

FAQs: PREPARING FOR THE AUGUST PARTISAN PRIMARY

Q: Are cable bills considered utility bills for Proof of Residence? If so, does the cable provider matter, e.g. DISH vs. Time Warner?

A: Cable utility bills are considered acceptable forms of proof of residence

Q: Are there specific size requirements (dimension/weight) for stickers that get placed on an Optech ballot?

A: There is not a size requirement, but they need to fit through the voting equipment. It's a good idea to talk to your voting equipment vendor and get a sample sticker from the candidate if possible to test it.

Q: Are you referring to the Election Day manual regarding instructions on when to count write-in votes?

A: The specific examples are in the materials for the presentation and are found at:
<http://gab.wi.gov/node/2431>

Q: Can a hunting/fishing license be used for proof of residence?

A: Yes. Hunting/fishing licenses are documents issued by a unit of government and are considered acceptable proof of residence.

Q: Do you count a write in when that person being written in is running for another office on the ballot?

A: In the same party, yes. Not if written in under another party.

Q: Can elections continue if there are more than 3 inside during the curbside voting is going on?

A: There must be an odd number and minimum of three election inspectors in the polling place for voting to continue during a curbside vote.

Q: Can prom paks be programmed so ballot with only the party preference selected that it kick out as a blank ballot so the voter has an option to correct ballot?

A: We've determined by conversations with all vendors that the equipment sees party preference as a "contest." If a contest is marked, the machine will not reject the ballot. Therefore, if a voter marks a party preference only, the voter will not get a chance to correct the ballot and no votes are counted.

Q: Can you clarify if it can only be the check itself or can the stub of said check count as well.

A: The stub is fine if it lists the name and home address of the elector.

Q: Can you register as curbside voting or only vote a ballot if already registered?

A: You can register (proof of residence is required always on Election Day) and get the ballot curbside.

Q: Do passports need to be current (not expired)?

A: To be used as POR it needs to be current, but our understanding is passports don't list the elector's address, in which case it can't be used.

Q: We get a lot of people who want to use their blank checks. We have always gone on the premise that there is nothing that dates that account, whether it is current or not. Correct?

A: Blank checks are not acceptable forms of POR.

Q: Do you have the Acceptable Proof of Residence PDF used in this webinar available on the GAB website? If not, could you make it available to us in a PDF format?

A: The specific examples are in the materials for the presentation: <http://gab.wi.gov/node/2431>

Q: Do you still have to issue a Certificate of Registration during "Late Registration" if you have not yet printed your poll book?

A: Yes, the law doesn't make an exception for people who haven't printed the poll book yet.

Q: Does it have to be a copy of the paycheck or can it be the paycheck stub if it includes the voter's mailing address and the employer information?

A: Yes, as long as it includes the elector's name and address.

Q: Does the number of election workers need to be an odd number? Does the number include the clerk?

A: The total must be an odd number. The odd number includes the clerk if he or she is acting as an elector inspector (we urge *against* this practice as the municipal clerk has other duties on Election Day; the clerk may not act as an election inspector if he or she is on the ballot). An Election Day SRD or Greeter does not count toward the odd numbered total.

Q: Since our poll workers are human, what do we do if we realize someone did not sign poll book and has left the polling place?

A: It should be documented on the Inspectors' Statement (GAB-104).

Q: For check or other documents issued by a unit of government, is correspondence (such as mass mailings from a representative or a letter) acceptable?

A: Legislators and other elected officials represent a unit of government and their correspondence is

acceptable as proof of residence if it includes the individual's name and current address, regardless of whether it is part of a mass mailing or an individual letter.

Q: You said that the POR is supposed to be documented on the supplemental poll list. When did this change happen? Is the GAB-107 going to be revised to include this?

A: Section 6.79(4): "When any elector provides POR..., the election officials shall enter the type of identifying document provided on the poll list under sub (2)(c).* If the document submitted as proof of identity or residence includes a number which applies only to the individual holding that document, the election officials shall also enter that number on the list.

This statute has been in place for years. The G.A.B. advises that only the type of POR be written on the list for privacy purposes. The type and any identifying number is recorded on the GAB-131.

*sub(2)(c) talks about the different lists at the polling place and refers to 6.55(2) and (3) which is voters registering on election day.

Q: What about absentee ballots? What is the procedure for discarding the unused ballots?

A: If this is talking about hand-count paper ballots at a partisan primary, the EA manual says to put the voted ballot in the ballot box. The unused ballots are placed in the absentee envelope and the envelope is placed in the used certificate envelope.

Q: How does one show proof of residence when they register by mail?

A: The only electors required to provide proof of residence when registering by mail are first time Wisconsin Voters (all mailed applications must be postmarked no later than the 20th day before the election in order to be accepted for that election). The voter encloses a copy with their registration.

