



Town of Florence, Wisconsin

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Did You Know . . . Florence Facts

Polling Places & Elections (shared 03-12-26)

Voting is a fundamental civic responsibility. It is one of your chances to have your voice heard by casting your vote for specific candidates and referendum that can then influence government decisions and laws, can help protect your rights, and sets the stage to shape the future of our Town, County, State and Nation. By casting your vote, you are choosing representatives who make decisions on your behalf at every level of government. Elections don't just happen. There are rules and regulations in place and a lot of them come from the Wisconsin Statutes.

Did you know that there are 8 different townships in Florence County and that each one has its own polling place? A polling place is a location established by the Town that is accessible to all individuals with disabilities and is certified by the municipal clerk to the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC), which is mandated by Wisconsin Statutes 5.25. All voters in a Ward must vote at the same polling place.

Did you know that the Town of Florence is broken into 7 different wards? The wards are re-examined every ten years after a census takes place. They are adopted by the Town Board via resolution, with the most recent resolution dating February 14, 2022. This division into Wards is also governed by Wi Statutes Section 5.15(4).

In most cases, voters in the Town of Florence all receive the same ballot, but did you know that there is only one election where the wards impact what ballot a voter receives? The Spring Election every even numbered year (2024, 2026, etc.) has the County Supervisor positions on the ballot. Where a voter lives and is registered determines which ward they are in, and the ward determines which County Supervisory Race is on your ballot. The Town of Florence has 7 different wards, but only 6 County Supervisors since two are both under one of the County Supervisors. In addition, one of the County Supervisors for the Town of Florence also covers part of the Town of Commonwealth.

Did you know that polling places across the State of Wisconsin are all required to be open for the same hours on Election Day? The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. each Election Day, and this is also governed by Wi Statutes (6.78). Although voting can't begin before 7:00 a.m., voters can line up outside before the polls officially open. The polls close at 8:00 p.m., but if a polling place is busy and there is a line, a voter is allowed to vote if they are in line before 8:00. In that case the polls would close as soon as the last person in line has voted. One of the election workers is designated at the end of the night as an official "end of line officer," which means that every person in line at 8:00 is in front of them, and anyone coming after 8:00 would end up behind that person and would be unable to vote since the polls are closed.

Wisconsin Statutes also layout Polling Place Requirements (5.35) that include:

- properly displaying a national flag
- how many voting booths must be in a polling place, which is one for every 200 electors who voted in the last general election
- ballot boxes that are locked/sealed and documented for use
- specific layout and organization as overseen by Election workers

- posting requirements for two samples of each ballot and relevant voting instructions, election fraud information and notices prescribed the WEC and misrepresentation in federal elections
- instructions provided by WEC for proof of identification and proof of residents
- general information provided by WEC
- a map of the geographic area served by the polling place (which is color coded in Florence to match the colors on ballots for the supervisory districts)

Did you know that there are three scheduled election in Wisconsin this year? They are the Spring Election on April 7, the Partisan Primary on August 11 and the November General Election on November 3, 2026. The dates of the Elections are also specific in the Wisconsin Statute 5.02 Definitions:

- “General election” means the election held in even-numbered years on the Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November to elect United States senators, representatives in congress, presidential electors, state senators, representatives to the assembly, district attorneys, state officers other than the state superintendent and judicial officers, and county officers other than supervisors and county executives.
- “Partisan primary” means the primary held the 2nd Tuesday in August to nominate candidates to be voted for at the general election
- “Spring election” means the election held on the 1st Tuesday in April to elect judicial, educational and municipal officers, nonpartisan county officers and to express preferences for the person to be the presidential candidate for each party in a year in which electors for president and vice president are to be elected.
- “Spring primary” means the nonpartisan primary held on the 3rd Tuesday in February to nominate nonpartisan candidates to be voted for at the spring election

Did you know that if you would like reminders for upcoming Elections, including the date of the elections, polling place hours, and in-person absentee dates and hours, you can sign up for Constant Contact through the Town of Florence? The Town Office will be able to e-mail you and text you reminders, so you don’t miss an election. You can find information on how to sign-up for the Town’s Constant Contact reminders online at www.townofflorencewisconsin.com.

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.