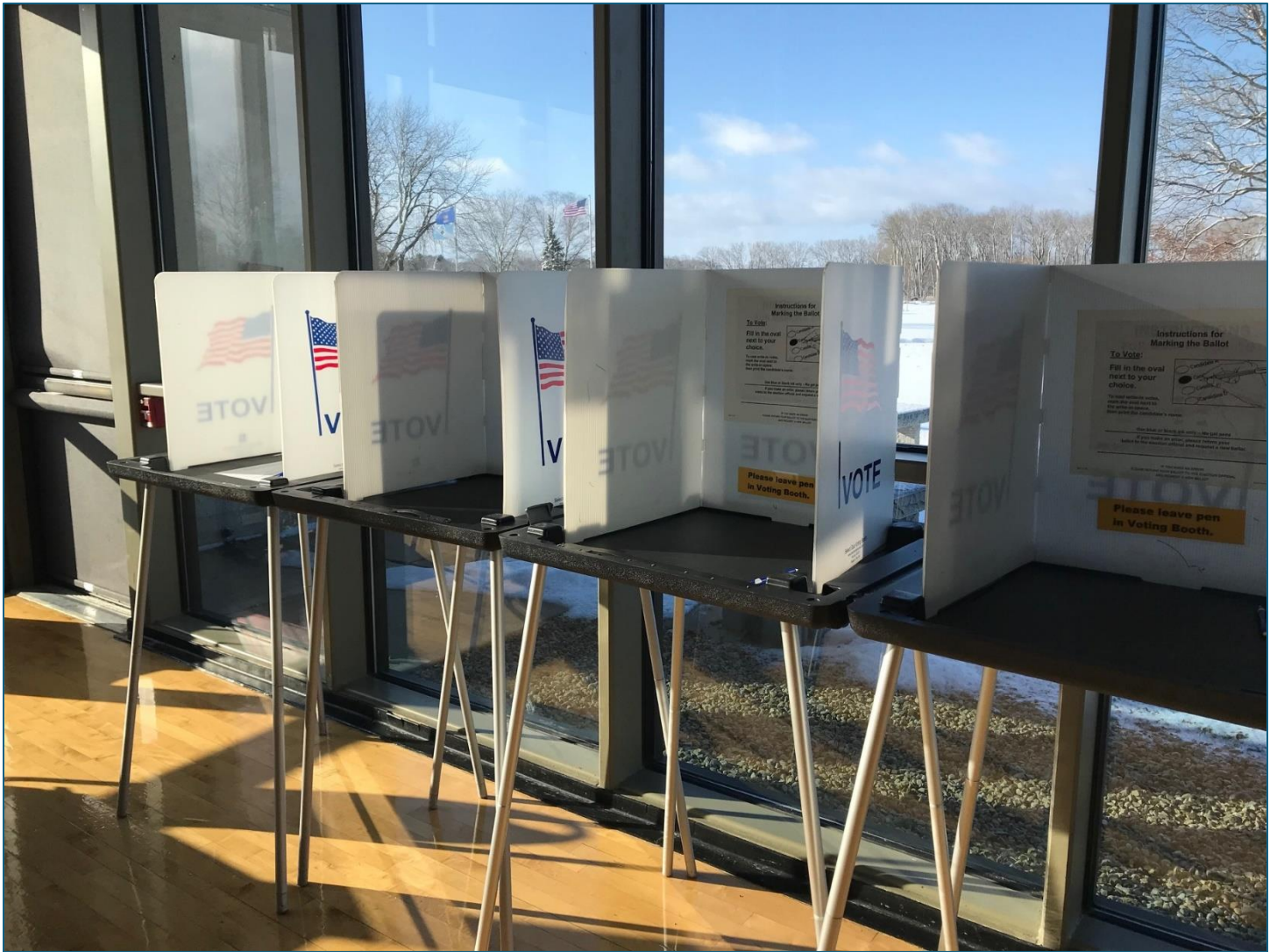


City of Madison Election Media Kit: Covering the Fall 2024 Partisan Primary



Tuesday, August 13, 2024

What's a Partisan Primary and who's on the ballot?

