

# Voting Guide for Advocates and Survivors



Updated October 2014

The guide at times refers to “proof of residence” and “proof of identification.” These are two separate kinds of proof. The list below indicates what qualifies as proof of residence and what qualifies as proof of identification. Important: if a survivor has a confidential voter address card, she or he does not need proof of identification to vote.

*Proof of residence:*

- A current and valid Wisconsin driver license or Wisconsin state identification card. Any other official identification card or license issued by a Wisconsin governmental body or unit.
- Any identification card issued by an employer in the normal course of business and bearing a photo of the card holder, but not including a business card.
- A real estate tax bill or receipt for the current year or the year preceding the date of the election.
- A university, college, or technical college identification card (must include photo) ONLY if the voter provides a fee receipt dated within the last 9 months or the institution provides a certified housing list to the municipal clerk.
- A gas, electric, or telephone service statement (utility bill) for the period commencing no earlier than 90 days before Election Day.
- Bank statement.
- Paycheck.
- A check or other document issued by a unit of government.
- An affidavit on public or private social service agency letterhead identifying a homeless voter and describing the individual’s residence for voting purposes.
- Residential lease that is effective on date of registration. (Not valid if registering by mail.)

**Important Note: the photo ID law is NOT in effect for the 2014 General Election on November 4, 2014. If you are attempting to prepare to vote for this election please disregard any references to “proof of identification” or the photo ID requirement. You can still use this guide for information on how to register, how to obtain a confidential voter address and where to vote.**

As you probably know, 2011 Wisconsin Act 23, better known as the Photo ID Law, places new restrictions on how Wisconsinites can register to vote and requires that Wisconsinites bring ID to their polling places. What you may not know is that the new law allows victims of domestic violence and sexual assault to use a confidential voter address card in place of a driver’s license or other form of photo ID.

Registering for a confidential address is not a difficult process and can be done without a driver’s license or other form of photo ID. When a survivor registers for a confidential voter address card, her or his address will not appear on public voter registries. Advocates may want to assist their clients with registering to vote and obtaining a confidential voter address so that victims are assured they are able to vote. Now more than ever, we need to encourage the civic engagement so that policies, laws and budgets account for the needs of victims.

The following questions and answers provide information to help advocates assist victims with the voting registration process. Please note, voter registration is a separate process from registering for a confidential voter address card; however, if a victim wants to obtain a confidential voter address card, she or he must register to vote in person at the municipal clerk’s office at the same time she or he registers for the confidential voter address card. One advantage of having a confidential address card is that the victim need not present a photo ID every time she or he votes.

**Q. My client is registered to vote, but does not have photo ID and is not registered for a confidential voter address. Can she or he vote in the 2014 general election in November?**

A. Yes. Although the photo ID bill has been signed into law, it is not currently in effect.

### *Proof of Identification:*

- A Wisconsin DoT-issued drivers license
- A Wisconsin DoT-issued identification card
- An identification card issued by a U.S. uniformed service
- A U.S. passport

Identifications above must be unexpired, or if expired, have expired after the date of the most recent general election.

- A certificate of naturalization that was issued not earlier than two years before the date of an election at which it is presented
- An unexpired driving receipt issued by Wisconsin DoT.
- An unexpired identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin
- An unexpired identification card issued by a Wisconsin-accredited university or college that contains the following:
  - o Date of Issuance
  - o Signature of Student
  - o Expiration date not later than two years after Date of Issuance

*Important: if a survivor has a confidential voter address card, she or he does not need to present proof of identification at her or his polling place.*

### **Q. My client is not registered to vote. How can she or he register to vote?**

A: (1) She or he may register to vote by mail using [this form](#), if she or he is registering at least 20 days before the election (the third Wednesday prior to the election,) and she or he does not want to enroll in the confidential voter address program.

(2) She or he may register with the municipal clerk's office if she or he is registering before the 5:00 P.M. or close of business, which is later, the Friday before the election.

She or he **must** register in person with the clerk if she or he wants to obtain a confidential voter address.

(3) She or he may register at the polling place on the day of the election.

