

## Checks and Balances in Wisconsin: Important Dates for the 2024 November Election

Wisconsin's elections are governed by a number of laws and regulations that ensure there are checks and balances throughout the process. Bipartisan teams of election workers at the local, county, and state level go through a meticulous list of steps to verify the count and check for accuracy.

Below we detail the dates each of these steps occur to offer greater transparency about the rigorous efforts underway to deliver a free and fair election in Wisconsin. For greater detail about verifying absentee applications and ballots, as well as the post-election process, [please visit the rest of our series on checks and balances in Wisconsin elections.](#)

Importantly, this is nonpartisan educational research intended for 501(c)(3)-compliant purposes only. It is *not* to be used for any partisan, political, or electioneering activities by any organization.

### Voting by Mail

- [Thursday, September 19](#) - Municipal clerks must begin sending absentee ballots to voters with an active request on file.
- [Thursday, October 31](#) - Deadline for regular and permanent overseas voters to request an absentee ballot. An application must be received by the appropriate municipal clerk by 5 pm.
- [Friday, November 1](#) - Deadline for indefinitely confined and non-active military voters to request an absentee ballot. Applications must be received by the appropriate municipal clerk by 5 pm.
- **Tuesday, November 5 - Election Day**
  - [5 pm](#) - Deadline for hospitalized voters to submit a voter registration form and an application for an absentee ballot through an agent.
  - [5 pm](#) - Deadline for active military away from their residence to request an absentee ballot.
  - [8 pm](#) - All absentee ballots must be delivered to the polling location or, in certain municipalities, the central count location by 8 pm to be eligible for verifying and counting.

## In-Person Voting (Absentee & Election Day)

- [Wednesday, October 16](#) - Voter registration deadline by mail or online. All applications must be *postmarked* by this date.
- [Tuesday, October 22](#) - In-person absentee voting may begin in certain municipalities. Time and days for in-person absentee voting are set by the municipality.
- [Friday, November 1](#) - Deadline to register to vote in person at the municipal clerk's office or other designated location. Completed applications must be received by the appropriate municipal clerk by 5 p.m.
- [Sunday, November 3](#) - Last day for voters to make an absentee application in-person at the municipal clerk's office. Time and days for in-person absentee voting are set by the municipality.
- [Tuesday, November 5](#) - **Election Day** - Eligible applicants may register to vote and cast a ballot at the appropriate polling location.
  - [7 a.m.](#) - Polling locations open.
  - [8 p.m.](#) - Polling locations close. All voters still in line must be allowed to vote.

## Counting, Canvassing, & Certification

- **Tuesday, November 5 - Election Day.**
  - [7 a.m.](#) - Polling locations may begin verifying absentee ballot certificates.
  - [After polls close](#) - Election inspectors can begin tabulating all ballots at the polling place or at the central count location. Counting continues until completed.
- [Friday, November 8](#) - First day for selected municipalities to conduct 2024 voting equipment audit.
- [Monday, November 11](#) - Last day for municipal boards of canvassers to convene and complete canvass.<sup>1</sup>
- [Tuesday, November 12](#) - Last day for county boards of canvassers to convene for canvass.
- [Tuesday, November 19](#) - Last day for all county clerks to transmit a certified statement of the election results to the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC).
- [Friday, November 22](#) - County boards of canvassers may begin to issue certificates of election.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Canvassing" is the process by which the appropriate authority checks the results from each voting location and ballot counting location for accuracy and makes a final determination of the election results. Generally, the canvass requires a sign-off or certification by members of the appropriate body as to the accuracy of the information presented on the presented election materials.

<sup>2</sup> "Certification" is the process by which winners in elections are officially declared following the completion of the canvass. For local races that can be determined following the county canvass, certification will occur after the county canvass. For federal, state, and multicounty races that must be determined by the state canvass, certification will generally occur immediately following the completion of the state canvass.

- [Wednesday, November 27](#) - Deadline for completion of 2024 voting equipment audit in selected municipalities and submission of audit reports and associated materials to WEC.
- [Sunday, December 1](#) - Last day for the WEC chairperson to determine and certify the election results.
- [Wednesday, December 11](#) - Deadline for the governor to issue a certification of ascertainment of the state's presidential electors for the certification to be treated as conclusive at the January 6 joint session of Congress to certify the presidential election.
- [Tuesday, December 17](#) - Presidential electors meet at the state capitol to cast their votes.

## Recounts

- [Friday, November 22](#) - Last day for any “aggrieved party” to petition for a recount.<sup>3</sup>
- [Monday, November 25](#) - Last day for a recount that will be conducted to begin. If a recount is called, the proper board of canvassers must meet by 9 a.m. on this day to begin the recount.

**Secure Democracy Foundation** is a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization building stronger elections, state by state. Our work is state-focused, informed by election policy insights from a national perspective, and realized by seizing common ground.

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<sup>3</sup> “Aggrieved party” is a candidate who trails the leading candidate within a certain threshold of votes cast.