

Government Accountability Board

State of Wisconsin

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New Residency Rules for Recall Elections: Tuesday Is Deadline for July 12 Election

MADISON, WI – Tuesday, June 14 is the new deadline for residency in order to vote in special and recall elections (or primaries) scheduled for July 12, 2011.

Wisconsin's new Voter ID Law, which went into effect June 8, requires a person to be a resident of a district for 28 consecutive days before an election in order to be eligible to vote, said Kevin J. Kennedy, director and general counsel of the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board, which administers elections. The previous residency requirement was 10 days.

“If you move to a new district after Tuesday, June 14, you will not be able to vote in your new district on July 12,” said Kennedy. “The new law allows you to vote at your former polling place until you establish residency in your new district.”

Kennedy said the same rules apply in the three State Senate districts where recall elections (or primaries) will be held on July 19, as well as the subsequent general recall elections. In addition, the time period for In-Person Absentee Voting has been shortened. It begins on the Monday, two weeks before the election, and ends the Friday before the election. Here are the election dates, residency deadlines and absentee dates for this summer's scheduled elections:

Election Date	Residency Deadline	In-Person Absentee Voting Starts	In-Person Absentee Voting Ends
July 12, 2011	June 14, 2011	June 27, 2011	July 8, 2011
July 19, 2011	June 21, 2011	July 5, 2011	July 15, 2011
August 9, 2011	July 12, 2011	July 25, 2011	August 5, 2011
August 16, 2011	July 19, 2011	August 1, 2011	August 12, 2011

Voters who want to know whether they live in one of the districts (listed below) where there are recall or special elections may call their local municipal clerk or visit the Voter Public Access website: <http://vpa.wi.gov>, said Elections Division Administrator Nathaniel E. Robinson.

“Some of the State Senate districts include parts of counties, which can be confusing. Voters with questions may go to the website and put in their name or address to see which legislative districts they live in,” said Robinson. “They will also see the polling place where they are registered. Once we know who all the candidates are in a few weeks, voters in districts with special and recall elections will be able to see sample ballots as well.”

Recall and Special Elections are scheduled on July 12 and August 9 in the following legislative districts and counties:

Senate District 2 – Brown, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano and Waupaca.

Senate District 8 – Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington and Waukesha.

Senate District 10 – Burnett, Dunn, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix.

Senate District 14 – Adams, Columbia, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Waupaca and Waushara.

Senate District 18 – Dodge, Fond du Lac and Winnebago.

Senate District 32 – Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, Richland and Vernon.

Assembly District 48 – Dane (Special Election).

Recall Elections are scheduled on July 19 and August 16 in the following legislative districts and counties:

Senate District 12 – Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Shawano and Vilas.

Senate District 22 – Kenosha and Racine.

Senate District 30 – Brown, Marinette, Oconto and Shawano.

While the time period for residency has changed to 28 consecutive days under the new residency rules in the Voter ID Law, other principles for establishing residency remain unchanged:

- Temporary absence does not affect residency. If you are away from your permanent residence for the weekend, that time still counts if you intended to return.
- Temporary residences cannot be used for voting. You do not gain residency while in a place for temporary purposes only.
- Residence may be established with the following documents that contain your full name and a current address: driver license, state-issued identification card, employer-issued photo identification card (not a business card), property tax bill, residential lease, university or college fee or ID card with photograph, utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or government-issued check.

Persons who meet the 28-consecutive-day residency requirement may still register to vote on Election Day at the polling place.

Under the Voter ID Law, voters must be asked to present a photo ID when they receive a ballot, but will not be required to present a photo ID to receive a ballot until the 2012 Spring Primary Election. At any election before then, a voter who does not have a photo ID will receive an informational document explaining the requirements of the new law.

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The Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) is responsible for administration and enforcement of campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobbying laws in Wisconsin. The G.A.B. is made up of six non-partisan, former judges and is supported by an agency of non-partisan staff members.