



WISCONSIN

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**VOTER  
IDENTIFICATION  
GUIDE**

*Updated July 2020*





## **WISCONSIN: VOTER ID GUIDE**

This guide provides information about identification requirements for voting in Wisconsin. It was most recently updated in November of 2019.

Call or text VoteRiders for more information or voter ID assistance.

**Toll-free Helpline:**  
Call or Text 844-33-VTRID

Website: [voteriders.org](http://voteriders.org)  
Email: [info@voteriders.org](mailto:info@voteriders.org)

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## Acceptable voter photo ID

**To vote in Wisconsin, voters will need to bring ONE (1) form of acceptable voter photo ID to their polling place.**

- 1a. Acceptable IDs for voting that can be unexpired or expired after the date of the most recent general election (currently November 6, 2018).
- 1b. Acceptable IDs for voting that must be unexpired.
- 1c. Exemptions/Exceptions
- 1d. Important things to know

Find information online: <http://bit.ly/WIVIDgov>

**1a. Acceptable IDs for voting that can be unexpired or expired after the date of the most recent general election (currently November 6, 2018).**

- Wisconsin DOT-issued driver's license, even if driving privileges are revoked or suspended
- Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card
- Military ID card issued by U.S. Uniformed Service
- U.S. passport book or card

**NOTE:** An identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin can be used for voting purposes whether they are expired or unexpired.

A Veteran Affairs ID card can be used if it is unexpired or has no expiration date.

### **1b. Acceptable IDs for voting that must be unexpired.**

- A certificate of naturalization that was issued no more than two years before the date of an election at which it is presented
- A driver license receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT (valid for 45 days from the date issued)
- A photo identification card issued by a Wisconsin accredited university, college, or technical college that contains: date of issuance, signature of student, and an expiration date no later than two years after date of issuance

### 1c. Exceptions/Exemptions

ID *with your photo* is always required when voting at your polling place unless you have:

- a religious objection to being photographed, in which case you can apply for Wisconsin DOT-issued card without a photo;
- a citation or notice of intent to revoke or suspend a Wisconsin DOT-issued driver license that is dated within 60 days of the date of the election.

Photo ID is not required for:

- absentee voters who are active military personnel or “permanent overseas” citizens (who will be issued ballots for federal offices only);
- voters who are a “confidential elector” such as victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence or stalking and who has submitted substantiation. See: <http://bit.ly/WICnfdtl>

### 1c. Exemptions/Exceptions

Photo ID is not required for these absentee voters, as the witness' signature on the Absentee Ballot Certificate Envelope satisfies the photo ID requirement:

- "Indefinitely confined" voters who, because of age, physical illness, infirmity, or disability, may have difficulty traveling to the polling place. If you choose to vote absentee in the clerk's office or at the polling place on Election Day, a photo ID will be required.
- Nursing home and other care facility residents, see: <http://bit.ly/Wlcarevote> .

### 1d. Important things to know

- There is no such thing as a separate Wisconsin "Voter ID Card" (except, essentially, for students whose school's voter-compliant version is different from that school's standard student ID card).
- The address on your ID doesn't have to be current.
- The name on your ID must conform to the name on your voter registration record but doesn't need to be an exact match, such as Rich vs. Richard, Bob vs. Robert, or Sue vs. Susan.
- Your ID should look like you. Even if you've colored your hair, shaved your beard, or lost some weight, as long as your photo ID reasonably resembles you, it should be accepted.



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# How to obtain a free Wisconsin ID card

If you do not have a photo ID that is acceptable for voting (see section 1 of this guide), are a U.S. citizen, will be at least 18 years of age by the next election, and would like a Wisconsin state ID card to vote – please check the “ID for FREE” box when completing the Wisconsin Identification Card (ID) application MV3004.

Find the application online: <http://bit.ly/MV3004>

To get a free ID card, you will need to take a few documents to your nearest Division of Motor Vehicles office.

