

Voter Suppression in Wisconsin

Since 2011, several Wisconsin law changes have made it harder to participate in our system of representative democracy. In chronological order: (“lawsuit brief” refers to One Wisconsin Institute V. Nichol.)

[2011 Act 23](#) - One of the most restrictive voter ID laws in the country. [Legislative Council Memo](#), pages 1-5. See lawsuit [brief](#), page 43-47.

Early voting provision of [Act 23](#): Reduced early voting from 30 days to 12 days. [Legislative Council Memo](#), page 8. See lawsuit [brief](#), page 17.

Residency provision of [Act 23](#): increases the residency requirement from 10 days before an election to 28 consecutive days before an election. The Act also provides that an individual who moves within this state later than 28 days before an election must vote at his or her previous ward. [Legislative Council Memo](#), page 6. See lawsuit [brief](#), pages 38-40.

Voter registration provisions of [Act 23](#): eliminated corroboration of residency for registration on election day. Eliminated registration on the three days preceding an election. Eliminated state-wide Special Registration Deputies. Finally, eliminated use of college housing lists as proof of residence, by requiring the list to indicate who is a citizen. Colleges are not allowed to produce such a list under the Family Educational rights and Privacy Act ([FERPA](#)). [Legislative Council Memo](#), pages 6-7, and the [lawsuit brief](#), page 17.

[2011 Act 240](#) - Eliminated the requirement to have a Special Registration Deputy at all public high schools. See [Legislative Council memo](#). See lawsuit [brief](#), page 18.

[2011 Act 75](#) - Eliminated ability for clerks to email or fax a ballot to all absentee voters except statutory overseas and military voters. See section 50 of [Act 75](#) or [Legislative Council memo](#), page 2. See lawsuit [brief](#), page 18.

[2013 Act 76](#) - This state law overturned a Madison ordinance that required landlords to provide voter registration forms to new tenants. See [Act 76](#), section 2. See lawsuit [brief](#), page 21.

[2013 Act 146](#) - Eliminated early voting on weekends. See [Legislative Council memo](#). See lawsuit [brief](#), page 20-21.

[2013 Act 182](#) - Requires all voters to provide documentary proof of residence. Previously, this requirement did not apply to those who registered more than 20 days before an election, since all registrants have their residence checked via a verification postcard. See [Legislative Council memo](#). See lawsuit [brief](#), page 21.

[2015 Act 261](#) - Completely eliminates Special Registration Deputies, thereby hindering voter registration drives. (This Act also allows online registration for those who have a driver's license or DOT ID card. SRD's are eliminated when the system is launched.) SRD's will no longer be able to check and document proof of residence. The net result is that it will be easier to register for those with a DL or DOT ID, but harder for those without a DL or DOT ID. See [Legislative Council memo](#), page 2. MSNBC: "[Wisconsin throws up major registration hurdle.](#)"

Absentee voting provisions of [2015 Act 261](#), starting with the November 2016 election (see [GAB memo](#)). Absentee ballots will be rejected if they are missing a witness' address. This act also changes the deadline for arrival. Previously they needed to be postmarked by Election Day and arrive by the Friday after the election. Under Act 261, ballots that arrive after Election Day are rejected. See [Legislative Council memo](#), page 2.