

# The Elderly and Voters with Disabilities

## 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, people who vote at the polling place must sign the poll list. However, voters who are unable to sign because of a physical disability are exempt from this requirement.</li> <li>➤ Wisconsin law requires voters to show an acceptable photo ID to vote at the polling place starting in 2012.</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. Voters who are indefinitely confined, or who reside in nursing homes or other residential facilities, can meet photo ID requirements without providing a copy of their photo ID.</li> </ul>
<p><b>When must I provide a photo ID with my absentee application or ballot, and when are substitute documents acceptable?</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 residing in 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 residing in other 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. If the voter is indefinitely confined, the witness certification on the absentee envelope will also qualify as a substitute proof of ID.</li> <li>➤ <b>Hospitalized electors</b> have special absentee voting requirements. They should contact their municipal clerk for assistance.</li> <li>➤ <b>Other absentee voters</b> must provide a copy of their photo ID with their absentee ballot request. (If you request a ballot by fax or email, you may provide a copy of the photo ID with the absentee application or 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> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(continued on next page)</b></p>

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<p><b>What accommodations are available if I vote at my polling place?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Curbside voting is available</b> if a voter cannot enter the polling place due to disability on Election Day. Photo ID must be provided. Proof of residence must be provided if you are not registered. Two poll workers will bring a ballot to the individual needing assistance, and conduct voting at their vehicle, or at the polling place entrance. These voters are not required to sign the poll list. Instead, the poll workers will write "Exempt by order of inspectors" in the signature space on the poll list.</li> <li>➤ <b>If a voter cannot sign the poll list</b> due to a physical disability, they should inform a poll worker. The poll worker will write "Exempt by order of inspectors" in the signature space on the poll list.</li> <li>➤ <b>An accessible voting machine will be available in every polling place.</b> This machine will allow voters to independently mark the ballot. These machines will be low enough for voters in a wheelchair to reach their controls, and have an audio ballot-marking option for voters with visual impairment.</li> <li>➤ <b>If a voter needs help marking the ballot</b>, he or she may have a person assist them. The voter may not receive assistance from an employer, a candidate on the ballot or a representative of that voter's labor organization. Any other person, including a poll worker, may assist the voter to mark the ballot. Poll workers must record the fact that the voter received assistance, and the full name and address of the assisting person, in the poll list. This includes voters who have difficulty reading and writing in English.</li> <li>➤ <b>Other reasonable accommodations can be requested.</b> Speak to the chief inspector at the polling place or the municipal clerk.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What accommodations are available if I vote by absentee ballot?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>If a voter needs help registering to vote</b>, any person may assist them to fill out a form and mail it in to their municipal clerk. The assisting person must sign the voter registration form in the space provided.</li> <li>➤ <b>If a voter needs help requesting an absentee ballot</b>, any person may assist them to fill out a form and mail it in to their municipal clerk. The assisting person must sign the absentee ballot request form.</li> <li>➤ <b>If a voter needs help marking the ballot</b>, see the section above.</li> <li>➤ <b>No one may mark or cast a ballot without the voter's knowledge or contrary to the voter's wishes</b>, even if they have power of attorney or other guardianship status.</li> </ul>

For detailed information about the Voter Photo ID law and polling place accessibility, 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.