



## Town of Florence, Wisconsin

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### Did You Know. . . Florence Facts

#### **Electors vs Voters & Voter Registration (shared 03-19-26)**

**Did you know that there are two common terms used for residents when it comes to elections and voting?** If you are an elector, it means that you live in the Town/District/Ward and you are eligible to vote, but you have not yet registered to become a voter. If you are a voter, it means that you were an elector who took the necessary steps to become a voter.

**Did you know that electors and voters have the same right to vote at a Town Meeting?** Wi Statute 60.14 states that any qualified elector of the Town/District/Ward may vote at a Town Meeting, which means an elector does not have to be registered to vote if the only place they are voting is at Town meetings – i.e. the April Annual Meeting.

**Did you know that in order to vote in any Town, County, State or Federal Election you must be a qualified elector of the Town that you are voting in?** A qualified elector is defined by Wi Statutes 6.02 is every U.S. citizen age 18 or older who has lived in an election district or ward for 28 consecutive days before any election where they want to vote. If someone has moved less than 28 days before any election, they would have to vote at their prior residence until they meet that 28 day residency requirement.

**Did you know that there are certain items that can disqualify an elector from being able to vote?** Disqualification of electors is defined by WI Statutes 6.03. One disqualification is a person who has made a bet or wager on the result of an election. Another is if they have been convicted of treason, felony or bribery, unless their right to vote is restored through a pardon under s. 304.078(3). Any person is incapable of understanding the election process who is under guardianship and has been adjudicated incompetent in Wisconsin for voting purposes is also disqualified from voting.

**Did you know that when you register to vote, you specifically state that you meet all of the qualifications and that you haven't done anything to disqualify you from voting?** Every person who registers to vote in Wisconsin, must check the following boxes at the top of the voter registration form (EL-131) and it states "if you cannot check every box, do NOT complete this form:

- Are a citizen of the United States
- Have resided at the address provided below for at least 28 consecutive days prior to the election and do not currently intend to move
- Will be at least 18 years old on or before Election Day
- Are not currently serving a sentence including incarceration, parole, probation or extended supervision for a felony conviction

The voter registration form (EL-131) signed by the voter also contains a certification that states, "By signing below, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, I am a qualified elector, having resided at the above residential address for at least 28 consecutive days immediately preceding this election, that I have no present intent to move, and I have not voted in this election. I also certify that I am not otherwise disqualified from voting and that all statements on this form are true and correct. If I have provided false information, I may be subject to fine or imprisonment under State and Federal laws." Under the signature it also states that "Falsification of information this form is punishable under Wisconsin law as a Class I felony."



**Did you know that are provisions in place for voters who live permanently overseas?**

Wi Statute 6.24 outlines Federal overseas voting. These voters must be 18 years or older, U.S. citizens and not disqualified from voting under s.6.03. Voters who are permanently overseas are permitted to vote in any election for national office. They vote in the ward or election district in which they last lived (or where their parent last lived) prior to moving from the United States. They receive a ballot that only has federal offices on it.

**Did you know that there are provisions for military voters as well?** Wi Statute 6.22(1) defines a military elector to mean:

- Members of a uniformed service
- Members of the merchant marine of the United States
- Civilian employees of the United States and civilians officially attached to a uniformed service who are serving outside of the United States
- Peace Corp volunteers
- Spouses and dependents of those listed in the above categories residing with or accompanying them

It also defines “uniformed service” to mean the U.S. army, navy, air force, marine corps, or coast guard, the commissioned corps of the federal public health service or commissioned corps of the national oceanic and atmospheric administration.

**Did you know that every voter who votes in an Election in Wisconsin must complete a voter registration form?** The EL-131 is the voter registration form is provided by the Wisconsin Elections Commission. It is the same form referenced earlier in this article.

**Did you know that there are three ways to register to vote in Wisconsin?** You can register in-person at the Town Clerk’s Office or on Election Day at your polling place. You can register to vote by mail using the EL-131 or register online through the MyVoteWI website.

**Did you know that there are registration deadlines for each type of registration?** You can register online or by mail no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday before an election. You can register in-person at the Town Office up until 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before an election. No voter registration can take place the Saturday, Sunday or Monday before an election. Finally, you can register in-person at the polls on Election Day.

**Did you know that no matter which way you register to vote, you must provide proof of residence (POR)?** If you are registering to vote online and your WI DMV address is the same address where you are registering, that meets the qualification for POR. Otherwise, you mail a copy of your POR (if you are mailing your registration) or bring it with you if you are registering to vote in person. A list of acceptable forms of POR is on the back of the EL-131. The most common form is a Wisconsin Driver’s License. Other common forms are bank statements, utility bills, property tax bills, etc. It must have your complete name and physical address on it.

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*The Town of Florence is proud to have open, transparent government. It means that people can clearly see what the Town is doing, why it is doing it, and how decisions are made. Open and transparent means that information is not hidden, decisions are made at meetings open to the public, and questions and answers can be shared from the Board with the community. The ultimate goal is that people can see and understand the decisions that are made, how to ask questions, and share information.*

*One way the Town of Florence is looking to accomplish this is by sharing informational facts about the Town and the Town’s government. Through sharing facts, the Town is looking to help increase awareness and understanding of local Government.*