

## **Bring it to the Ballot – Speaker’s Script**

### **[Slide 1]**

Welcome to the Voting in Wisconsin and the Voter Photo Identification Law presentation.

### **[Slide 2 ]**

Today’s presentation will cover the following topics:

First we will talk about who is eligible to vote in WI.

Then we will discuss the new Voter Photo ID requirements and what photo IDs you can use to vote in Wisconsin.

We will then follow up with a discussion on voter registration in Wisconsin. In this section we will talk about how voter registration works and point out important registration information that all voters need to know.

We will also discuss Proof of Residence, which is documentation that voters need to bring when registering to vote.

Next is absentee voting. Absentee voting occurs before Election Day. We will talk about how and when you can vote by absentee ballot.

Next is Election Day where we will go over the process to follow when voting at the polls.

### **[Slide 3]**

Let’s get started by outlining who is eligible to vote in Wisconsin.

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To vote in Wisconsin you must be at least 18 years of age by the time of the election.

You must also be a U.S. Citizen.

And you must reside at your current address for at least 10 days prior to the election. If you move less than 10 days before an election, you may still be eligible to vote from your former address.

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You are not eligible to vote in Wisconsin if you are a felon who is still on “paper.” What this means is if you are still serving any portion of your felony sentence, including probation, you are not eligible to vote in Wisconsin.

You also cannot vote if a judge has ordered you incompetent, specifically for voting purposes.

Another, lesser known requirement, is that you cannot vote if you have placed a bet or a wager on the outcome of the election.

And of course you are not eligible to vote if you have already voted in that election. You can only vote once in each election.

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You will now need to show a photo ID when getting your ballot.

Whether you are voting at the polls or by absentee ballot, most voters will need to provide a photo ID.

**[Slide 7]**

Many people already have the photo ID they will need to vote.

An important note to make is that there is no separate “Voter ID” card. Photo IDs for voting are all existing forms of ID that many people already have. There is no special voter ID card. There are a number of government issued IDs that can be used to vote. Let’s go over each ID.

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The first and most popular document that can be used as photo ID for voting purposes is a Wisconsin Driver License. You can use a Wisconsin driver license even if it has expired, but it must have expired since the last General Election, which is currently November 4, 2014.

The next is a Wisconsin State Identification Card. The same rules apply for an ID card. If your ID card is expired you can still use it to vote if it expired since the last General Election which is currently November 4, 2014.

A U.S. Military ID, issued to member of the uniformed services, can also be used. This is an ID issued by the U.S. Department of Defense. You can still use this ID if it has expired, but it must have expired since the last General Election, which is currently November 4, 2014.

Then there is a U.S. Passport document. There are two types of passports you might have, one is a passport book and the other is a passport card. Both of these documents can be used as photo ID but if it has expired, but it must have expired since the last General Election, which is currently November 4, 2014.

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Another form of photo ID that can be used for voting is a Wisconsin Driver License photo receipt or a Wisconsin State ID Card Photo Receipt. These are documents that are issued by the Wisconsin DMV. You may have noticed that when you go to get a new license or ID at the DMV you no longer get your actual card that day. Instead, the DMV will give you a receipt with all of the information that will be on your driver license or state ID. You can use the receipt for voting for 45 days while your actual card is being mailed to you.

Up next is the Certificate of Naturalization. A Certificate of Naturalization can be used as Photo ID, but it must be unexpired and can only be used within two years of issuance.

An ID issued by the Department of Veteran Affairs can also be used. It must be unexpired or have no expiration date.

A Tribal identification card can be used if it was issued by a federally recognized tribe that resides in Wisconsin. It can still be used for voting if it is expired.

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You can also use a student identification card to vote. It must be issued by a Wisconsin College, University, or Technical College. If you are using a student ID you will need to be sure that you also bring a document with you that proves that you are currently enrolled. The document could be an enrollment verification letter, a fee receipt, a class schedule, or a student housing list. To use a student ID for voting, the ID must show the student's name, photo, and signature. It must also show the date the card was issued and the date the card expired. The dates cannot be more than 2 years apart. A student ID can still be used if it is expired.

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We have talked about what you can use as photo ID for voting in Wisconsin. No matter which of acceptable these acceptable IDs you use for voting, there are three things that the poll workers will be looking for on your ID.

First, they will be looking at your photo to see that it reasonably resembles you. Appearances can change. People change the color of their hair or they gain or lose weight. Make sure that your photo reasonably looks like you before Election Day.

Second, the poll workers are going to look to see that the name on your ID conforms to the name on the poll book. It doesn't have to be an exact match. For example, if your ID says Robert J. Smith but you are registered to vote as Bob Smith, that is ok, your name conforms.

