

LGBTQ+ Voting Guide

Your Guide to Voting in Wisconsin



Wisconsin has one of the highest voting rates in the country! More than 72% of Wisconsinites voted in the last presidential election. Voting is one of the most important ways the LGBTQ+ community can protect our rights and make our voices heard.

By 2040, LGBTQ+ voters will make up almost 20% of voters. Yet transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming friends and family members may face unique barriers to voting on election day, from inappropriate questions from poll workers to outright challenges to their ability to cast a ballot.

THIS VOTING GUIDE WILL SHOW YOU HOW:

- You **CAN** register to vote online
- You **CAN** vote by mail
- You **CAN** use the ID you already have
- You **CAN** vote as a trans or non-binary person

Registering to Vote



REGISTER ONLINE

If you have an unexpired Wisconsin DMV-issued license or ID card that shows your current address, you can register online at myvote.wi.gov.

Just click on “Register to Vote” and follow the steps on the website.

If you need help, call the Voter Assistance Hotline at [\(866\)-687-8683](tel:866-687-8683) or [866-OUR-VOTE](tel:866-OUR-VOTE).

REGISTER IN PERSON

You can go to your [municipal clerk’s](#) office to register in person during their normal business hours (except during the three days right before an election).

Once early voting starts, you can also register at most early voting locations in your municipality and then vote in person right away.

And, Wisconsin has same-day registration, so you can register at your assigned [polling location](#) and then cast your ballot all on Election Day!



YOU CAN VOTE BY MAIL

Every voter in Wisconsin is eligible to vote by mail—no excuse needed. It's called voting by absentee ballot. If you have never voted absentee before, you will need to be able to take a picture of your photo ID and upload it to MyVote or make a copy of it to send by mail.

Important note: If you have previously requested an absentee ballot and have not moved, you do not need to submit your ID again.

HOW TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT ONLINE

- 1 Go to myvote.wi.gov and click "Vote Absentee By Mail"
- 2 Put in your first name, last name, and birthday. Verify that your name and address are correct and click "Request Absentee Ballot"
- 3 If this is your first time requesting an absentee ballot, or you've moved or changed your name since you submitted your photo ID, you'll have to add a picture of your photo ID. Click the green "Upload Photo ID" button, choose "take photo," snap a picture of your photo ID, and click "use photo." Once your photo is there, click "continue," and choose which elections you want to receive a ballot for this year.

— **Note: Make sure you use the photo ID you would use to vote in person.**
- 4 Finally, review your request, certify that your information is correct, and click "Request Ballot"

You're all set! And if you have any trouble call the Voter Assistance Hotline at [\(866\)-687-8683](tel:866-687-8683) or [866-OUR-VOTE](tel:866-OUR-VOTE).

DROBOXES ARE LEGAL

Absentee ballot dropboxes are legal in Wisconsin. Clerks may, but are not required to, provide dropboxes for voters to drop off absentee ballots. For information about your municipality, [contact your municipal clerk](#).

HOW TO COMPLETE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

You are the only one who is allowed to fill out your absentee ballot – unless you are disabled. Voters who are disabled and need assistance filling out their absentee ballot due to their disability have a right to assistance under the Voting Rights Act.

- Find a witness who is a US Citizen and over the age of 18—it can be a family member, friend, neighbor, or total stranger.
- Show your blank ballot to your witness. They should watch you complete your ballot, but from a distance so they don't see who you're actually voting for.
- When you're done, fold your ballot and seal it in the certificate envelope.
- Complete the certification on the envelope and make sure that any pre-filled fields are correct.
- Then, give the envelope to your witness and make sure they completely fill out the "Certification of Witness" section. They have to sign and write their **complete address, including street address, municipality, state, and zip code**.

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Double check your envelope before you put it in the mail or drop it off! If your envelope does not have your signature, your witness's signature, and your witness's complete address, it won't be counted!

HOW TO RETURN AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

Return your absentee ballot **as soon as possible!** Ballots must be received by 8 pm on election day in order to be counted.

- If you are going to mail it back, mail it as soon as possible! The postal service advises ballots are mailed at least one week before election day to allow sufficient time for it to be delivered.
- You can return your ballot in person to an early vote site or, in most municipalities, to your election day polling place.
- **Voters who are not disabled must return their ballots themselves, either in person to the clerk's office or to an early vote site.**

Voters who are disabled and require assistance with mailing or delivering their absentee ballot due to their disability have a right to assistance under the Voting Rights Act.

