Tips – Voting and Registering to Vote for UW-Madison Students 2020

Students have the right to register and vote either at their school address or at their home/parent's address. A voter who moves or changes their name must re-register. Voters can register and vote using their new address if they move more than 10 days before Election Day. If they move within 10 days of an election, they vote at their old polling place.

PHOTO ID TO VOTE: All voters, with limited exceptions, must show a photo ID at the polls. The standard UW-Madison issued ID (Wiscard) is NOT acceptable. Students can easily get a free special student voting ID at the Wiscard office in Union South, simply by showing their Wiscard. Students who use the special voting ID card will also need to show proof of enrollment, such as a current student bus pass or the document at go.wisc.edu/verify. (If using this document as proof of enrollment, the address does not matter.)

Other typical ID’s are a State of Wisconsin Driver License or State ID Card (WI DL/ID), US passport, military ID, tribal ID, or a certificate of naturalization. The address on the ID does not matter. Out-of-state driver licenses are NOT acceptable. The DOT issues free voter ID’s, but anyone with an out-of-state driver license cannot get the Wisconsin DOT issued ID without giving up their out-of-state license. Details are at bringit.wi.gov.

ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION: Any eligible voter with a current and valid WI DL/ID can complete their voter registration online. Online registration closes at 11:59 pm on a Wednesday, 20 days before Election Day.

First, go to the DOT website (TinyURL.com/DOTaddress) and update your address so that your current voting address is in the DOT database. (The zip code needs to match your voting address in order to complete online voter registration. The address printed on the WI DL/ID card does not matter. Skip this step if the DMV already has your current voting address.)

Second, go to MyVote.wi.gov, and click on “Register To Vote” to complete the process. Online voter registration details are at https://elections.wi.gov/node/4879.
REGISTRATION USING A PAPER FORM: Voters can register by mail until 20 days before Election Day; or at their Clerk's Office until the Friday before the election. Find your clerk at MyVote.wi.gov. Madison voters can register at any Madison Public Library until the Friday before Election Day. Registration is available at early voting, also known as in-person absentee voting. Early voting dates, times, and locations are announced before each election.

If the voter has been issued a current and valid WI DL/ID, that number must go on the registration form. Voters who have not been issued WI DL/ID will need to provide the last four digits of their social security number.

If unsure of the DL number, call the DMV at 608-266-2353, press 1, 4, 4, 1. An alternative is to look it up at tinyURL.com/look-up-DL.

PROOF OF RESIDENCE: Registrants who use a paper registration form must provide Proof Of Residence (POR) with their full current name and address. If registering in person, POR can be shown in electronic form on a phone or computer. Since UW is a government agency, any document issued by UW, whether paper or electronic, can be used as POR. Go to go.wisc.edu/address, log-in to MyUW (if not already logged in), update your address, and then this page can be used as POR. Typically, a student voting in Madison would use the “Mailing Address” field, while the student voting from their home address would use the “Home Address.” The address page can also be found using the Wisconsin App. The path is MyUW>Student Center>Profile>Addresses.

Note to pollworkers: For the above, the POR type is government document; POR # is not needed, since it does not appear on that document.

Other typical POR: WI DL/ID with current address, paycheck, bank statement, or utility bill. A lease can be used if registering in person.

CITY OF MADISON RESIDENTS: An image of POR can be emailed to POR@cityofmadison.com.

ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION: On Election Day, eligible voters may register at their polling place. Find your polling place at MyVote.wi.gov. Madison polling places can also be found at go.wisc.edu/polls. The registration process is the same as described above for paper forms. POR can be paper or electronic.

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