

Ex-Felons and Incarcerated Voters Wisconsin's New Voter Photo ID Law

Information provided by the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

<p>What has changed in the law?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As of January 1, 2012, a valid photo ID, or acceptable substitute, must be provided when voting by absentee ballot or at the polling place, unless you are part of a group exempted by statute.
<p>Am I eligible to vote?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In Wisconsin, anyone convicted of a felony who has not yet completed the terms of their sentence, including probation, parole, and post-correctional supervision, is ineligible to vote. Felons become eligible to vote again only when they complete their post-correctional supervision. ➤ If you are incarcerated because of a misdemeanor, not a felony, you are eligible to vote. This includes most people in county jails and voters who were convicted of a felony and a misdemeanor, but have served the entire sentence for the felony, and are still in jail or prison for the misdemeanor. ➤ People who have been committed under chapter 980 (for sexually violent offenses) are still eligible to vote, if they have completed the term of their correctional sentence and post-correctional supervision. ➤ Voting rights are also restored if you are pardoned.
<p>I have completed my supervision (am “off paper”) for my felony. Do I need to do anything special to register?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Once you have completed your probation, parole, or post-correctional supervision, you can register to vote. You do not need to provide any special documents, other than proof of residence, in order to register. You do have to certify on your voter registration form that you are no longer under correctional supervision. ➤ Be aware that it is a felony to vote while still under correctional supervision for a felony. The G.A.B. compares a list of people who voted with a list of felons on supervision after each election.
<p>What is my address for voting purposes?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If you are incarcerated, the address where you lived immediately before you were incarcerated is your address for voting purposes. You may not use the jail or prison as your voting address. ➤ If you are not incarcerated, you should use the address where you currently reside. Since residency for voting purposes is different from residency for other purposes, you may register at a half-way house or other facility, even if their rules state it is not a residence for other purposes. <p style="text-align: center;">(continued on next page)</p>

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<p>Do I need a photo ID to vote?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ You need an acceptable photo ID to request an absentee ballot and vote. If you had a photo ID when you were incarcerated, you will have to ask the staff of the institution to make a copy of that ID for you. If you do not already have an acceptable photo ID, and cannot leave the institution to obtain one, you will not be able to vote.
<p>Can I vote by absentee ballot?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ You may request an absentee ballot by mail. A copy of your photo ID must be included with the absentee request and mailed to the municipal clerk. You must ask the staff of the institution to make a copy of your photo ID, or allow you to use a copy of your photo ID provided by someone else. You must also sign an absentee ballot request form, which can be mailed by the staff of your institution, or a third party. A third party can request an absentee ballot without your signature ONLY if they have power of attorney for you. ➤ If you request an absentee ballot by email or fax, you do not have to provide a copy of your photo ID with the ballot request. However, you must provide photo ID with the ballot when you return it. ➤ Voters who are incarcerated, but still eligible to vote, do not qualify to receive absentee ballots permanently, for every election. In order to receive absentee ballots permanently, you must be “indefinitely confined” because of age, illness, infirmity, or disability.
<p>What if I live at home but am monitored by a “bracelet”?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If you are monitored by a “bracelet”, or under a work-release program, you may need to get special permission to go to the DMV to obtain a photo ID, vote absentee in the municipal clerk’s office, or vote at the polls on Election Day. Make sure you speak to the appropriate people before performing any of these tasks.

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.