

FAQs: Proof of Residence & Proof of Identification November 4, 2015

Q: If they register in office, we don't need to attach copy of proof of residence do we? Just enter the information on the application.

A: Yes, that's correct.

Q: I thought that medical bills weren't valid for POR.

A: Only if the medical bill is issued from a hospital affiliated with a government agency such as the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics.

Q: I think some may be confused about a Military ID and a Veterans ID, they are two different documents. Military ID is issued by the military and a Veterans ID is usually issued by a Veterans Hospital for identification.

A: Thanks for the clarification.

Q: Keeping a copy with the registration is helpful if you have to verify the information used on the registration.

A: Yes, it can be helpful.

Q: If I print them a utility bill from our system and present it to them to give back to me, I am supposed to keep a copy attached to the voter registration form? Should I be taking copies of POR any other times?

A: If you provide POR for the voter in the form of a municipal service bill (trash pick-up, water) keep a copy of the printout with the GAB-131. If you have not provided POR for the voter (they have come to your office with POR), you can document the information on the GAB-131; you do not have to retain the copy in this situation.

Q: According to this there is no handout to follow?

A: Materials are posted with the webinar access information and will be posted with the webcast after the broadcast.

Q: Regarding the use of paycheck for POR- would an earnings statement that notes person's name, address, employee number, period worked, number of hours, taxes withheld and amount direct deposited into their bank account work since the deposit is being made directly into their account and not as a paycheck?

A: Yes, a direct deposit document with the voter's name and address can be used as acceptable POR.

Q: If we have a copy of their registration from a previous election and attached is a copy of a driver's license attached, do they need to present the DL again as ID to vote in the current year

A: I assume you are speaking of a voter who has requested an absentee ballot by mail. If the voter submitted the DL as proof of identification when previously requesting an absentee ballot by mail, they do not need to provide it again when voting absentee by mail unless they move or change their name (i.e. they need to re-register). A voter must always show their ID when they vote in person. If the voter provided a copy of their driver license in a previous election as proof of residence only, they must provide a copy of proof of identification (either the DL or some other acceptable ID) when requesting a by-mail absentee ballot. We understand this may lead to the voter providing a copy of the same DL that you already have on file as a POR.

Q: Our tax bills do not show an address and are not assigned an address on vacant land.

A: If there is no address it cannot be used as POR.

Q: In the past our poll workers have asked the resident to state their name address. Will they still need to state that AND verify it on their card or just make sure it's correct on their I.D.?

A: Voters are still required by law to state their name and address. This is the public aspect of voting. An election inspector will compare the voter's name on the photo ID to determine if it conforms to the voter's name on the poll book. An election inspector will also compare the voter to their photo ID to determine if they reasonably resemble the photograph.

Q: Cannot be a credit card statement though, correct.

A: No, a credit card statement cannot be used as POR.

Q: What about people who register on-line? Are they supposed to send something in for proof of residence with their registration?

A: Currently, voters must print off a copy of the GAB-131 and provide proof of residence in order to register to vote. There is no "online" registration yet. Legislation is pending.

Q: You stated that a W-2 is not a valid proof of residence because it is not issued by a valid government unit; however, we are allowed to accept a paycheck as proof of residence. Wouldn't those be considered the same thing?

A: State law allows a paycheck with the voter's name and address on it to be used as POR. It does not allow a W-2 unless the employer is a unit of government.

Q: Can we have available at the Election Day registration table a current copy of water sewer acct report to use as POR?

A: No. The voter must provide the POR document at the polls on Election Day.

Q: Can elector use information on cell phone to show for proof of residency?

A: Yes. Proof of residence can be displayed electronically.

Q: Driver's license question: If a new resident goes changes their address online with the DMV, the resident receives an electronic message stating that "Your change of residence address has been completed" Is the message from the DMV sufficient? Does the electronic message shown to us suffice?

A: Does the electronic message show the new address? If so, I can find out if it can be used, but I don't think it does.

Q: The slide states that it is to be in effect for the period that includes Election Day but you stated that it only has to be for the period that they are registering. Which is correct?

A: The registration date. This slide is intended for election inspectors on Election Day, but will be updated.

Q: Will there be video for this, or just audio?

A: This presentation is video and audio.

Q: We have a resident who lives in a camper on an RV parking lot. So basically homeless. What should they provide as proof of residence?

A: A letter from a shelter or social service agency identifying the address would work for POR, but not for proof of identification.

Q: Do copies of the POR documents need to be kept if registering on Election Day?

A: No, election inspectors document the required information from the proof of residence on the GAB-131. The proof of residence is returned to the registrant.

Q: The W-2 would work however, if it was issued by a government agency, correct?

A: Yes.

Q: Other document issued by a unit of government; can a permit to carry a gun or an automobile registration be used?

A: Yes. These can be used as POR as they are issued by a unit of government. These documents must include an address.

Q: For SS does a correspondence letter work, has their letter head, name and address.