Voters in a Partisan Primary choose which candidates will be on the ballot at the General Election in November.

Wisconsin has open primary elections, which means:

- Voters do not register by political party.
- Voters choose which party's primary to vote in, but they can only vote in one.
- A voter's party choice is secret, like their ballot.

In the 2024 Partisan Primary, voters are nominating candidates for these partisan offices:

- U.S. Senate and Representative to Congress
- State Senate (even-numbered districts) and State Representative
- Several county-wide offices including County Clerk, Register of Deeds, County Treasurer, and District Attorney

Voters can see who's on their ballot at [MyVote Wisconsin](#).

What is turnout like in Partisan Primaries?

Over the last decade, turnout in Wisconsin's Partisan Primaries has averaged about 20% of eligible voters. That is less than one third of the turnout for the General Elections in November.

Partisan Primary Election	Registered Voters	Votes Cast	% Turnout	Election Day Registrations	Absentees Issued	Absentees Returned to be Counted	In-Person Absentees	Poll Workers	Polling Places	Provisional Ballots Issued	Provisional Ballots Counted
8/2022	172,159	62,596	36%	3,792	28,808	22,723	3,817	1,417	99	25	8
8/2020	178,199	69,646	39.1%	1,144	72,879	50,976	2,734	1,609	86	5	1
8/2018	155,859	66,653	43%	4,443	12,132	11,186	7,627	1,559	85	30	12
8/2016	188,761	42,034	22%	1,420	7,640	5,572	1,777	1,729	83	29	10
8/2014	171,281	28,316	16.5%	1,694	4,047	3,177	955	1,098	86	1	0



Voting in Madison by the Numbers

Voting Age Population (estimate as of 1/1/2023)	240,759
Registered Voters	185,919
In-Person (Early) Absentee Voting Sites	37
Polling Places	104
Ballot Styles	19
Poll Workers (Election Inspectors)	Up to 2,400

Data as of 6/20/2024.

Who runs elections?

The City of Madison Clerk's Office conducts elections in the city. This includes registering voters, managing polling places, hiring poll workers, issuing absentee ballots and completing many other election tasks. Our goal is that each eligible voter will be able to cast a ballot and have that ballot counted.

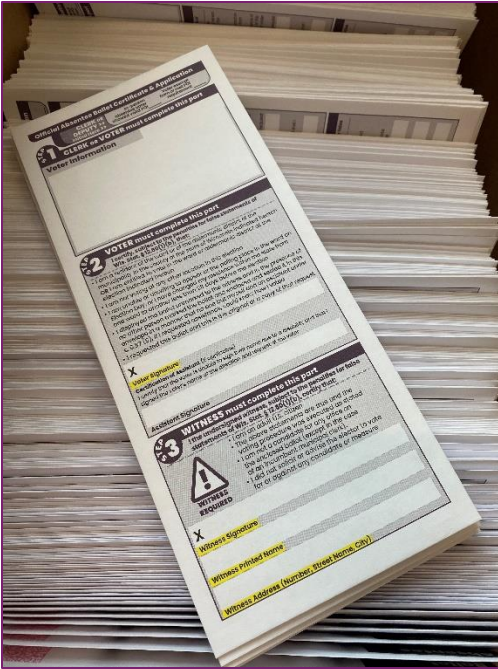
City Clerk Maribeth Witzel-Behl is a Wisconsin Certified Professional Clerk (WCPC). Deputy Clerk is Jim Verbick is a Wisconsin Certified Municipal Clerk (WCMC). Reach them by calling (608) 266-4601 or emailing Clerk@cityofmadison.com.

All 11 City Clerk's Office employees are either working toward or have already earned the designation of a [Wisconsin Certified Municipal Clerk](#) (WCMC) through the Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association. The current team has more than 103 years of combined experience in elections administration. Madison has been designated a Center for Election Excellence by the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence.

