

WISCONSIN'S VOTER ID LAW: FIVE MAJOR CHANGES

Starting this year, you'll need to show a qualifying photo ID to cast your vote in Wisconsin—but that isn't the only restriction Republicans have put in place since the last election. Here are five of the biggest changes you need to know about for 2012:

1 • You need a photo ID to vote.

Your photo ID must include:

- Your name
- A photo of yourself
- An expiration date
 - Wisconsin Driver's licenses and ID cards, military ID cards, and U.S. passports must be unexpired or have expired after November 2nd, 2010 (the date of the last general election).
 - Certificates of Naturalization must be issued less than two years prior to Election Day.
 - Driving receipts, ID receipts, tribal IDs, and student IDs may be acceptable if unexpired.

Your ID card is not required to have a printed address. If your ID does show an address, it does not need to be your current residence.

You may already have a form of accepted ID that fits the above requirements—such as a:

- Wisconsin driver's license, issued by the Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Wisconsin ID card (issued by the DOT)
- U.S. passport
- Military ID
- Tribal ID
- Student ID from a Wisconsin college or university
- Driving receipt and state ID receipt—both issued by the DOT

Do you need to get an ID?

[Click here to learn how to get one at your local Department of Motor Vehicles \(DMV\).](#)

2 • Residency requirements to vote in a particular ward have been lengthened from 10 days to 28 days.

If you have changed addresses within Wisconsin during the 28 days leading up to the election, you must vote at your old polling place. If you are otherwise eligible to vote but have moved to Wisconsin within 28 days of the election, you are entitled to vote for the president and vice president—but not for other offices.

3 • You need to provide documentary proof of residence if you register within 20 days of an election or on Election Day.

You can provide proof of residence with one of these commonly used forms:

- Utility bill
- Cell phone bill
- Pay stub
- Bank statement
- Paycheck
- Wisconsin driver's license
- Mortgage document
- Employee photo ID
- Community based/assisted living residential contract
- Documents issued by any Wisconsin government entity
- School Transcript (certified)
- Hunting/Fishing License
- College Enrollment or Certified School Record
- Insurance Policy

4 • Voter registration periods prior to Election Day are limited.

Voter registration will end at 4:00 p.m. on the Friday before Election Day and open again on Election Day.

Note: You can still register at the polls on Election Day. If you choose to register on Election Day, you will need to show proof of residence to register and a photo ID to vote.

5 • Opportunities to vote before Election Day have been limited.

Early voting takes place after the third Monday preceding the election and before 4:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election. Voting no longer takes place the weekend or day before an election. Deadlines for requesting and returning mail-in absentee ballots have not changed.