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Did You Know. . .Florence Facts

Wisconsin Voting: Myths vs Facts (shared 10-19-26)

Did you know that election information can spread quickly, especially on social media? Before you share it, make sure you know the facts about voting. Here are some of the common current myths about elections in Wisconsin:

❌ **The** MYTH: If election workers initial my ballot, it will be invalid.

✅ **The** FACT: Election official initials are part of Wisconsin's ballot process. Wisconsin election law specifically provides for ballots bearing the initials of election inspectors. Wisconsin law also directs election officials to count ballots according to the voter's intent when that intent can be determined. Seeing election inspectors initial your ballot is not a reason to be concerned. *Wis. Stat. § 7.50*

❌ The MYTH: A Wisconsin driver's license is the only acceptable photo ID for voting.

✅ **The** FACT: Wisconsin accepts multiple forms of photo identification. A Wisconsin driver's license is only one form of acceptable voter identification. Wisconsin election guidance provides for additional acceptable forms of identification. *Wisconsin Elections Commission Election Administration Manual*

❌ The MYTH: The address on my photo ID has to match my voter registration address.

✅ **The** FACT: Photo ID and proof of residence serve different purposes. Photo ID helps establish who you are when receiving a ballot. Proof of residence establishes where you live when registering to vote. Wisconsin's official voter guidance specifically describes these as two separate processes. *Wis. Stat. § 6.79(2)(a)*

❌ The MYTH: I can't register to vote on Election Day in Wisconsin.

✅ The FACT: Wisconsin allows Election Day voter registration. Eligible Wisconsin voters may register at their polling place on Election Day. Voters registering must provide an acceptable proof-of-residence document. *Wis. Stat. § 6.55*

❌ The MYTH: Photo ID and proof of residence are the same thing.

✅ **The** FACT: They are separate requirements and used for different purposes. A proof-of-residence document proves where you live and is used when registering to vote. Photo ID is used to establish identity when requesting or receiving a ballot. *Wis. Stat. § 6.10*

❌ The MYTH: I have to vote in every race for my ballot to count.

✅ **The** FACT: You may choose which contests you want to vote in. Wisconsin law provides that when a voter casts fewer votes for an office or measure than permitted, the votes that were cast are counted. Leaving a contest blank does not automatically invalidate the votes you properly cast in other contests. *Wis. Stat. § 7.50*

❌ The MYTH: Any unusual mark automatically invalidates my entire ballot.

✅ **The** FACT: Wisconsin law considers voter intent. Wisconsin law recognizes different types of ballot markings when the mark is made in the appropriate area and indicates the voter's intent. *Wisconsin Legislature: Wis. Stat. § 7.50*

❌ The MYTH: Results reported on Election Night are the final results.

✅ **The** FACT: Wisconsin has a canvass process after the polls close. Wisconsin law requires election inspectors to publicly canvass votes after the polls close. That process includes comparing poll lists and counting and reconciling ballots. *Wisconsin Legislature: Wis. Stat. § 7.51*

Did you know that if you have a question or a concern about elections or the voting process you just need to ask your question to get the answer? If you have a question or concern about your ballot while at the polling place, please speak with an election official before leaving.

Outside of Election Day, you are always welcome to contact the Town of Florence Office. We would much rather have you ask a question than leave feeling uncertain about Wisconsin's voting process.

Did you know that in today's world it is always better to verify information before you share something? Get your election information from trusted sources: Town of Florence Clerk's Office, Wisconsin Elections Commission, MyVote Wisconsin and the Wisconsin State Legislature are legitimate trusted sources. Before you like, share, or forward election information on social media, take a moment to verify it.