The Dane County Clerk's Office is responsible for printing ballots, programming voting machines and publishing election results for all 60 municipalities in the county. The Dane County Clerk is Scott McDonell. His contact information is (608) 266-4121 or County.clerk@danecounty.gov.



What's New



New absentee voting envelopes – Absentee voters will notice that Wisconsin has redesigned its absentee envelopes for 2024 to make them easier to use and understand.

The envelope that absentee ballots arrive in is now printed in red and blue. The certificate envelopes used to return the ballot to the Clerk's Office will be printed in purple for most voters, with other colors used for other kinds of absentee voters.

The certificate envelope now has a space for the voter's witness to print their name. This section must be completed.

New Wards – [Ward boundaries](#) have changed due to redistricting. The City of Madison now has 134 wards. The data below may be helpful when looking at election results.

Wards with no registered voters:

- Ward 122
- Ward 124
- Ward 125
- Ward 126
- Ward 129
- Ward 131
- Ward 133
- Ward 134

Wards with less than ten registered voters:

- Ward 120
- Ward 121
- Ward 130

Clerk's Office Move – In early July, the City Clerk's Office will move from the Madison Municipal Building to its newly remodeled office in the City-County Building.

Election Security Carts – The security of election equipment is now greater than ever, thanks to new security carts purchased with grant funds prior to the April election.



Covering the Election

Most aspects of Wisconsin elections are open and transparent – members of the news media and the public are welcome to cover and observe. This includes voting equipment testing before the election, voting sites during early voting and on Election Day, as well as vote counting and canvassing after the election. Reporters and photographers do not need to notify the Clerk’s Office in advance of their coverage plans. When you arrive onsite, check in with a Clerk’s Office employee at the absentee voting site, or with the Chief Inspector at the polling location.

Observation – Begins when the polls open at 7 a.m. The closing of the polls at 8 p.m. is open for anyone to observe.

Interviewing Voters – Media should not contact or interview voters when they are entering the polling place or waiting in line but may conduct interviews outside of the voting area after voting.

Photography – The media may take still photographs or videos as long as they are not disruptive and do not show how an elector has voted. We ask that photographers respect the wishes of anyone who does not wish to be on camera. A great opportunity to capture B-Roll is during the public test of election equipment (see the calendar below for date, time, and location).

Live Shots – Live shots or live cameras inside the polling place are not permitted, as they can be disruptive.

Turnout – Follow @MadisonWiclerk on X/Twitter for updates. We post absentee voting numbers daily before Election Day. On Election Day, we post updates after polling locations report turnout at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Note: the Wisconsin Elections Commission reports statewide turnout as a percentage of the voting age population. The Madison City Clerk’s Office reports turnout based on the number of pre-registered voters in each ward, so be careful in comparing Madison turnout percentages to those released by the state. Voter turnout numbers include the absentee ballots processed at each location, which City of Madison poll workers do throughout Election Day at every polling place. Final turnout percentages might not be calculated until the following morning.

Poll Workers – Madison employs approximately 2,400 temporary workers as election officials. The Clerk’s Office provides them with [extensive training](#) and pays a wage of \$15.87 per hour. There are [special programs](#) for university and high school students to serve as election officials.

Election Night Results – Unofficial results from each ward are securely transmitted to the Dane County Clerk’s Office, which publishes them on its website: <https://elections.countyofdane.com/Election-Result>.

Public Records – Voter registration records are mostly public, except for fields with personally identifiable information such as dates of birth and driver license numbers. Voter history records (which elections a voter participated in) are also public and are available for a fee from the Wisconsin Elections Commission’s [Badger Voters website](#).

Wisconsin also has a [confidential voter program](#) for victims of domestic violence, abuse and stalking. These voter records are not publicly available.

Certification – In the days and weeks after an election, municipal, county and state officials are busy certifying official results. The public is welcome to attend board of canvass meetings.

