

Mount Mary Student Voting Information Packet

Introduction:

In the 2016 Presidential election, only 48.3% of college aged voters cast a ballot. This information packet walks you through how to register, how to vote, important dates for the November 3rd election, and more ways to get involved so that you are ready to not only vote, but are also ready to help your peers make their voices heard. If you need extra information or want to get more involved at Mount Mary or in your community, feel free to contact me or Sister Joanne Poelhman. My name is Catherine Johnson, and I am the Common Ground organizer working with local colleges. My email is catherine@commongroundwi.org, and my phone number is (309) 750-6231. You can reach Sister Joanne Poelhman at poehlmi@mtmary.edu.

This information was pulled together by Common Ground, a nonprofit, nonpartisan grassroots coalition of 38 Milwaukee institutions. Our members are churches, colleges, businesses, community organizations, and more, all working to run issue campaigns in defense of the common good. We put together this resource as part of our campaign to ensure that anyone who wants to vote has what they need to do so.

Dates to be aware of:

- September 16th:** 28 days after students have moved into their dorms-- today is the day that any residential students can update their registration and get ready to vote!
- October 14th:** Online registration deadline and mail-in registration deadline. After this date, citizens can register to vote in person at their municipal clerk's location or at a polling site. Find your municipal clerk here: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyMunicipalClerk>
- October 20th:** Because voting absentee can take up to two weeks to process (this includes your request being processed, the time it takes your ballot to arrive, and the time it takes you ballot to travel to your election clerk), the US postal service recommends that all absentee voting requests are completed by this day to ensure that your vote is counted. Remember: your absentee ballot must be received by an election clerk by 8:00pm on election day. If it is not, your vote will not be counted.
- October 26th:** A week before election day! If you send your absentee ballot out after this day, it might not reach your election clerk in time. We recommend that, rather than mailing your absentee ballot, you drop it off at an approved site. Find an approved site by contacting your municipal clerk here: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyMunicipalClerk>
- October 29th:** The last day a voter can request an absentee ballot to be sent to them. Remember that absentee ballots must be returned to a municipal clerk by 8:00pm on election day-- therefore, requesting an absentee ballot on this day risks not having your vote counted.
- October 30th:** The last day to register in person at an election office. You can still register in person on election day.
- November 3rd:** Election day! You can register to vote on election day if you bring acceptable proof of residence and ID with you to the polls.

Quick Links:

- Check your registration, register to vote, or request your absentee ballot: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>
- If you don't have a DMV product (such as a Wisconsin driver's license or state ID) you can use this webtool to take a picture of your proof of residence or ID with your phone's camera instead of scanning, printing, and sending these documents: <https://commonground.votewisconsin.com/>
- Find your polling place: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-US/FindMyPollingPlace>
- Find your municipal clerk: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyMunicipalClerk>

Registering:

Proof of residence for registration:

To register to vote in Wisconsin, you must prove your place of residence. Before registering to vote, you must have lived in your place of residence for 28 days.

Acceptable proof of residence:

- **If you are living in a residence hall: A current resident hall list**
- A photo ID from your school and a fee statement with your name and a Wisconsin address. For registering, this school ID only needs to include your photo-- it does not need to be compliant with laws that make it an acceptable form of voter ID (more details below)
- A current and valid Wisconsin driver's license or state ID. Your address in the DMV database must match where you now live. If you need to update your address with the DMV, that is easy to do online as you register.
- A gas, electric, or telephone service statement (utility bill) for the period commencing no earlier than 90 days before Election Day.
- Bank statement.
- Paycheck or paystub.
- A check or other document issued by a unit of government.
- A letter on public or private social service agency letterhead identifying a homeless voter and describing the individual's residence for voting purposes.
- Residential lease that is effective on the date of registration. (Not valid if registering by mail.)

This list of proof of residence documents was edited for relevance for Mount Mary students. A comprehensive list can be found [here](#).

