



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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Enabling Qualified Homeless Individuals to Vote

Wisconsin's election law embodies a commitment to facilitate voting for all qualified individuals, including those who happen to be homeless at the time of the election. The information in this memorandum is designed to facilitate participation of qualified individuals while protecting the integrity of the electoral process. It is essential that all qualified Wisconsin electors be provided with the opportunity to help choose the elected governmental representatives who develop and implement policies that affect them.

Any United States citizen aged 18 or older who is not otherwise disqualified may vote in Wisconsin if he or she meets the statutory residency requirements. Qualified individuals must have lived in Wisconsin for at least 28 days. These persons must have an identifiable location that they consider their residence for voting purposes and to which they intend to return, when absent.

Homeless individuals may designate a fixed location for their residence for voting purposes if it is an identifiable location in the state of Wisconsin which could conceivably serve as a temporary residence. This location may be a homeless shelter, a park bench, or other location where a homeless individual may spend time or return to when absent.

A homeless individual may claim a shelter for the homeless as his or her residence for voting purposes, notwithstanding any restriction in the shelter's rules prohibiting its use as a residence address. "Residence" for voting purposes is distinct from other types of residence.

In order to establish that a person without a traditional residence is a qualified elector, the person must produce a form of proof of residence with his or her name and residence for voting purposes. This proof of residence document may include a letter from a shelter for the homeless or from a private or public-social service organization providing services for homeless individuals. The letter identifies the individual and describes the location designated as the person's residence for voting purposes. The proof of residence should be on letterhead and signed by a person affiliated with the social services organization.

Local election officials or persons working to facilitate voting for qualified homeless individuals may contact the Wisconsin Elections Commission Help Desk at 608-261-2028 or at elections@wi.gov with questions.

Please note that most voters must also provide voter photo ID to receive a ballot. For more information about voter photo ID requirements, please visit the Bring it to the Ballot website: bringit.wi.gov or contact the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

Ann S. Jacobs, chair | Marge Bostelmann | Julie M. Glancey | Dean Knudson | Robert Spindell | Mark L. Thomsen

Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

Social Service Agency Letterhead

Date

Dear Local Election Official:

This document serves as a proof of residence for this individual who does not have a traditional residence for voting purposes.

Name of Individual: _____

Brief description of individual’s residence for voting purposes:

As a person affiliated with (*the organization indicated on this letterhead*), I certify that I know this individual. I know the name of the individual in this letter regarding the residency of the individual for voting purposes. I know that the location described as this person’s voting residence is a place frequented by this individual.

This letter represents proof of residency required to enable the individual named to register to vote.

_____ signature

_____ title