- Disabled voters may choose anyone to be their assistant, except the voter's employer, union, or someone who is an agent of their employer or union.
- An assistant can place the disabled voter's ballot in the mail for them or bring it directly to the clerk's office or a polling place on their behalf.
- The Wisconsin Elections Commission has advised that municipal clerks do not need to confirm a voter's disability, or verify or record an assistant's identity.



HOW TO VOTE IN PERSON

On Election Day, polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm. Find your polling place at myvote.wi.gov.

- You need to show an acceptable form of ID to vote.
- If you are in line when polls close, stay in line. **Anyone in line when the polls close at 8pm must be allowed to vote.**
- **Call the Voter Assistance Hotline at (866)-687-8683 or 866-OUR-VOTE** if you have questions or issues voting on election day.

NOTE: Polling places often change from election to election—always check where yours is before you go to vote to make sure you head to the right place

HOW TO VOTE CURBSIDE

If you are elderly, mobility impaired, immunocompromised, or otherwise unable to enter a polling place, you have the [right to vote curbside](#) on Election Day instead of voting inside.

- Be sure to have your valid photo ID ready.
- Stay in your car and contact the poll workers from outside. There should be a sign with a number to call or a doorbell to ring.
- If there is no signage or the bell does not work, please report this to the Voter Assistance Hotline at [\(866\)-687-8683 or 866-OUR-VOTE](#). Their team will work with you to resolve the issue.
- **Two poll workers will come to your vehicle and assist you in voting.**

HOW TO VOTE IN PERSON BEFORE ELECTION DAY

All municipalities allow you to vote early, in person. Locations, dates, and times vary based on municipality. By law, in-person early voting can only happen in the two weeks before election day. To find your early voting sites contact your municipal clerk. The most commonly used photo ID is a Wisconsin driver's license.

VOTER ID

Wisconsin voters must show an acceptable form of ID when voting in person or requesting an absentee ballot (with a few **exceptions**.) Chances are, you probably have at least one of these **acceptable forms of ID** already! Your photo ID does not need to show your current address.

These kinds of ID must be current (unexpired):

- Veteran's photo ID issued by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Certificate of naturalization issued less than 2 years before the date of the election in which you are voting
- Driving receipt or ID card receipt issued by the WI DMV (valid for 45 days)
- Wisconsin DMV ID petition process photo receipt (valid for 60 days)

These kinds of ID can be expired:

- Tribal ID card from a federally recognized tribe in Wisconsin
- Student ID card from a Wisconsin accredited university or college, if it is accompanied by proof of current enrollment

Some kinds of ID are valid if they expired since the last general election day:

- A Wisconsin DMV-issued driver's license (even if your driving privileges are suspended or revoked)
- A Wisconsin DMV-issued photo ID
- A United States passport



Ready to Vote?

WHO SHOULD I VOTE FOR?

To find non-partisan information regarding the candidates on your ballot visit: Vote411.org.

The Fair Wisconsin Political Action Committee endorses champions for the LGBTQ+ community. You can find a list of these pro-equality candidates at: fairwisconsin.com/vote.

The Victory Fund endorses LGBTQ+ and transgender candidates. You can find a list of them at: victoryfund.org/our-candidates.

VOTING IN SPANISH OR ANOTHER LANGUAGE

Under section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act, the following jurisdictions are required to provide voter materials in Spanish:

- Abbotsford (City)
- Arcadia (City)
- Curtiss (Village)
- Milwaukee (City)
- Sharon (Village)
- West Milwaukee (Village)

For voters outside of these jurisdictions or for those who speak a language other than Spanish, section 208 of the Voting Rights Act permits them to bring an interpreter into the voting booth. This can be anyone, including a friend or family member, as long as they're not associated with the voter's employer or a member of the voter's union.

Más información sobre cómo votar en español:

elections.wi.gov/voters/hablo-espanol-i-speak-spanish

VOTERS WHO ARE TRANS OR NON-BINARY

Although Wisconsin law requires all voters to present a valid photo ID, a person's gender expression or gender marker on their ID has no legal bearing on their right to cast a vote. However, please keep in mind that the **name on your ID must match the name on your voter registration**. If you have legally changed your name, be sure to update your voter registration.

Wisconsin law states that the photo on your ID must “reasonably resemble” you. However, poll workers are trained to account for everyday or transitional appearance changes such as hair length, hair color, facial hair, weight, or makeup.

If your photo ID is refused, request a provisional ballot with documentation and detailed instructions on how to ensure your vote is counted. If you have more questions, check out transequality.org/vote.

If you face discrimination or hostility at the polls, call the Voter Assistance Hotline at [\(866\)-687-8683](tel:866-687-8683) or [866-OUR-VOTE](tel:866-OUR-VOTE).

