

Conducting a Voter Registration Drive in Wisconsin

Voter Registration Deadlines

- Applications submitted by mail or registration drive must be received or postmarked by the third Wednesday before Election Day.
- Wisconsin allows in-person registration until the Friday before the election at a municipal clerk's office and at the polls on Election Day.

Getting Started

Training Requirement: Wisconsin does not require training for registration drives.

Notification and Registration Requirements: Since the adoption of [online voter registration](#), Wisconsin no longer has special registration deputies.

Given the documentary proof of residence requirement (see next page), voter registration drives can only assist people in filling out a registration application. They cannot collect and submit a registration application unless the applicant has a photocopy of his or her proof of residence and is willing to provide it to the drive volunteer for submission along with the voter registration application.

As a result, conducting a successful voter registration drive has become extremely difficult in Wisconsin. There are no notification and registration requirements for voter registration drive volunteers because they cannot serve as special registration deputies. These designated positions have been eliminated.

Compensation Restrictions: Do not pay registration drive participants based on how many registrations they collect.

Obtaining Applications

State Form: The state mail-in voter registration application (Form 131) is available to be downloaded from the [Government Accountability Board's website](#) in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#).

Federal Form: Organizations conducting voter registration drives **should use the state voter registration application**.

Photocopying Blank Forms: Blank applications may be photocopied and used in voter registration drives.

Handling Applications

Except for military and overseas voters, all other registrants in all circumstances must provide a copy of or show proof of residency when registering to vote or reregistering to change a name or address. Only clerks may verify proof of residency documents without retaining a copy; they simply note what has been shown on the form.

Voter registration drive volunteers must photocopy the voter's proof of residency document for submission. Organizations may not retain a copy of the proof of residency. These photocopies must be submitted along with the applications.

Proof of residency must contain the voter's name and current address.

The full list of acceptable proof-of-residency documents is as follows:

- A current Wisconsin driver license or ID card;
- Any other official ID card or license issued by a Wisconsin governmental body or unit;
- Any ID card issued by an employer in the normal course of business and with a photo of the card holder, but not including a business card;
- A real estate tax bill or receipt for the current year or the year preceding the date of the election;
- A university, college, or technical college ID card (must include photo) ONLY if the voter provides a fee receipt dated within the last 9 months or the institution provides a certified housing list to the municipal clerk;
- A gas, electric, or telephone bill (utility bill) for no earlier than 90 days before Election Day;
- Bank statement;
- Paycheck;
- An affidavit on public or private social service agency letterhead identifying a homeless voter and describing the individual's residence for voting purposes; or
- Residential lease. (Not valid if registering by mail.)

Incomplete Applications: Missing information may be filled in only with the permission of the applicant. Each applicant must sign his or her own name unless the applicant cannot due to a physical disability. In such case, the applicant may authorize another voter to sign the form on his or her behalf. The voter signing the form must attest to a statement that the application is made upon request and by authorization of a named elector who is unable to sign the form due to a physical disability. Municipal clerks will contact applicants to obtain any missing information.

Photocopying Completed Applications: There is no law or rule prohibiting photocopying or retaining information from completed registration applications. **A voter's date of birth, signature, full or partial Social Security Number, and driver's license number should be removed before copying any application.**

Fair Elections Center and Campus Vote Project intend the information contained herein is used only as a general guide. This document should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a licensed Wisconsin legal professional.

Last updated June 2018

For more information, visit
www.fairelectionscenter.org