

# Absentee Voting Wisconsin's New Voter Photo ID Law

Information provided by the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

<p><b>What has changed in the law?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ As of June 2011, Wisconsin law restricts absentee voting <i>in the clerk's office</i> to a two week period, beginning the third Monday before the election and ending the Friday before the election. Voters may no longer register, or vote absentee, on the weekend or the Monday before the election.</li> <li>➤ As of January 1, 2012, a valid photo ID, or acceptable substitute, must be provided when voting by absentee ballot, unless you are part of a group exempted by statute.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How do I know if I am exempt from the photo ID requirement?</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Groups that are exempt from providing photo ID:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Military voters are exempt only if they vote by absentee ballot.</b> This includes any member of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard, the Commissioned Corps of the Federal Public Health Service or the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, member of the merchant marine, peace corps volunteers, civilian employees of the U.S. serving outside the U.S., and their spouses and dependents.</li> <li>➤ <b>Overseas voters are exempt only if they vote by absentee ballot.</b> Overseas voters are persons who resided in your municipality and have left the United States permanently with no intent to return. This may include dependents over the age of 18 whose parents' last residence was in Wisconsin. Note that <u>if you are temporarily overseas</u>, and you have intent to return, you are not considered an overseas voter, and <u>you must provide proof of ID</u> with your absentee application or ballot.</li> <li>➤ <b>Confidential Electors.</b> Must have made a written request for confidential status to their municipal clerk. Must also have presented a court order, a letter from law enforcement, a letter from the staff of a domestic abuse shelter, or a letter from the staff of an agency assisting victims of domestic abuse, to the clerk.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What groups may provide a substitute document instead of a Photo ID?</b></p>	<p><b>Groups that may provide a substitute document with their absentee ballots:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Indefinitely confined electors</b> (permanent absentees) may provide a copy of their photo ID, but the witness certification on the absentee envelope will qualify as a substitute proof of ID.</li> <li>➤ <b>Voters in care facilities visited by Special Voting Deputies</b> (usually <b>nursing homes</b>) may provide a copy of their photo ID, but the witness certification, if signed by both Special Voting Deputies, qualifies as a substitute proof of ID.</li> <li>➤ <b>Voters in other care facilities</b> that are eligible for Special Voting Deputy procedures, but are <b>not visited by Special Voting Deputies</b>, may provide a copy of their photo ID or a certification statement signed by an authorized representative of the facility and <u>also</u> the absentee ballot witness. If the voter is indefinitely confined, the witness certification on the absentee envelope will also qualify as a substitute proof of ID.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(continued on next page)</b></p>

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<p><b>What groups must provide photo ID with their absentee applications or ballots?</b></p>	<p><b>Groups that must provide photo ID with their absentee applications or ballots:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Regular absentee voters requesting a ballot by mail</b> must provide a copy of their photo ID with their absentee ballot request. Once photo ID is provided, the voter no longer has to provide proof of ID with any absentee ballots, until they re-register (their name or address changes).</li> <li>➤ <b>Regular absentee voters requesting a ballot by email or fax</b> may provide a copy of their photo ID with their absentee ballot request, but are not required to. If a copy of their photo ID is not provided with the absentee ballot request, these voters must provide a copy of their photo ID with their returned absentee ballot. Once photo ID is provided, the voter no longer has to provide proof of ID with any absentee ballots, until they re-register (their name or address changes).</li> <li>➤ <b>In-person voters in the clerk's office</b> must show their photo ID to the clerk or staff. The staff member will initial the absentee envelope to indicate the voter provided proof of ID. In-person absentee voters must always show their ID, even if they have already provided a copy of their ID to the municipal clerk.</li> <li>➤ <b>Electors that have moved within Wisconsin less than 28 days before the election</b> must vote from their previous address. They may vote at the polling place for their previous address, or by absentee ballot in the municipality of their previous address. Photo ID requirements vary based on whether they meet an exception listed above, and how they request a ballot.</li> <li>➤ <b>Presidential-only electors, hospitalized electors, and sequestered jurors</b> have special absentee voting requirements. They should contact their municipal clerk for assistance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What happens if I don't submit my proof of ID or acceptable substitute with my absentee application or ballot?</b></p>	<p>Voters who are required to submit proof of ID with their absentee application, but do not, will not be sent an absentee ballot.</p> <p>Voters who are required to submit proof of ID with their absentee ballot, but do not, will have their absentee ballot converted into a provisional ballot on Election Day. These voters will have until the 3<sup>rd</sup> day after the election, Friday, at 4:00 p.m., to submit the required proof of ID to their municipal clerk. If the proof of ID is received by the deadline, their ballot will be counted. If proof of ID is not received by the deadline, the ballot will not count. Voters can check the status of their provisional ballots by contacting their municipal clerk, or checking the Voter Public Access website at <a href="http://vpa.wi.gov">http://vpa.wi.gov</a>.</p>

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.