



Voter Photo ID: What You Need to Know



What This Means for Voters Who Vote In-Person

All voters who wish to cast a ballot at their polling place on Election Day or in-person at their clerk's office during in-person absentee voting must show an acceptable form of photo ID before receiving a ballot. Only voters with confidential status are exempt from this requirement.

Types of Acceptable Photo ID for Voting Purposes

There are several types of acceptable photo ID for voting purposes in Wisconsin.

These types of ID must either be unexpired or expired after November 8, 2016 to be used for voting purposes:

- A Wisconsin DOT-issued driver license, even if driving privileges are revoked or suspended
- A Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card
- Military ID card issued by a U.S. uniformed service
- A U.S. passport book or card
- Student ID card (this ID must be accompanied by a proof of enrollment document and needs expiration date, but can still be used if expired)

These types of ID must be unexpired to be used for voting purposes:

- Certificate of Naturalization (issued within the last two years)
- Wisconsin driver license or state ID card receipt from the DMV
- A veteran's photo identification card issued by the Veterans Health Administration (must be unexpired or have no expiration date)

This ID can be expired and does not need an expiration date to be considered valid:

- Tribal ID (from one of the 12 federally-recognized tribes in Wisconsin)

Free State ID for Voting Purposes

If you, or someone you know, does not have a photo ID that can be used for voting purposes, they can go to the DMV and get one for free. The State of Wisconsin is issuing these cards at no cost to the voter, but you will need to bring some documents (such as a certified copy of your birth certificate, social security card, etc.) with you to complete the process. For a full list of necessary documents and information about the process, visit the DMV website:

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/apply/idcard.htm>.

The DMV has recently introduced a 'petition process' to assist voters who do not have access to their birth certificate. You can complete a form and the DMV will verify your birth record and citizenship status and inform you when your ID is being mailed. More information about this

process can be found here: <http://wisconsin.gov/Pages/dmv/license-drvs/how-to-apply/petition-process.aspx>.

The process of obtaining an ID can be time consuming, so get started now so you can be ready for Election Day. For a list of DMV service centers and hours of operation in your area, you can use this list: <http://www.dot.state.wi.us/about/locate/dmv/index.htm>.

What to Expect at Your Polling Place

The poll workers will need to see your photo ID and look at four different things before issuing you a ballot.

1. They will verify that the document you provide is from the list of acceptable proof of identification documents (see above).
2. They will verify that the photo on your ID “reasonably resembles” you.
3. The poll worker will check to see if the name on your photo ID “conforms” to the name on the poll list.
 - a. Common name variations like ‘Bill’ for ‘William’ and ‘Sue’ for ‘Susan’ are acceptable.
 - b. Hyphenated names must have at least one name in common between the photo ID and the poll list. So, a voter registered as ‘Jane Doe-Smith’ could use an ID with their name listed as either ‘Jane Doe’ or ‘Jane Smith’.
4. The expiration date will be reviewed to make sure that the photo ID is valid for voting purposes. **Remember:** Some forms of proof of identification are still valid for voting purposes if expired if they expired after November 8, 2016.

Please keep in mind that the address on your photo ID does not need to be current.

What This Means for Voters Who Vote Absentee

A person who wishes to request an absentee ballot by mail must provide a copy of their photo ID to their municipal clerk before a ballot will be mailed to them. Once a copy of the photo ID is on file with the municipal clerk, the voter will not have to provide it with future absentee ballot requests unless the voter changes their address or name.

If you have trouble getting around on Election Day, you can claim indefinitely confined status. As an indefinitely confined voter you will automatically receive absentee ballots for every election. You must certify on your [absentee ballot request form](#) that you are indefinitely confined for reason of “age, illness, infirmity or disability” and would like to request a ballot for all upcoming elections. This option can be found in box 6 of the absentee ballot request form (see below).

| | |
|--|--|
| I REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BE SENT TO ME FOR: (mark only one) | |
| 6 | <input type="radio"/> The election(s) on the following date(s): _____ <input type="radio"/> All elections from today's date through the end of the current calendar year (ending 12/31). <input checked="" type="radio"/> Every election subsequent to today's date. I further certify that I am indefinitely confined because of age, illness, infirmity or disability and request absentee ballots be sent to me until I am no longer confined or fail to return a ballot. |

“Indefinitely confined” status does not mean that you are homebound and can never leave your residence. Voters who certify that they are indefinitely confined can choose to provide photo ID

with their ballot request, but are not required to do so. The witness to your absentee ballot will verify your name and address as listed on the absentee certificate envelope are correct.

What This Means for Voter Who Reside in Care Facilities and Nursing Homes

Many assisted-living and care facilities in Wisconsin are served by Special Voting Deputies (SVDs). This process requires the municipal clerk to send representatives from their office to conduct absentee voting at that facility. Residents of care facilities served by SVDs do not have to provide photo ID in order to cast their ballot. In these instances, the SVDs will verify your name and address are correct instead of viewing your photo ID. If you are unsure if a facility is served by SVDs, you should contact the municipal clerk where that facility is located to confirm.

Voters who reside in care facilities not served by SVDs may be able to satisfy the photo ID requirement by having an authorized representative of the facility complete an additional section on the absentee ballot return envelope. This section needs to be completed in addition to the witness certification section.

| | |
|---|--|
| <u>CERTIFICATION OF CARE FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE</u> | |
| I certify I am an authorized representative of the facility listed. I further certify that this facility is registered or certified as required by law, that the above voter is a resident, and I verify that the name and address of the voter described above is correct. | |
| Name of Facility _____ | ▲ Signature of Authorized Representative _____ |
| ▲ | |
| (CERTIFICATION OF WITNESS section must also be completed.) | |

If a voter who resides in any of these facilities would like to vote in-person at the clerk's office or at the polls on Election Day, they will have to provide an acceptable photo ID before they can be issued a ballot. Only voters with confidential status are exempt from this requirement.

Voter Photo ID Resources and Information



For more information on the voter photo ID law, please visit: <http://bringit.wi.gov/>. This website provides basic information about the law and answers some frequently asked questions.

More extensive information can be found on the Wisconsin Elections Commission website at: <http://elections.wi.gov/elections-voting/photo-id>. The WEC can also be reached via email at elections@wi.gov and by phone at 866-VOTEWIS (868-3947) or (608) 266-8005.