

# WISCONSIN ELECTION LAWS: Photo ID and Other Recent Changes Effective 2012

## Photo Identification

Beginning in 2012, you cannot receive a ballot until you have met ID requirements. (See the “Photo ID Exemptions and Exception” section.) Wisconsin does not issue a separate “Voter ID” card. Instead you must use one of the photo IDs listed below.

**Your photo ID does not need to show a current address.**

## Acceptable forms of Photo ID

- Wisconsin driver license\*
- Wisconsin DOT-issued photo ID card\*
- U.S. passport\*
- Military ID card\*  
*\*The above documents may not have expired earlier than the date of the last November election.*
- Certificate of naturalization issued within last two years
- Unexpired Wisconsin driver license or state ID receipt
- ID card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin.
- Unexpired ID issued by a Wisconsin accredited university or college that contains an issuance date, student signature, and expiration date within two years of issuance, along with a separate document showing proof of current enrollment.

If you are eligible to vote but do not have an acceptable ID, you may obtain a **free** ID for purposes of voting. Please visit <http://gab.wi.gov> and click “Voter Photo ID” for more information.

## Photo ID Exemptions/Exceptions

Photo ID is always required when voting at the polling place and at the clerk’s office unless you are a confidential elector.

Photo ID is not required for these absentee voters:

- Military electors
- Voters who are permanently abroad
- Confidential electors

Photo ID is not required, but is replaced with alternative requirements for these absentee voters:

- Indefinitely confined voters
- Nursing home and other care facility residents who have ballots delivered by a Special Voting Deputy
- Residents of care facilities who are not visited by a Special Voting Deputy

For further information contact your municipal clerk.

## Provisional Ballots: Voters who do not provide Photo ID

Voters, including absentees, who are required but unable to provide photo ID may vote by provisional ballot.

Provisional ballots are not counted unless the voter provides an acceptable photo ID to the municipal clerk by 4 p.m. the Friday after the election.

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## Changes to Absentee Voting

### Absentee in the Clerk's Office

Absentee voting in the clerk's office is now restricted to the two weeks before an election. Absentee voting now ends at the close of business the Friday before the election.

The new law prohibits absentee voting and voter registration the Saturday, Sunday or Monday before an election.

Beginning in 2012, absentee voters in the clerk's office must present the same type of photo ID required at the polls (see list on the left).

### Absentee Requests by Mail

Beginning in 2012, absentee requests for ballots sent by mail must be accompanied by a photocopy of an acceptable form of voter ID (see list on the left).

Once you have sent the clerk's office a photocopy of your ID, you will not need to send photocopies with future absentee ballot requests by mail, fax or email unless you change your name or address.

### Absentee Requests by Email/Fax

If submitting an absentee request via fax or email, you must either include a photocopy of acceptable ID with your request or in your absentee ballot envelope.

## Signing the Poll Book

Voters must sign the poll book to obtain a ballot. The poll book now contains a signature block for each voter. Only one poll book needs to be signed.

Voters unable to sign the poll book because of a physical disability are exempt from this requirement. If this applies to you, tell the election officials that you are unable to sign because of a disability. Election officials will write "exempt" in your signature block.

## Hospitalized Voters

Hospitalized voters may appoint an agent to pick up their ballot from the clerk's office. The agent must present the hospitalized voter's photo ID to the clerk's office.

## Voter Registration Changes

You can register to vote up until the Friday before the election or on Election Day. You must reside at your address for 28 consecutive days to be eligible to vote, and you may no longer use a corroborating witness as proof of residence. Proof of residence is required when registering less than 20 days before an election, on Election Day, and for first time Wisconsin voters registering by mail. For more information on acceptable proof of residence documents contact your local municipal clerk

For detailed information about the Voter Photo ID law, please visit the Government Accountability Board website: <http://gab.wi.gov> or call 1-866-VOTE-WIS or contact the G.A.B. Help Desk at 608-261-2028 or TTY 1-800-947-3529.