



Voting Dictionary

rev. 09/2024

Absentee

Not present

Absentee Ballot

A vote cast by a person who does not vote in person

Accessible

Able to be used

Accommodation

A modification, adaptation, or adjustment that fulfills a need

Ballot

Document that lists the choices in an election

Candidate

A person running for an office or applying for a position

Constitutional right

Something that Americans are entitled to because of our constitution

Election

The process where citizens choose their government representatives or what will be done about a particular issue

Exempted by law

The law says that something does not apply to someone

Indefinitely confined

A voter who will always need an absentee ballot due to age, physical illness, infirmity, or disability

Individuals adjudicated incompetent and ineligible to vote

People who cannot vote because a judge said that they do not understand voting.

Guardian

A person who looks after and is legally responsible for another person

Guardianship

The position of being legally responsible for the care of someone else

Municipal clerk

The person in charge of elections for your city, town, or village. They handle voter registrations, absentee ballots, and all local parts of the elections process.

Municipality

A clearly defined territory or section of land. All the people living on that territory share one common local government.

Nursing home

A residential facility that houses people who need a wide range of health, personal, and medical supports

Petition

A formal request sent to a court

Polling Place

The building where people go to vote on Election Day

Poll worker

People who work at polling places on election day or at early voting sites during early voting

Primary

An election in which qualified voters choose:

- a candidate or group of candidates for political office; or
- party officials; or
- delegates for a party convention

Privately and independently

Not known publicly and on your own, without needing or requiring other people

Proof of Residency

A document that proves where a person lives

Registered voter

A person who is qualified to vote and has their name recorded in the voting district where they live

Residential community

A group of people living in a common physical location. Residential communities can be:

- adult family homes
- retirement communities
- nursing homes

Resident

A person who lives somewhere

Right(s)

Something that a person is entitled to

Special Voting Deputy (SVD)

A person who is appointed by the Municipal Clerk to conduct voting in certain residential care facilities

Voter Registration

The process that a voter goes through to enroll as a voter

Wisconsin Elections Commission

The agency that administers and enforces election laws in Wisconsin. It has 3 Democrat representatives and 3 Republican Representatives.