A: Yes. As long as the voter's name is on it (not just "occupant" or "resident"), their current residential address, and you can determine it was issued by a unit of government (not a 3rd party contractor.)

Q: Must the fee receipt include residential address?

A: Yes.

Q: If it doesn't have improvements.... then it is a parcel of vacant land. How does that prove they live there?

A: Proof of residence is never absolute proof that a person lives at the address on the document. It merely shows a connection to a particular address. Residence is self-certified by the voter when they sign the voter registration form.

Q: Can an expired driver's license be used for proof of residence?

A: No. To be used as POR, the DL must be Valid and unexpired. However, a DL can be used as voter ID if it is revoked or suspended or expired after the date of the last general election (11/4/2014).

Q: What about when an address changes on driver license. Some have the sticker on the back. Can the sticker address be used?

A: No, but we don't think stickers are used anymore.

Q: What happens if the registration deputy knows that the voter does not live there, but they are showing proof otherwise?

A: The voter is completing a form certifying they meet the requirements to register and providing acceptable proof of residence. Just because the voter is not currently living there, does not mean they did not establish a physical presence there at some point and determined that is their residence for voting. The registration deputy or any other qualified elector of the state can subsequently challenge the person's registration if they believe they have sufficient evidence to prove the person does not reside where they claim to reside.

Q: Why can't a first time voter use a lease agreement as POR?

A: 2005 Wisconsin Act 451 incorporated the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). Pursuant to HAVA, a first time voter registering by mail had to provide certain documentation with their registration. The list of acceptable documents under HAVA did not include a residential lease, which prior to HAVA had been acceptable POR in all cases in Wisconsin. Therefore, to comply with federal law, Wisconsin no longer accepts residential leases for voters registering by mail.

Q: For mail-in voter registrations, a copy of the POR must be submitted and kept, correct? If that mail-in voter reg. did not have POR and they bring in POR and show you, then do we need to take a copy or just write it down?

A: If the voter provides it with a by-mail registration, keep the copy of the POR with the voter registration application. Otherwise, document the POR on the voter registration application.

Q: Can you please repeat what you said about an employer ID card ...is an address required?

A: Yes. An address is ALWAYS required on proof of residence, except in the case of a student presenting a student ID—the address doesn't need to be on the ID, but the address must be on the accompanying fee receipt or certified housing list.

Q: Does a utility statement include a water and sewer bill?

A: Yes.

Q: Leases do not usually have an account number. What do you suggest we use in place of account number?

A: If the type of POR being provided does not have an associated account number, you are not required to list one on the GAB-131.

Q: Does a signature need to be on college ID?

A: Yes, when being used as POI.

Q: Do documents that show address from WI DNR or Department of Motor Vehicles count?

A: A document issued by a unit of government (WI DNR or DMV) may be used as POR if it contains the voter's name and address.

Q: Why is it that you can't use a lease for mail in registration?

A: 2005 Wisconsin Act 451 incorporated the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). Pursuant to HAVA, a first time voter registering by mail had to provide certain documentation with their registration. The list of acceptable documents under HAVA did not include a residential lease, which prior to HAVA had been acceptable POR in all cases in Wisconsin. Therefore, to comply with federal law, Wisconsin no longer accepts residential leases for voters registering by mail.

Q: So, if someone registers to vote on Election Day and uses a utility bill because their DL is still from out of state, you are saying that they cannot vote because they do not a valid POI?

A: They will have to present some other type of acceptable proof of identification. If the person cannot provide acceptable POI, he or she should be offered the opportunity vote provisionally. They would then have until the Friday following the election to acquire a valid POI.

Q: As far as W-2's go, what if the person works for a unit of government?

A: Yes, if the employer is a unit of government, the W-2 can be accepted.

Q: I have people that check that box (indefinitely confined) simply because they are old enough and want ballots sent to them instead of going to the polls. I am assuming this is correct to do.

A: An indefinitely confined voter can request that absentee ballots be sent to them because of age, infirmity or disability by checking the box in section 6 of the GAB-121.

Q: Can you clarify the University photo ID that has an expired date 4 years from the date of issuance? I think I misunderstood what was being said.

A: Most University photo ID cards expire four years from the date of issuance. State law requires that photo IDs used as proof of identification have expiration dates no later than two years after issuance.

Q: Will the election inspectors be required to document in the poll book what ID was used on Election Day?

A: No.

Q: Can you use a military ID for registration?

A: No. A military ID does not contain the voter's address.

Q: Why can an employment ID be used for residence but not for proof of ID?

A: It's the way the laws are written. The list of acceptable IDs for voting is limited and specific.

Q: Is the TECH COLLEGE ID acceptable? I thought we heard the court ruled the TECH COLLEGE was not acceptable.

A: Judge Adelman stated that there is nothing in the law that says Technical College IDs are *not acceptable*, so he does not need to rule as to whether they *are acceptable*.