

Wisconsin Election Commission's Guide to Student Residency

What are the requirements for voting residency in Wisconsin?	Under Wisconsin Statutes, an individual must reside in an election ward for at least 28 consecutive days before the election and have no present intent to move. A person does not lose residency for voting purposes by leaving an established residence for temporary purposes with the intent to return to the residence.
What is the 28 consecutive day residency requirement?	The 28 consecutive day requirement does not mean that a voter must sleep at or remain at that location for 28 consecutive days before being eligible to vote there. For instance, a voter may move to a location on a weekend 30 days before an election with the intent to make it their voting residence, spend time travelling or at the previous residence on a temporary basis for part or all of the next 28 days, and still vote from the new location. In that case the voter has established a physical presence at the new ward with the required intent to claim residency and the voter can vote from this address even if they are gone for temporary purposes. An example is a student who is only home at their parent's residence on weekends continues to accrue days for the 28-day requirement throughout an entire month even though the individual may not be physically present at the home more than 2 consecutive days.
What is meant by "no present intent to move" and "intent to return"?	It is not necessary that there be an intention to remain permanently at the voting residence. It is sufficient that the place is for the time being the home of the voter to the exclusion of other places. Once established, a person's residency is presumed to continue until a new one is established. A voter's statements and actions alone can establish intent.
When do I need to prove my residency?	<p>If you are registering to vote, you will need to provide documentation proving your residency. There are 4 ways to register to vote: by mail- postmarked no later than the 3rd Wednesday before the election, online at www.myvote.wi.gov no later than the 3rd Wednesday before the election, in your municipal clerk's office, or at the polls on Election Day. A list of acceptable proof of registration documents can be found at: http://elections.wi.gov/node/2371</p> <p>Documents like a lease or housing agreement, a phone bill, a bank or credit card statement, or a paystub can be used. You can show a paper copy of your document, or you can show it electronically on your phone or computer.</p>
What should I do if my residency or eligibility is being questioned?	Student status is not a consideration in determining residence for the purpose of establishing voter residency. Also, the proof of residence document is not used to confirm that the 28 day residency requirement is met. The voter's sworn statement on the registration application should be taken at face value unless an inspector or challenger has direct evidence to the contrary. Wisconsin law places the burden on the person who challenges the voter's residency to provide evidence of their challenge. If there is a challenge to your registration or your eligibility to vote, the Chief Election Inspector at your polling place will conduct the challenge process. If you believe your right to vote is being incorrectly challenged you should first talk to the Chief Election Inspector. If you need further assistance, contact your municipal clerk's office and if necessary, the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC).

Where May I Vote?

A student who has registered to vote at a campus address and continues to live there must vote from that location. A student who has registered to vote at a home address and lives on campus may vote from the home address or may register and vote from the campus address.

If I have resided at my campus address for 28 consecutive days, will live at my parents' home or elsewhere during the summer, and intend to return to a campus address in the fall, where may I vote?	Once a student has established residency at a campus address, the student may vote using the student's campus address until the student establishes a new voting residence. This is the case even if the student is temporarily away from campus and does not know their campus address for the following school year. If the student has previously registered to vote at a campus address, the student may not register to vote at a home or different address until re-establishing residency for 28 consecutive days prior to the election. Alternatively, a student may register to vote from a home address if the student has not yet registered to vote from a campus address. In that case the student's home address is considered the permanent address for voting purposes and the student is only temporarily away from that address during the school year.
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If I have graduated or have left school, or am moving from my campus address and do not intend to return in the fall, where may I vote?	An individual who is registered to vote at a Wisconsin campus or home address, leaves that address permanently, and moves to another Wisconsin residence may continue to vote using the prior address until establishing residency for 28 consecutive days at the new location. An individual who leaves their Wisconsin campus or home address and moves to an out-of-State residence, and who has no intent to return to the ward in which the prior address is located, may not vote in an election from the prior address.
If I registered to vote at my campus address and move to another address where I do not register to vote, can I vote from my parents' residence?	The Wisconsin Statutes recognize that students may continue to use their parents' residence as a voting residence unless they terminate that option by registration or some similar act. When a student has moved from one campus address and established residency at another campus address so that they can no longer vote at the first address, they regain the option to vote at their parents' address. For an individual who is no longer lawfully registered at one campus address, their decision to establish a voting residence separate from their parents' residence, has essentially expired. For example, a student may have voted in 2018, moved several times since then, and has not registered to vote at a new campus location since 2018. In that case the student may vote from their home address or register to <u>vote at the new campus address.</u>
May I establish residency at home and vote from that location after previously having voted on campus?	A student may re-establish residency at the home address during summer break, another school break, or even a weekend, if the student has the required intent to establish that residency as their voting address. If the student intends to make the home address their residency for voting purposes, and begins to establish or re-establish a physical presence there at least 28 days before the election, the student is permitted to vote at the home address.
What if I voted from my home address in the last election and want to vote from my campus residence for the next election?	If the student intends to make the campus address their residency for voting purposes, and begins to establish or re-establish a physical presence there at least 28 days before the election, the student is permitted to vote at the campus address. For example, a student voted at home at the spring election. During the summer, the student stays at the campus address and re-establishes residency there with the intent to make it their permanent residence for voting in the fall election. As long as the student has re-established a physical presence for at least 28 days before the fall election, <u>the student is permitted to vote at their campus address.</u>
Where may I vote if I am leaving Wisconsin or am new to Wisconsin?	A Wisconsin resident who attends school in another state may continue to vote from their Wisconsin residence until registering elsewhere. An out-of-state resident attending school in Wisconsin may register to vote at a campus address. An individual may have only one active registration.
For More Election Information	
Student Residency	For more detailed information on student residency issues, visit: http://elections.wi.gov/voters/student
Voter Registration	Registration can occur 4 ways: by mail, online at www.myvote.wi.gov , in-person in your municipal clerk's office, or at the polls on election day. For more information on registration including forms and deadlines, visit: https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/VoterDeadlines
Proof of Residence	The Proof of Residence document can be paper or electronic government correspondence, a WI Driver license, WI ID Card, utility bill, or another document identified in the Wisconsin State Statutes. For more information including a list of acceptable documents, visit: http://elections.wi.gov/publications/voter-guides/proof-of-residence
Absentee Voting	To request an absentee ballot, submit a request to your municipal clerk. For more information on absentee voting, including forms, visit: https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/VoteAbsentee
MyVote Wisconsin Website	To check your registration record, find your polling place, find contact information for your municipal clerk, view a sample ballot, and more visit: http://myvote.wi.gov
WEC Contact Information	Phone: 1-866-VOTE-WIS Email: elections@wi.gov Website: Elections.wi.gov
Photo ID Information	Voters need to show a photo ID when voting in Wisconsin. A student ID issued by an accredited college, university or technical college in the State of Wisconsin can be used as a photo ID. Your student ID card must include: your name, your signature, your photo, the date the card was issued, and the date the card expires. The issued date cannot be more than two years from the expiration date. The card may still be used to vote even if it is expired. If your student ID is expired, you must also provide a document that shows you are enrolled in the school at the time of the election. More information about what IDs can be used as well as the exceptions at www.bringit.wi.gov