

## Registering to Vote vs. Voting in Wisconsin: What's the Difference?

In Wisconsin, **registering to vote** and **casting your ballot** are two separate steps — and each has its own requirements. Knowing the difference helps ensure your vote counts.

### **Registering to Vote = Proving Where You Live**

When you register to vote — whether online, by mail, or in person — you must **prove your Wisconsin residency**. This shows you live in the district where you want to vote.

To register, you'll generally need a document that includes **your name and current address**. Acceptable proof of residence can include:

- A Wisconsin driver's license or state ID (with your current address)
- A current utility bill (gas, electric, phone)
- A bank statement, credit card statement, or paycheck mailed to your address
- A lease that covers the current time period and includes your name and address
- A student ID with photo, name, signature, and dates issued/expired paired with current enrollment paperwork
- Your automobile registration listing the residence as the location of the car/truck
- A government or employee ID with current address
- If you're experiencing homelessness, a **letter from a shelter or service provider verifying your residence**

### **Voting = Proving Who You Are**


Once you're registered, showing up to vote requires **photo identification** to prove your identity — not your address. Wisconsin law requires voters to present an acceptable photo ID before voting in person or receiving an absentee ballot (with very limited exceptions).

Acceptable **photo ID to vote** includes:

- Wisconsin driver's license or Wisconsin state ID card
- U.S. passport
- Tribal ID issued by a Wisconsin tribe
- Military or Veterans Affairs ID

- Certificate of naturalization (issued within the last two years)
- A student photo ID from a Wisconsin accredited university or college with appropriate dates and enrollment verification if needed

Your photo ID **does not need to include your current address** to be valid on Election Day.

 **Important: An ID issued by a different state will *not* work for voting or for registering to vote in Wisconsin.** Only Wisconsin or acceptable federal/tribal IDs count at the polls.

### **Changed Your Name or Address? Re-Register**

If you've moved or changed your name (for example, after marriage or divorce), you'll need to **update your registration**. You can do this online at [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) or by contacting your municipal clerk.

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### **Bottom line:**

- **Registering** is about proving **where you live**.
- **Voting** is about proving **who you are**.

Checking your registration and preparing the right ID ahead of time makes Election Day a smooth experience and helps ensure your ballot is counted.