

City of Madison Election Media Kit: Covering the 2025 Spring Election



Tuesday, April 1, 2025

What's on the ballot?

This is what Madison voters will see on their April ballot:

- State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Justice of the Supreme Court
- Court of Appeals Judge, District 4
- Circuit Court Judge, Branch 2
- Circuit Court Judge, Branch 16
- County Executive
- County Supervisor for voters in District 7 and District 10
- Alder
- Municipal Judge
- School Board Members
- State Referendum

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

What is turnout like in Spring Elections?

Spring Election	Registered Voters	Votes Cast	% Turnout	Election Day Registrations	Absentees Issued	Absentees Returned to be Counted	In-Person Absentees	Provisional Ballots Issued	Provisional Ballots Counted
4/2024	185,194	62,029	33%	4,406	21,910	19,285	6,175	18	11
4/2023	190,450	120,393	63%	4,771	40,714	39,015	16,613	77	10
4/2022	171,129	34,201	20%	1,334	18,930	13,212	1,746	10	4
4/2021	192,970	58,034	30%	740	35,475	25,133	1,711	17	5
4/2020	173,927	97,995	56.3%	3,246	87,890	66,997	4,930	23	7
4/2019	179,606	79,453	44.2%	2,014	15,500	14,382	11,246	61	26

Voting in Madison by the Numbers

Voting Age Population (estimate as of 1/1/2024)	291,037
Registered Voters	205,107
In-Person (Early) Absentee Voting Sites	42
Polling Places	108
Ballot Styles	60
Poll Workers (Election Inspectors)	Up to 2,800

Data as of 3/10/2025.

Wards with no registered voters:

Wards 122, 124, 125, 126, 129, 131, 133, 134, 135

Wards with less than ten registered voters:

Wards 120, 121, 130

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 e-mailing 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 114 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.



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 an absentee clerk at the absentee voting site, or with the Chief Inspector at the polls.

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 2,800 temporary workers as election officials. The Clerk’s Office provides them with [extensive training](#) and pays a wage of \$16.50 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 election results are certified, 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:

A brief summary of 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.](#) 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?

March						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9	10 Care Facility Voting Begins Special Voting Deputy Election Officials bring absentee ballots to voters at 27 care facilities in the City.	11 Absentees Mailed to voters with requests on file	12 Registration Closes Final day to register online or through the mail.	13 Drop Boxes Open	14	15
16	17 Mail It Back Monday Voters returning absentees via mail should do so by today.	18 In-Person Absentee Voting Begins	19	20	21	22 Public Test City Clerk's Office tests election equipment to ensure accurate results.
23	24 Do Not Delay Absentees requested after today might not have enough time to travel through the mail.	25 Hospitalized Voters may begin requesting absentee ballots.	26	27	28 Close of Late Registration Last day to register at an absentee voting site.	29
30 Final Day of In-Person Absentee Voting	31					

April						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Election Day Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	2	3	4 Provisional Deadline Provisional voters have until 4 p.m. to bring their ID to the City Clerk's Office	5