act as a corroborating witness by signing and printing his/her address in the space provided. That elector must provide acceptable proof of residence.
 If you are unable to sign the application due to a physical disability, you may have another elector assist you. By signing this form and filling in their address, the assisting elector certifies that the application was completed at your request and authorization.
- 11 Optional: Providing your telephone number allows elections officials to contact you if further information is required. Complete the circle if you are interested in being a poll worker on election day.
 If you need assistance when voting, describe the assistance required (e.g. wheelchair access).
- 12 If necessary, please illustrate your residence location in the space provided.

Signature:
 By signing and dating this form, you certify that you are a qualified elector, a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, have resided at your residential address for at least 10 days immediately preceding this election, are not currently serving a sentence including probation or parole for a felony conviction, and not otherwise disqualified from voting. You are certifying that all statements on this form are true and correct. If you have provided false information you may be subject to fine or imprisonment under State and Federal laws. If completed on election day: You further certify that you have not voted at this election.