

# Government Accountability Board

## State of Wisconsin

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### **“Top 10 Things a Wisconsin Voter Should Know for Election Day”**

MADISON, WI – Wisconsin’s Election Division today released its list of the top ten things a Wisconsin voter should know for Election Day, Tuesday, November 4.

Number one on the list is that voters should remember they can register at the polling place on Election Day.

“There has been a lot of national attention focused on voter registration and provisional ballots,” said Kevin Kennedy, Wisconsin’s Chief Election Officer. “Since Wisconsin, unlike many other states, has registration at the polls, very few voters will likely be forced to vote on a provisional ballot.”

Wisconsin voters can register at the polls on Election Day if they provide proof of residence. Voters who have a valid Wisconsin driver’s license will be required to use their license number to complete the registration form.

A very small number of provisional ballots have been cast in previous elections.

“Wisconsin polling officials have been trained and are equipped to provide provisional ballots in very limited circumstances on November 4<sup>th</sup>,” said Nat Robinson, Elections Division Administrator.

There are only two circumstances where a provisional ballot can be offered at Wisconsin polling place:

- When an individual with a valid driver’s license wants to register on Election Day but cannot produce the license number, they will be provided a provisional ballot and have until 4:00 p.m. the following day to correct the problem with the local clerk.
- When a first-time voter who registered by mail has failed to provide proof of residence, they can use a provisional ballot and will have until 4:00 p.m. the following day to show proof of residence to the clerk.

Number two on the list is that voters can check to see if they are already registered with their municipal clerk, or on the Division's Voter Public Access website at <https://vpa.wi.gov>

Kennedy encouraged registered voters to double-check their registration online. The site allows voters to look up their voter registration information, ballot information and polling place locations.

"Voter Public Access is very handy, and connects directly to the data in the Statewide Voter Registration System," Kennedy said. "If you don't find your registration information, call the municipal clerk's office and make sure you're ready for Tuesday."

Number three on the list is a new state rule for election observers, which has been distributed to all municipal clerks across Wisconsin, along with a brochure available to poll workers.

"We encourage anyone who wishes to witness the voting process in Wisconsin to be an election observer," Robinson said. "However, every election observer must abide by the same rules, which will be enforced by the chief election inspector at each polling place."

The election observer brochure is available at the following link on the G.A.B. website: <http://elections.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=15138&locid=47>.

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The Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) is responsible for administration and enforcement of campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobbying laws in Wisconsin. The G.A.B. is made up of six non-partisan, former judges and is supported by an agency of non-partisan staff members. Additional information about the mission of the G.A.B. may be obtained by telephone at **1-608-266-8005**, by electronic mail at **[gab@wi.gov](mailto:gab@wi.gov)**, or through the Internet at **<http://gab.wi.gov>**.

## Top 10 Things a Wisconsin Voter Should Know for Election Day

Polling Place Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

1. **Election Day Registration:** To register on Election Day, the voter needs to have her/his Wisconsin driver's license number, and a document that proves 10-day residence in Wisconsin, such as a lease or utility bill. (If the voter possesses no Wisconsin driver's license, she/he may use the last four digits of the Social Security number.)
2. **Finding the polling place:** Voters can only vote at the polling place which corresponds to their residential address. Locate a polling place by contacting the municipal clerk's office or checking on the Internet at <https://vpa.wi.gov>
3. **Election observers:** Election observers are welcome at every polling place, but they must follow the instructions of the chief election inspector, and may not interact with voters. Rules for election observers are available at the polling place and on the G.A.B. website at <http://elections.wi.gov>.
4. **Ballot mistakes:** Voters who mistakenly mark their ballot may ask for a new ballot. In the case of touch-screen voting equipment, the voter will review ballot choices before affirming the final vote.
5. **Wearing political items:** Voters are asked not to wear political clothing or paraphernalia to the polling place on Election Day. The chief election inspector may ask voters who are judged to be electioneering or creating a disturbance to leave the polling place.
6. **In line when the polls close:** Voter who may be standing in line waiting to vote when the polling place closes at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day will be permitted to vote.
7. **Photo ID required?** A photo ID is not required of voters at the polling place on Election Day, but the driver's license number may be used to register to vote or to prove residency if the address on the ID is current.
8. **Challenging a voter:** There are specific criteria and limitations on challenging a person's eligibility to vote. The chief election inspector can

explain the challenge process and provide the voter and the challenger with explanatory documents.

9. **News media recording:** The news media may record the general voting process in the polling place with permission from the chief election inspector, but may not record how any individual voter votes (shooting footage of a ballot, for example) or interrupt the orderly process of voting.
10. **Straight Party Ticket:** Voting a “straight party ticket” means marking an area at the top of the ballot to indicate a preference for one political party for any partisan office below that the voter does not check individually. However, if the voter checks “Party A” at the top (straight party) and chooses “Party Z” candidate for State Assembly, the choice for Party Z’s State Assembly candidate will be recorded.