Auditing – After each General Election in November, Wisconsin randomly selects wards in every county to conduct a [post-election audit](#). All the ballots in those wards are hand counted to ensure the voting machines tabulated them correctly. These audits are open to the public. In addition, the Dane County Clerk’s Office makes anonymous ballot images available on its website to allow members of the public to audit the accuracy of voting equipment.

Voting 101:

This page briefly summarizes key parts of the voting process. Please click the links for details.

Eligibility – U.S. Citizens who are at least 18 years of age by Election Day and who are not otherwise disqualified. [Additional details here](#).

Residency – You must be a resident of Wisconsin at your current address for 28 consecutive days before the election. [There are many ways to prove residency](#). If you move, you must reregister.

Registration – The easiest way to register is online at MyVote.WI.gov. [There are many other ways to register](#), including at government offices and at your polling place on Election Day.

Voter ID – To receive your ballot, you must show an acceptable photo ID. For a list of acceptable IDs and information about how to get a free ID, [visit our website](#). Registered voters who don’t have their ID on Election Day may still cast a [provisional ballot](#).

Absentee (Early) Voting – Wisconsin voters may [request to receive an absentee ballot by mail](#) or they may vote absentee in-person at [more than 30 locations around Madison](#). There are specific deadlines to be aware of to request and return absentee ballots.

Voting in Nursing Homes and Hospitals – Wisconsin has special procedures for voters in [long-term care facilities](#) and [hospitals](#) to cast absentee ballots.

Accessibility – Voters with health issues, mobility issues or a disability have [many options to vote independently](#). Polling places must meet ADA requirements and accessible voting equipment is available at every polling place, as is the option for curbside voting.

Election Day – Polling places across Wisconsin open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. All eligible voters who are in line at 8:00 p.m. get to vote. [Learn more here](#).

Polling Places – On Election Day, Madison has more than 100 polling places open around the city in schools, community centers, churches and other public buildings. Find your polling place at [MyVote Wisconsin](#).

Voting Machines – Madison voters use paper ballots that are tabulated by optical scanners at the polling place. Most voters hand mark their ballots, but voters have the option of using a touchscreen ballot-marking device. The City Clerk’s office conducts public tests of voting equipment before each election. [Learn more about voting equipment here](#).

Election Observers – Any member of the public who is not a candidate at the election may observe voting at the polling place. Tabulation and other post-election tasks after the polls close are open to everyone including candidates. Before you go, please consult the [rules for observer conduct](#).

What are the important dates and deadlines?

June						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25	26 Absentees Mailed to voters with requests on file. Track the status of your absentee at https://MyVote.wi.gov	27	28	29
30						

July						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Last Day to Establish Residency Voters who move after today will not be eligible to vote at their new address. They need to vote from their previous address.	17	18	19	20
21	22 Care Facility Voting Begins Special Voting Deputy Election Officials bring absentee ballots to voters at 27 care facilities in the City.	23	24 Voter Registration Closes Final day to register via mail or online.	25	26	27
28	29 Do Not Delay Absentees requested after today might not have enough time to travel through the mail.	30 In-Person Absentee Voting Begins Hours & locations	31			

August

				1	2	3 Public Test City Clerk's Office tests electronic Election equipment to ensure accurate results.
4	5 Mail It Back Monday Voters returning absentees via mail are encouraged to do so by today.	6 Hospitalized Voters may begin requesting absentee ballots .	7	8 Absentee via Mail Request Deadline for most voters, but Post Office might not deliver by Tuesday	9 Final Day to Register at Absentee Sites Voters may still register at the polls on Election Day.	10
11 Final Day of In-Person Absentee Voting Hours & locations	12	13 Election Day Polls open 7 a.m. and remain open until 8 p.m. Election results are posted on County Clerk's website.	14	15	16 Provisional Deadline Provisional voters have until 4 p.m. to get a copy of their ID to the Clerk's Office.	17