**In all cases, she or he must bring a proof of residence, and, if she or he has been issued a WI driver license or WI DOT-issued ID that is current and valid, she or he must provide the number and expiration date. If the WI driver license is revoked, suspended or expired or if the WI DOT-issued ID is expired, she or he provide the number and the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. If she or he has not been issued a WI driver license or WI DOT-issued ID, she or he must provide the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. If she or he has none of these documents, she or he will be able to indicate that fact.**

(4) She or he may register to vote and register for a confidential voter addresses card on election day. She or he must register to vote and enroll in the confidential voter address program at the municipal clerk's office on election day. See above for voter registration requirements. See the next answer for the confidential voter address requirements. She or he must then go to the polling place with the confidential voter address card.

### **Q. My client wants to register for a confidential voter address. How should she or he go about doing this?**

A: The client must register to vote in person at the municipal clerk's office. See above for registration requirements.

The client must also enroll in the confidential voter address program. The form for enrollment can be found here: [Elector Request for](#)

[Confidential Listing \(GAB-146\)](#). An individual with disabilities may be accompanied to the clerk's office by another elector of Wisconsin and may designate the other elector to make a request for confidentiality on their behalf.

The client must provide **any** of the following documents:

- Copy of temporary restraining order or an injunction
- Affidavit from sheriff or chief of police ([Affidavit of Sheriff, Chief of Police, Or D.A.- GAB-147](#)) that is dated within 30 days of the date of the request
- Statement signed by the operator or authorized agent of a shelter that is dated within 30 days of the date of the request that indicates the operator operates the shelter and that the individual making the request resides in the shelter
- Statement which includes the individual's full name, that is signed by an authorized representative of a domestic abuse or sexual assault victim service provider, and that indicates the individual received services from that provider within the 24-month period ending on the date of the statement (see below for a template statements)

The client will be given a confidential voter address identification card with a unique number that the client will be able to use instead of proof of identification.

**Q: How long does the confidential voter address last?**

A: The address expires on the earliest of the following dates:

- On the date the protective order expires
- The date updated information is received from the sheriff, chief of police, or D.A.
- The date the protected individual ceases to reside in a shelter
- After the 24-month period that follows creation or renewal of the listing

Also, the municipal clerk will cancel a confidential listing if:

- The clerk receives notification from a sheriff, chief of police, or D.A.
- The name of the protected individual is legally changed
- The protected individual changes their address without notifying the clerk
- The clerk finds that the protected individual provided false information

The client should receive notice 30 days before the listing expires.

**Q: Can the client renew the confidential voter address?**

A: Yes. Follow the procedures for initially registering for the confidential voter address.

**Q. My client has recently moved. Where should she or he vote?**

A: The client should not update her or his voter registration if she or he moved temporarily and intends to return to her or his home. If the client permanently moved **28 days before the election or earlier**, she

or he should she or he should register to vote with the new address, and then vote at the new polling place.

If the client permanently moved **less than 28 days before the election**, how she or he votes depends on whether she or he moved from out of state or from within Wisconsin.

- If the clients moved from one place in Wisconsin to another place in Wisconsin, she or he should vote at her or his previous polling place, if she or he moved later than 28 days before the election.
- If the client moved to Wisconsin from out of state, she or he should register to vote with the new address, but she or he is only allowed to vote for president and vice president, until she or he has been resident in the state for 28 days. The client may apply to vote for president or vice president at the municipal clerk's office at any time until 5 p.m. the day before the election. The client may also apply at the polling place. In both cases, proof of identification and proof of residence will be required.

**Q: My client is not a U.S. Citizen. Can she or he vote?**

**A:** No. Only U.S. citizens, over age 18, may vote.

**Q: My client does not want to register for a confidential address, but would like an ID so she or he can vote if and when the photo ID law takes effect. Can she or he obtain one for free?**

**A:** Yes. The photo ID law requires the Department of Transportation (DoT) to provide free photo IDs to **those individuals who request the ID for the purposes of voting**. See the DoT [website](#) for more information. Note one needs specific forms of documentation to get a photo ID.

*[Click here](#) to find  
your municipal  
clerk's contact  
information or go to  
[www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov).*