Q: Can you please repeat what you write on the GAB-104 when you receive a curbside vote?

A: Ballot received at poll entrance - exempt.

Q: If someone comes in and does all their banking on-line and wants us to view their phone, is this adequate for proof of residence?

A: A printed copy is required, although it can be a printed copy of the electronic statement (**updated, see note**)

Note: At the August 28, 2012 G.A.B. meeting, the Board unanimously directed that election officials accept electronic versions of any of the proof of residence documents under Wis. Stat. § 6.34(3)(a) that contain a current and complete name and address. Please see the August 29, 2012 clerk communication, "Use of Electronic Documents for Proof of Residence" for more information.

Q: We do utility billing out of our Town Hall. Many new registrations want us to look up their bill and use this for proof of residence. Is this okay to use since we have to look it up, they are not bringing anything in to us?

A: A printed copy is required, although it can be a printed copy of the electronic statement. **(updated, see note)**

Note: At the August 28, 2012 G.A.B. meeting, the Board specifically indicated that election officials are under no obligation to provide Internet access, computers or smartphones in their offices or at the polling place to facilitate voter registration but may do so if they choose. Please see the August 29, 2012 clerk communication, "Use of Electronic Documents for Proof of Residence" for more information.

Q: Is a minor child only allowed to be an assistor on Election Day OR can that minor child be an assistor and sign an absentee ballot as well? How is being an assistor different than signing as a witness on the voter certificate envelope?

A: An elector can select anyone to provide assistance marking his or her ballot other than the voter's employer or an officer or agent of a labor organization which represents the voter. A witness for absentee voting must be an adult U.S. citizen.

Q: Did I understand correctly you cannot use any credit card statement as POR?

A: If it's a credit card statement only, no. If your bank statement includes a credit card account and a checking and/or savings account, it may be used as POR. Bank statements include only statements for checking, savings, money market, loan, or certificate of deposit accounts at a bank or credit union. Credit card statements from a bank are not acceptable. Statements from other financial institutions such as investment companies are also not acceptable, even if they include information for a checking or savings account.

Q: How do we know a campaign registration statement has been filed?

A: For municipal offices, candidates must file the Campaign Registration Statement (GAB-1) with the municipal clerks. The G.A.B. will provide a certification listing of all candidates that have qualified for ballot access in preparation for ballot production.

Q: If a voter does not reside in a municipality for 28 days we are to explain they must vote at their previous address because of the 28 day residency requirement has not been met. However, if we are not to confirm the 28 days why is there a 28 day residency requirement?

A: The elector is certifying that they have met the 28 day residency requirement when they fill out and sign the voter registration application (GAB-131). This is no different from when the requirement was 10 days.

Q: Is there an expiration timeframe for paychecks?

A: No.

Q: I have seen where the poll workers initial a bunch of ballots at one time, should they be doing that or doing it each time they give an individual ballot.

A: Election inspectors should not pre-initial ballots.

Q: At the county level, we have seen poll books come in with no signatures, but a number was given. How do we handle that?

A: Follow up with the municipality to verify they are asking for signatures (educational opportunity), but there is no penalty after the fact for the municipality or the voter (assuming that it was done unintentionally).

Q: If a person uses their bank statement, which they bring up on their cell phone, can that be used as proof of residence, or must it be printed off?

A: A printed copy is required, although it can be a printed copy of the electronic statement (updated, see note)

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Q: So, should a person who registers and votes absentee in the office then also sign a supplemental poll list or is the certificate signature sufficient?

A: Only voters who vote on Election Day sign the poll book, absentee voters just sign the envelope.

Q: Passports do not contain addresses so they cannot be used.

A: If a passport does not have an address it is not acceptable proof of residence.

Q: Please review what clerks should do with discarded (un-voted partisan sections of paper)/un-voted ballots. Security?

A: The EA manual says to put the voted ballot in the ballot box. The unused ballots are placed in the absentee envelope and the envelope is placed in the used certificate envelope.

Q: Isn't straight party in Nov. still available for military and overseas voters?

A: Only for the Federal Write-In ballot, not on the official ballot.

Q: Since when does the POR have to be written on supplemental?

A: Section 6.79(4): "When any elector provides POR., the election officials shall enter the type of identifying document provided on the poll list under sub (2)(c).* If the document submitted as proof of

identity or residence includes a number which applies only to the individual holding that document, the election officials shall also enter that number on the list.

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Q: So a curbside voter doesn't sign the poll list correct? In the past, we just write curbside in the signature box.

A: Correct, the notation in the signature box can just be "Ballot received a poll entrance – exempt".