Third, the poll workers will be looking to make sure that your ID falls into the acceptable expiration dates.

You do not need to have a current address on your photo ID for voting purposes. The only time you prove your address is when you register to vote. When you show your photo ID, the poll worker will not be looking at your address.

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There are also a few photo IDs that can be used for voting that don't have a photo.

There is a citation that is issued by law enforcement when a person's driver license is taken from them.

And there's a notice of intent to revoke or suspend which is also issued by law enforcement.

Then, there is a Wisconsin Driver License or a Wisconsin State ID card without a photo that is available to voters with a religious objection to being photographed.

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Most people already have a photo ID that can be used for voting in Wisconsin. If you don't have the ID you need, you can get a Wisconsin state ID card for free at your nearby Division of Motor Vehicles.

If you would like a free ID for voting, you will need to fill out a form at the DMV and be sure to check free ID for voting.

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You will need to bring a few papers with you to get your ID, like a birth certificate, social security card, and a utility bill. If you don't have a birth certificate or other documents, the DMV can still help you get a free ID for voting using their petition process.

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To summarize, most people already have the photo ID they need to vote in Wisconsin. Here is a photo of the acceptable forms of photo ID for voting.

**[Slide 16]**

Now, let's take a look at the first step of the voting process and that is voter registration.

**[Slide 17]**

The first note to make about registration is that all voters in Wisconsin must be registered in order to vote. If you are voting for the first time, you must register to vote. If you are already registered but your name or address has changed, you will need to re-register. There is one exception to this rule. If you are an active member of the U.S. armed services, you do not need to register in order to vote in Wisconsin.

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You register to vote by filling out a voter registration form. You may send your form to your municipal clerk by mail a few different ways. The state of Wisconsin also has a new and exciting way for voters fill out their registration form. You can start your registration by using [MyVote.wi.gov](http://MyVote.wi.gov). Here you will be guided through the registration process step by step. But remember, Wisconsin law does not allow for complete online registration yet, you will need to print your completed form, sign it, and mail or hand deliver it to your municipal clerk. Another option is to use the EL-131 form which is found on [Elections.wi.gov](http://Elections.wi.gov) under forms. Also, you will need to mail a proof of residence document with your application. We will talk more about proof of residence later. You will need to mail your form to your municipal clerk before the 20<sup>th</sup> day before the next election.

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Another way to register is with a Special Registration Deputy, who is a person certified by the clerk of that municipality to register people to vote up to 20 days before an election. Special registration deputies can help you fill out the form, will collect your proof of residence document, and will then return your registration to your municipal clerk.

Another option for registration is to register in-person in your municipal clerk's office through the Friday before an election; they will have the form you need available. Don't forget, you will need to bring a proof of residence document.

Finally, you can also register to vote on Election Day at the polls, they will have the form you need available at the polls. Again, you will need to provide proof of residence.

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When registering to vote you will need to show or provide a document that proves where you live in Wisconsin. This document is called Proof of Residence. It is important to remember that Proof of residence proves where you live and is only used when you registered to vote. While proof of identification, or photo ID, proves who you are and is only used when getting your ballot on Election Day or when absentee voting.

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There are specific documents that can be used as proof of residence.

Some of the most common documents are:

- a valid, unexpired, Wisconsin driver license or Wisconsin state ID card, with your current address .
- a document issued by a unit of government .
- a utility bill, this can be a bill for any of your utilities services including: electricity, water, gas, or phone. These documents can only be used 90 days from issuance.
- A bank statement can be used. However, a credit card statement, even if it is from your bank cannot be used.

It is important to note that this is not a complete list. If you have a question about whether or not your document will qualify as Proof of Residence, don't wait until Election Day to find out, contact your clerk or the Wisconsin Elections Commission before you register.

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Some notes about proof of residence. No matter which document you choose to use, the document must include the voter's name and their current address.

Your proof of residence does not need to be a paper copy when registering to vote in person. You can show your election official proof of residence using an electronic device such as a phone, a tablet, or a laptop. Please make sure that if you present your proof of residence electronically that it is easy to see on a small screen.

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Next we will talk about Absentee Voting.

Absentee voting is a method of voting available to all electors, for any reason, in which you complete a ballot before Election Day.

Some people refer to it as "early voting", but in Wisconsin it is called absentee voting.

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Just like registration, there are deadlines that apply to absentee voting.

You can make a request to your municipal clerk to have a ballot mailed, emailed, or faxed to you at any time. Ballots typically become available 47 days before a Federal election and 21 days before state and local elections.

You can make your request in writing to your clerk by mail, email, fax, or delivery.