Locate your nearest DMV: <http://bit.ly/DMVwi>

Once your application is complete, you will receive a receipt (valid for 45 days) that you can use at the polls until your state ID arrives by mail.

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# Documents required to obtain a state ID

The documentation lists on the following page apply to any Wisconsin resident applying for a state photo ID.

Some of the listed documents do not apply since, in order to vote, you must be a U.S. citizen and at least 18 years of age by the next election.

Be sure to bring originals or certified copies. Photocopies do not work.

Most people will be fine with a Social Security card, a certified U.S. birth certificate, and a utility bill or cell phone bill. You'll notice that some records, like a certified birth certificate, satisfy more than one category.

### The documents you will need fall into four categories:

1. PROOF OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH

Acceptable documents: <http://bit.ly/Wlname>

2. PROOF OF IDENTITY

Acceptable documents: <http://bit.ly/Wlidentity>

3. PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP

Acceptable documents: <http://bit.ly/Wlctzn>

4. PROOF OF WISCONSIN RESIDENCY

Acceptable documents: <http://bit.ly/Wlresidence>

5. YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

# How to obtain a free ID for voting even if you do not have all of the documents needed for Wisconsin voter ID – at no cost

Using the ID Petition Process, just bring what you have to the DMV, fill out two forms – form MV3004 and form MV3012. You you will get a photo ID document in the mail that you can use in time for voting.

Find information online: <http://bit.ly/WIpetID>

The image shows a sample receipt from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. At the top left is the state seal. The header includes the department name and website. Contact information for the Division of Motor Vehicles Compliance Unit is listed on the right. The receipt contains fields for personal information: DATE, «FIRST\_NAME» «LAST\_NAME», «STREET\_ADDRESS», «CITY» «STATE» «ZIP», and «DID\_». A central stamp reads "Receipt Valid for Voting Purposes Only". Below this, there are fields for "Product type" (ID for Voting Purposes), "Issue date", "Valid until", "Issued by", and "Date". A "Physical Description" section lists fields for «DOB», «SEX», «HEIGHT», «WEIGHT», «HAIR», «EYES», and «ORGAN\_DONOR». A silhouette of a person's head and shoulders is shown to the right of the physical description. A signature, "Michael Sample", is written in the bottom left. At the very bottom, a small disclaimer states: "This receipt is an acceptable Photo ID for voting and serves as your ID Card until your card is issued (s.5.02(5m) Wis. Stats.). This receipt is valid for 180 days and will be automatically renewed unless otherwise cancelled by WADOT. Additional receipts will be provided as you exercise reasonable efforts to contact DMV staff to discuss your petition application, or provide new information to assist in validating your birth record information. If you have further questions regarding your ID Card for voting purposes, please contact DMV using the information above."

Here is a sample of the document you'll be receiving.

This receipt, which is stamped "FOR VOTING PURPOSES ONLY," is valid for 180 days. If the receipt expires before the elections are over, it can be renewed.

The information you provide on the application form is used to communicate with state and federal agencies to verify unavailable documentation.

Once verification is received, the ID card will be processed and mailed to the applicant's address.

The DMV will attempt to process applications in less than seven business days, but completion time may be longer depending upon the responsiveness of the entities being contacted for verification.

If you have questions regarding this process or your status, you may contact the Wisconsin DMV at (608) 266-1069.

If verification is not received, the applicant will be contacted regarding what additional information may be required to complete an alternate method of verification in cooperation with the DMV.

The DMV does not have information regarding voter eligibility, poll locations, voter registration information, or other election information.

Please contact your local election officials or county clerk for election information. The Wisconsin Elections Commission is another useful source of information:  
<https://elections.wi.gov>

### Have questions?

- Contact us: [info@voteriders.org](mailto:info@voteriders.org)  
<http://voteriders.org/contact>
- Call or Text: 844-338-8743

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