Electronic Proof of Residence for Voter Registration

Information provided by the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

What has changed?	On August 28, 2012, the Government Accountability Board voted unanimously to allow voters to use electronic versions of acceptable documents to serve as proof of residence.
Do polling places have to provide electronic devices and/or internet access for voters to use?	➢ No. It is the responsibility of the voter to provide the electronic device (smartphone, tablet computer, laptop, etc.). ➢ It is also the responsibility of the voter to provide the internet access for their electronic device. Polling places are not required to have internet access or wireless networks available. ➢ Polling places may voluntarily supply electronic devices and internet access to assist voters in the voter registration process, but are not required to do so.
Is there a different standard for the examination of electronic proof of residence documents?	➢ No. Election officials should use uniform standards for determining if a document is acceptable no matter the format. ➢ Election officials may not reject an acceptable proof of residence document merely because it is in electronic format.
What should an election official do if they are having trouble reading the electronic document or locating the necessary information?	➢ If the document is not readable, the inspector should ask the voter to expand the size of the type on the screen or seek assistance from another election official. ➢ The voter must, upon request of the election official, navigate and/or zoom in on the document so that the election official may view the required information on the electronic document (name, address, account number, date, and type of document) in a readable form. ➢ Just as with paper proof of residence documents, if a voter is unable or unwilling to present their proof of residence document in a format that is readable to the election official, it may be rejected and the voter may not be able to register with that document.
Are election officials required to handle the voter's electronic device?	➢ No. Election officials are not required to handle the device to locate the required information on the electronic document. ➢ The voter should hold the device or place it in front of the election official in a manner that ensures that the election official can read the necessary information. ➢ Election officials are not prohibited from handling an electronic device, but should first confirm with the voter that it is acceptable to do so.

Electronic Proof of Residence for Voter Registration (Continued)

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May election observers handle or view a voter's electronic device or their electronic proof of residence document?	No. The law does not entitle election observers to handle or view the device on which an electronic proof of residence document is displayed. Election observers also cannot handle or view electronic or paper proof of residence documents.
Has anything changed about the information that an election official must record on the GAB-131?	No. The election official must still record the same information on the voter registration form, including information about the type of document provided and any identifying account number associated with the document, if a number is available.
Are there any 'best practices' for election officials that are recommended for handling electronic proof of residence documents?	➢ Voters should have the acceptable document readily displayed on the screen when they arrive at the voter registration area. ➢ Patience and cooperation are encouraged on the part of both election officials and voters to ensure that the voter registration process, when using electronic proof of residence, goes smoothly. ➢ Election officials are required and expected to diligently examine the electronic document and make sure to record the required information. ➢ Election officials should not hesitate to ask for assistance from other poll workers or the Chief Inspector if they have questions about the validity of a document, or if they are having trouble reading or locating the required information on the electronic device.

Voter Information: http://myvote.wi.gov

For more information, please visit the Government Accountability Board website: http://gab.wi.gov or call 1-866-VOTE-WIS or contact the G.A.B. Help Desk at 608-261-2028 or TTY 1-800-947-3529.