The clerk will then send the ballot to the voter. Once the voter receives the ballot, they then have until Election Day to get the ballot in the mail. Your ballot **MUST** be postmarked by Election Day and received by the clerk no later than Election Day to be counted.

You can also request and complete your ballot right in your municipal clerk's office. In-person absentee hours vary. Contact your municipal clerk to find out the dates and hours of absentee voting in your municipality.

Please remember, before you can request an absentee ballot, you must first be a registered voter.

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When requesting your ballot don't forget, you will need to include a copy of your photo ID with your request. Your municipal clerk cannot send you a ballot until they receive a copy of your acceptable photo ID. Once you send a copy of your photo ID to your clerk with your ballot request you do not need to provide it again when requesting an absentee ballot by mail for future elections.

The best way to make your request is to use the absentee ballot request form, you can find this on Myvote.wi.gov by clicking "Vote Absentee", or by using the EL-121 form, found on Elections.wi.gov under forms.

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If you are an active member of the U.S. armed services, you have another option to receive an absentee ballot. You can request and receive your absentee ballot through myvote.wi.gov. This option is only available to military voters and permanent overseas voters. Military and Permanent Overseas voter do not need to provide photo ID with their absentee ballot request.

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Indefinitely confined voters, those voters who have a hard time getting to the polls due to age, illness, infirmity, or disability, can request that a ballot be automatically sent to them for every election. They will continue to receive a ballot for every election until they fail to return one. Indefinitely confined voters are not required to send photo ID with their request. Instead, indefinitely confined voters have a witness sign their absentee ballot certification envelope to verify the voter's identity.

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All other types of voters can request a ballot either for one specific election or you can request they be sent to you for an entire calendar year. [Click once to zoom]

**[Click through Slides 29-32]**

Once you receive and complete your ballot, it is very important that you make sure you complete your absentee certificate envelope. This includes your signature and the signature of your witness. If you do not complete the certificate correctly, you and your witness will have to come to the Clerk's office by Election Day to correct it in order for your vote to be counted. If you do not complete the envelope and do not fix the certification by Election Day, your ballot will not be counted.

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Many voters choose to go to the polls to cast their ballot on Election Day.

There is a process that you need to follow at the polls in order to receive and cast your ballot.

Finding your polling place is the first step. Each Wisconsin voter is assigned a polling place based on their address. To find your polling place, visit Myvote.wi.gov or call your municipal clerk or the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

When you get to the polls, you will need to register, if you haven't already. Remember you only need to register if you are a first time voter, or if you changed your name or address since you last registered.

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Next is State, Show and Sign.

To state, you will state your name and address to the poll worker. You must state your full name as you are registered and your current address.

Now you will show your acceptable photo ID. Remember that the poll workers are looking at your ID to see that your picture reasonably resembles you, that your name conforms to the name on the poll book, and that your ID isn't expired or has expired within the acceptable time frame. You do not need to have a current address on your photo ID.

Then, you will be asked to sign the poll book next to your name and address. You should sign the poll book using your typical signature, whether that is your full printed name, or an "x." If you are unable to sign the poll book due to a disability, let the poll worker know and you will be exempt from the signing requirement.

Now you will receive your ballot.

You will then take your ballot into a private booth, or will use the electronic voting equipment, to make your selections.

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If you don't have your photo ID on Election Day, you can still cast what is called a provisional ballot. You will then have until 4:00 p.m. on the Friday after the election to bring your ID to your municipal clerk in order for your ballot to be counted.

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There are accommodations at all polling places for voters with disabilities. Every polling place in Wisconsin is required to be accessible and to have accessible voting equipment. There is also curbside voting available, this is where a poll worker will conduct voting at your car if you are unable to get into the polling place. If you are unable to sign the poll book due to a physical disability, you will be exempt from that requirement. If you would like to have someone assist you with the voting process, you may bring anyone of your choosing as your assistor, just be sure to let the poll worker know so that your assistor can sign in.

**[Slide 37]**

And don't forget, there are many new requirements at the polls for this election. Please be patient and kind to your poll workers.



**[Slide 38]**

Help your local election officials spread that word about what is required to vote in Wisconsin! The Wisconsin Elections Commission has great resources to help voters remember to bring their photo ID to get a ballot!

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Visit the website: [bringit.wi.gov](http://bringit.wi.gov) for more information on the Wisconsin Photo ID law.

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Here you will find videos and TV ads in addition to print materials such as brochures and posters.

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If you would like more information about voting in Wisconsin you can find more information the websites [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) or [bringit.wi.gov](http://bringit.wi.gov) or call at 1-866-VOTE-WIS.

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Thank you for tuning in to this presentation. And don't forget to bring your photo ID to the ballot!