Q: It was stated the WI DL had to be current on Election Day or day they were voting. Recently it was stated the DL /ID had to have been current as of the last Federal Election.

A: You're right, that was for Photo ID not Proof of Residence.

Q: I thought they could be current based on the last federal election (WI DL.)

A: For photo identification it was the last general election, not proof of residence.

Q: Or maybe that is when they were using it for proof of person.

A: By proof of person you mean proof of identification (photo ID) and yes this provision about the last general election applied to photo ID which has been permanently enjoined by two courts.

Q: Is the PowerPoint used today going to be available online anywhere? It would be useful for training our election workers.

A: Yes, the recording of today's presentation will be posted to the training section of the website.

Q: The instructors keep referring to our materials. Were we supposed to have gotten something specific in advance or by materials do they mean the Election Day manual and communications?

A: Please find the materials at: <http://gab.wi.gov/node/2431>

Q: Can a Social Security document be printed off the internet and presented as a valid POR?

A: Yes, if it is a "document issued by a unit of government" and contains the voter's full name and address.

Q: The materials reference someone challenging a curbside vote - is the basis of that challenge the legitimacy of the curbside request or is it simply the exact same sort of challenge (Age, citizenship, etc.) seen for other challenges?

A: Yes, it's the same reasons for challenge as applies to any voter.

Q: The Poll List shows "POR" by a voter. Do we note the type of POR on the Inspector Statement?

A: Not on the inspector's statement, just on the poll list.

Q: We have one polling place. Can the Clerk and Deputy Clerk do curbside voting?

A: If they are appointed as election inspectors. We discourage the clerk from acting as an election inspector and the clerk may not act as one if he or she is on the ballot.

Q: What about a garbage bill for a utility statement?

A: Only if the elector pays the town for garbage hauling, then it could be considered a document issued by a unit of government and can be used as proof of residence. But if a garbage hauler is a private company, then it cannot be used as POR.

Q: What do you write in the poll list in the signature - for curb side voting? - (hard to understand)

A: "Ballot received a poll entrance – exempt" is made on the signature line of the elector on the poll list.

Q: Homeless Shelter - they still must have lived there at least 28 days.

A: Yes, 28 days is a requirement, although it is not proved by the POR document.

Q: Does the letter I receive from the Homeless Shelter state what day they moved in at the Shelter? Or do we go by the votes states.

A: No, the letter does not have to list the date they moved in.

Q: What happens you realize about 20 min. later a person forgot to sign the ballot?

A: You mean the poll list? If they are still there at the polls, you can ask them to sign. If they left, it's too late and all you can do is document the error on the Inspectors' Statement (GAB-104).

Q: What if a voter wants to pull up their utility bill or bank statement online on their cell phone....is that acceptable or must we require a paper copy of the proof of residency?

A: Must have a paper copy, although a print out of the electronic statement is fine (**updated, see note**).

Note: At the August 28, 2012 G.A.B. meeting, the Board unanimously directed that election officials accept electronic versions of any of the proof of residence documents under Wis. Stat. § 6.34(3)(a) that contain a current and complete name and address. Please see the August 29, 2012 clerk communication, "Use of Electronic Documents for Proof of Residence" for more information.

Q: What is the reasoning that a lease cannot be used by a first-time voter by mail?

A: That is from the federal Help America Vote Act.

Q: What samples are you referring to? I still am seeing "General Situations" on screen.

A: These are in the materials for the presentation, not the slides.

Q: What unique number should be entered into SVRS when the applicant is using a lease as POR? Is the name of the landlord acceptable?

A: Not all documents used as Proof of Residence have or are required to have a unique number, so no number is listed.

Q: What was the comment about writing POR on supplemental list? Since the POR is recorded on the Registration form (GAB 131), why is it necessary to record on the Supplemental List compiled on Election Day?

A: Section 6.79(4): "When any elector provides POR..., the election officials shall enter the type of identifying document provided on the poll list under sub (2)(c).* If the document submitted as proof of identity or residence includes a number which applies only to the individual holding that document, the election officials shall also enter that number on the list.

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Q: Didn't think Passports not have the voters address so cannot be used for POR.

A: If a passport does not have an address it can't be used as POR.

Q: POR Item #7 College ID with fee receipt... wouldn't the fee receipt on its own work for POR? Would that be a 'document issued by a unit of government'?

A: Yes, if it is a public university and contains the name and address of the student.

Q: Would you take poll list with you to curbside?

A: No, curbside voters are exempt. "Ballot received a poll entrance – exempt" is made on the signature line of the elector on the poll list

Q: To register on Election Day do they need to have photo I.D. along with proof of residence?

A: NO! Photo ID is enjoined by court order and is NOT required until further notice.