



Town of Florence, Wisconsin

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Did You Know. . . Florence Facts **Voting at the Polls (shared 04-02-26)**

Did you know that there are two basic ways you can vote in Wisconsin? Last week we talked about voting by absentee ballot. This week, we are going to talk about voting in person at the polls on Election Day. There are rules and regulations that govern Elections and the Voting process found in Wisconsin Statutes:

Chapter 5: Elections – General Provisions; Ballots and Voting Systems

Chapter 6: The Electors

Chapter 7: Election Officials; Boards; Selection and Duties; Canvassing

Chapter 8: Nominations, Primaries, Elections

Chapter 9: Post-Election Actions; Direct Legislation

Chapter 10: Election Notices

Chapter 11: Campaign Financing

Chapter 12: Prohibited Election Practices

Did you know that if you are voting at the polls on Election Day that the hours are exactly the same for every polling place in Wisconsin? Wisconsin Statute 6.78(1m) states the polls at every election shall be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Any elector in line at 8:00 p.m. is still permitted to vote.

Did you know that Wisconsin Statutes are the reason that you have to state your name and address at the polls? It may seem odd to have to state your name and address to the Election Workers, especially when you know them personally; however, Wi Stat. 6.79(2) dictates the procedure for voters to get a ballot. Stating your name and address is the first step in the process. Voters are also required to show photo ID and sign the poll list.

Did you know that there are two election workers that keep identical copies of the poll list on election day? This is also specifically listed in Wisconsin Statutes. The only difference between the two copies of the poll book is one of them is signed. After the election is over, the County gets the signed copy and the Town keeps the other copy. When there is school on the ballot, the School gets a copy of the County's poll book that has the signatures with it.

Did you know that the voter number slip you are handed serves multiple important purposes? Voter number slips are the way for Election Workers to verify that you have signed in with the Chief Inspectors and are able to receive a ballot. In this April Election, Town of Florence number slips come in a variety of colors. Those colors correspond to the voting ward/county supervisory district that the voter lives in, so when you turn in that colored slip, you will get the ballot for the area where you live. These number slips are also a check and balance the workers have on election day in order for them to verify that the number of ballots handed out and fed into the tabulator are the same number as the voters that have voted.

Did you know that the voter number you are issued is never connected to the ballot that you feed into the tabulator? When you turn your voter number to receive a ballot, that number is not written anywhere on the ballot. Your next step is to mark your ballot for the choices you want to make. There can be 6-10 other people marking their ballots at the same time. Ballots are deposited once you are done voting on them, so they do necessarily go in

the same order as they were handed out. There is no way to know whose ballot is whose once it is fed into the tabulator.

Did you know that everyone votes on a paper ballot in the Town of Florence? Paper ballots are given to every voter. Voters then mark their ballots with a marker and feed them into the tabulating machine. **Did you know that the Tabulator will show you how you marked your ballot?** When you feed your ballot into the tabulator, it scans the ballot and displays the votes on the screen. You are the only person who can see the screen. Once you verify your choices and cast your ballot, your choices are cleared from the screen.

Did you know that if you make a mistake marking your ballot that you can have up to three ballots on election day? It is called spoiling a ballot. This is also in the Wisconsin Statutes, and there is a process in place on election day for spoiling a ballot and issuing a new one.

Did you know that a voter may receive assistance marking their ballot if they are unable to do it themselves? Anyone other than an elector's employer or an agent of the employer or of a labor union can serve as an assistant. They can read the ballot to the voter and mark the ballot for the voter as instructed. If assisting a voter, they need to sign the ballot in the space provided and give their name and address to election workers identifying which voter they are assisting.

Did you know that if you are unable to enter the polling place due to a disability, you may be permitted to vote curbside? There is a detailed process for allowing an elector to vote at the poll entrance/curbside. Voting curbside follows the same process as voting at the polls. The voter must still present photo id and be registered to vote. Since they are unable to enter the polling place, they are unable to sign the poll book. As a result, the workers make a notation on the poll book in the voter's signature block stating "ballot received at poll entrance." The elector is issued a voter number and given a ballot. After marking the ballot it is placed in a security sleeve by the voter, and the election workers return it to the polling place and insert it into the tabulator.

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.