

# Online Voter Registration For Wisconsin - FAQ

## Where can I find information about online registration for Wisconsin?

See the 8 minute video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBENY8uAIGM> or search YouTube for "online voter registration Wisconsin"

This website has more information: <http://www.fairelections.wi.com/Online%20Reg.htm> or search for "Fair Elections Wisconsin"

## What are other states doing?

Arizona, Washington, and Kansas have successful working models that Wisconsin can follow, and the legislatures of six other states passed legislation in 2009. These states have scheduled implementation for the middle of 2010.

Arizona's system has been working since 2002, and last year 60% of those who registered used the online system.

Key restrictions that preserve the integrity of the registration data:

- Only those with a Wisconsin driver's license or Wisconsin ID card could use the online system.
- Online registration would close at the same time that open registration closes, 20 days before the election.

## What about security?

To some extent, the database is already online. Voter Public Access (VPA) was rolled out last year, and it was a tremendous service to the voters. You can check to see if you are on the rolls, and the location of your polling place. During a two-day period (November 2008 Election Day and the day before), 120,000 people used VPA. Without this, the only alternative to see if you are on the rolls is to call your clerk.

Wisconsin's Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has significant online presence. You can change your address online and perform several other functions. Our state agencies have experience in developing secure web sites.

The balance between security and providing these types of services leans heavily towards these services, which will be great for voters and election administrators.

Other important facets of our lives are online, such as bank and credit card accounts.

## What about fraud?

There are some aspects of online registration that provide better security than the existing system of paper forms. Some people are uncomfortable giving identifying information to special registration deputies. Online registration would give them a convenient option to bypass registration deputies and submit the information directly.

Anyone who registers currently during the open registration time (up until 20 days before the election) through a special registration deputy does not have to show proof of residence, and that would be true for those registering online. Shortly after the registration is entered, the GAB sends a verification postcard, and if the postman cannot deliver it, it goes back to the clerk, who will investigate. With online registration, those postcards can be sent promptly. With paper forms, processing is often delayed, and therefore the postcards are also delayed.

## Is this fair to people who don't have Internet service or a drivers license?

We must maintain all existing forms of registration, including paper forms, special registration deputies, Election Day registration, and keep registration open until 20 days before the election. By relieving a large portion of the load of manual entry from election administrators, they will be able to promptly handle the paper forms.

### **Will this lead to online voting?**

NO! With registration, there is a means to verify that the electronic transaction has been handled accurately. You can check later to see if you are on the rolls, either online at Voter Public Access, or by calling the clerk. The ultimate test is if you are in the pollbook. In November 2008, the paper forms failed a lot of voters, as they could not be processed in time to be put in the pollbook.

However, voting is different. Because we are maintaining the secrecy of the ballot, the ballot must be divorced from the person filling it out. Therefore, there is no easy transparent way to confirm that an electronic transaction has been recorded correctly, so the best way to vote is by a voter-marked paper ballot.

Credit cards and bank accounts are online, but there are means to check later that electronic transactions have been handled correctly.

### **How long does it take to develop a system?**

Arizona took 6 months. The states that passed legislation in early 2009 targeted April 2010 as the implementation date, from 8 to 14 months after legislation passed.

### **How easy is it to obtain a Wisconsin ID card or Drivers license?**

According to the DMV website, for either one, you need proof of name, date of birth, identity, Wisconsin residency, social security number; and proof of either citizenship, or legal status as permanent resident, conditional resident, or temporary visitor.

Driver's license applicants who are under 18 must provide all of the above, except that instead of proof of Wisconsin residency, they must have an adult sponsor.

<http://www.dot.state.wi.us/drivers/drivers/apply/idcard.htm>

<http://www.dot.state.wi.us/drivers/drivers/apply/drivrlic.htm>

### **Where will the money come from?**

Other states have used HAVA funds. Washington spent \$217,000 to develop their system.

### **Could somebody register online from several different counties and then vote in more than one location?**

No, there is one statewide database. If you tried to register at a second location using the same driver's license number, the system would remove you from the pollbook at the first location.

### **Will an out-of-date address on the driver's license prevent the voter from registering?**

Perhaps the best method of handling this is to have the person change their address with the DMV before attempting to register.

For the HAVA check, the voter must provide their name, date of birth, and one of the following identifying numbers: driver license number, state ID card number, or last four digits of Social Security Number.

### **Why not enter people into the system directly when they get a drivers license?**

This might require training for DMV personnel on the SVRS, which is a difficult system to use. This would come at a time when the DMV is closing offices and furloughing personnel.

Paul Malischke July 29, 2009, updated September 20, 2009, and Feb 21, 2010