



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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TO: Wisconsin Municipal Clerks
City of Milwaukee Election Commission
Wisconsin County Clerks
Milwaukee County Election Commission

FROM: WEC Staff

SUBJECT: Presidential Only Ballots

Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) staff have prepared a brief guide on Presidential-only ballots for the upcoming General Election. The guide describes who is eligible to receive this type of ballot, the necessary steps a voter must complete to receive one, and general information on how to process them. The updated optical scan and hand count templates are available on the WEC website at: <https://elections.wi.gov/wec-form/2024-general-election-optical-scan> and also at: <https://elections.wi.gov/wec-form/2024-general-election-hand-count-ballot-template>.

There are two primary scenarios in which a voter may receive a Presidential-only ballot, and both are predicated on the voter's inability to establish residency in either Wisconsin or their new state of residence prior to the General Election.

New Residents:

Any resident who moves to Wisconsin after October 8, 2024, will not be able to meet the 28-day residency requirement and, as such, would not be able to register and vote a full ballot. Voters in this situation should first check with their former state of residency to see what options are available for them there. If they are unable to vote in their previous state of residency, they may still cast a Presidential-only ballot in Wisconsin if they are otherwise qualified to vote here. Wis. Stat. § 6.15.

To be issued a Presidential-only ballot, new residents must:

- Complete an Application for Presidential Ballot – New Wisconsin Resident (EL-141).
- Provide proof of residence and proof of identification.
- Complete an Authorization to Cancel Registration (EL-139), which is sent to the proper election official for the voter's former state or county of residence.

Note: These voters are **not** required to complete and provide an EL-131, as they have not met the residency requirement and are not registering to vote in Wisconsin. If the voter would like to register, they will have to submit a registration form and proof of residence to the clerk after Election Day.

Voters in this scenario may submit the required documentation to the clerk in the 27 days prior to Election Day or at the polling place on Election Day.

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

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- If the new resident votes their Presidential-only ballot in the clerk's office during in-person absentee voting, the clerk will record the voter's name and "President Only" on the absentee ballot log. The EL-141 will be entered into WisVote using the application type "presidential only" and the ballot will be delivered to the polling place or central count site like any other ballot.
- If the new resident votes at the polling place on Election Day, the election inspectors will record the voter's name and the "President Only" notation on the supplemental poll list. Please make sure that your polling places have an adequate supply of the ballots and forms required for this process.

Former Residents:

Former residents of Wisconsin who are unable to meet the eligibility requirements to register in their new state of residence may request and vote a Presidential-only absentee ballot in their former municipality and ward of residence in Wisconsin. Former residents may apply for a ballot up to 24 months after leaving Wisconsin.

To be issued a Presidential-only absentee ballot, former residents must:

- Complete an Application for Presidential Ballot – Former Wisconsin Resident (EL-140).
 - *The EL-140 must be notarized or sworn to be considered a valid request.*
- Provide proof of identification.

Note: As with new residents, these voters are **not** required to complete and provide an EL-131. While proof of identification is required for former residents, proof of residence is not.

There is no fixed deadline by which a former resident must provide a complete EL-140 and proof of identification. The required documentation must be received with sufficient time for a ballot to be mailed and returned prior to the election. Wis. Stat. § 6.18.

Processing Presidential-only Ballots:

If you receive a complete request from a voter eligible to be issued a Presidential-only ballot you should use the appropriate ballot template from the agency website that was referenced previously in this communication. If you are a municipality that uses hand-count paper ballots, the ballots posted to the WEC website will look very similar to the ballots already in use in your polling place. These ballots will be hand counted on Election Day along with the rest of your hand-count ballots. If you are a municipality that uses optical scan tabulators, you have a few options available. You may use the hand-count version of the Presidential-only ballot, or you can use the optical scan version that more closely resembles the ballots in use in your polling place.

Please remember that these ballots are designed to resemble optical scan ballots, but the voting equipment cannot read these ballots. They will need to be remade onto regular optical scan ballots for processing on the voting equipment. It is important to note the optical scan version of the ballot contains an endorsement section that is required when the ballot is remade on Election Day so that the appropriate serial number can be added to both the original and remade version of the ballot. Poll workers should be trained on or reminded of the remaking procedures outlined in the Election Day Manual and that the original ballot should be retained with the other election materials.

Examples of Voters Not Eligible for a Presidential-only Ballot:

- Residents of other states who are only here temporarily or are passing through (e.g. over the road truckers passing through Wisconsin, people in the state temporarily for work): They would have to vote in their home state.
- Military voters: Military voters should be issued the full ballot with all contests included.

- Permanent overseas voters: Permanent overseas voters receive the federal-only ballot with only contests for federal office included (President, Senate, and Representative to Congress for 2024 General Election).
- Temporary overseas voters: Temporary overseas voters are issued the full ballot with all contests included.
- Voters who meet the residency qualifications but do not have proof of residence: These voters will have to find an acceptable proof of residence document in order register and receive a ballot.

Voters who moved within Wisconsin and do not meet residency requirements at a new address: Voters who have moved within the state but have not achieved residency at their new address are allowed under state law to vote from their former address.

If you have questions, please contact the Elections Help Desk at 608-261-2028 or at elections@wi.gov.