Registering:

Online: Once you have your proof of residence, you are ready to register! You can register online or by mail before October 14th using this website: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/RegisterToVote>. If you are not using DMV issued proof of residence, you will need to scan, print, and physically mail your materials. This website lets you complete the entire process online using only your phone camera: <https://commonground.votewisconsin.com/>

In person: After October 14th and before October 30th, you must register in person at your local municipal clerk's office. Find your municipal clerk's office here: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-US/MyMunicipalClerk>

On election day: You can also register to vote on election day! Bring you proof of residence and your proof of ID to your polling place to register and vote. Find your polling place here: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-US/FindMyPollingPlace>

To Vote:

Acceptable ID:

- Wisconsin state ID: driver's license or state ID. If you are not from Wisconsin, you must surrender any other state IDs you possess if you try to obtain a Wisconsin state ID.
- A driver license receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT (valid for 45 days from date issued)
- An identification card receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT (valid for 45 days from date issued)
- Federal ID: A passport book or card, a military ID card issued by the US Uniformed Services
- A certificate of naturalization issued no more than two years ago
- An identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin (can be expired or unexpired)
- **You can use your Mount Mary ID as voter identification if your card has been issued no more than two years prior to when you are using it to vote.** If you need a new voter ID card that is voter compliant, visit [_____](#). **If you are using your Mount Mary ID as voter ID, you must simultaneously present a document that shows that you are currently enrolled at Mount Mary.** This can include: an enrollment verification letter, class schedule, tuition fee receipt, or certified campus housing list. You must show your original student ID if you are voting in-person but may show your proof of enrollment document electronically. For more information about using your student ID as voter identification, [visit this site](#).

Find this list online here: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/PhotoIDRequired>

Request your absentee ballot:

- Go to <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/VoteAbsentee>. If you are not using Wisconsin ID from the DMV, using this site will require you to scan and print your form of ID.
- If you do not have access to a scanner/printer: go to <https://commonground.votewisconsin.com/>
- Drop off your absentee ballot in person: If you do not want to send your ballot through the mail, you can find where to drop off your ballot by checking with your municipal clerk. Find your municipal clerk here: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyMunicipalClerk>

Vote in person: Find your polling place here: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-US/FindMyPollingPlace>

Cast your Ballot, Check your Vote

Join Common Ground's campaign to make sure that the ballots we cast get counted. In Wisconsin's April elections, 23,000 absentee ballots were rejected. Those 23,000 people were not the only disenfranchised voters-- that number does not include people who were turned away from the polls because they couldn't get through the line, people whose absentee ballots never arrived, or people who had bad information about what documents they needed to register. **Voter laws need reform, and you can be a part of that change.** Common Ground

will check public voter records to see if the people we worked with had their votes counted, and follow up with the people whose voices were not heard.

What we need:

We need you to pledge to vote, we need your address, and we need your contact information. We will not send you mailings or sell your information. We will only use this information to check the public voter rolls after the November election. If we see that your vote was not counted, we will reach out to you. We want to hear your story-- Did your absentee ballot not arrive? Did a family issue prevent you from making it to the polls? Why were you unable to participate in this election? If we find systemic issues that prevent voters from exercising their rights, we will take action to change how voting works in Wisconsin.

Help us make sure that every person who wants to vote is able to vote both in this election and in the future. Contact catherine@commongroundwi.org or poehlmj@mtmary.edu for more information.

Articles about the Need for Voter Turnout:

- [Pandemic Adds Barriers for College Voters](#): Urban Milwaukee
- [Poll: More Than Half Of Young People Lack Resources To Vote By Mail](#): NPR
- [Wisconsin First in Youth Vote Clout](#): Urban Milwaukee
- [Low Voter Registration in Wisconsin](#): WPR

Additional Involvement:

If you want to get more involved in voter turnout, here are some steps you can take:

- Get in contact with our Get Out the Vote team! Contact Sister Joanne Poelhman at poehlmj@mtmary.edu
- Ask for a Common Ground organizer or leader to talk to one of your classes about voting
- Pass along this information to colleagues
- Pass this along to interested students (we work with student organizations and clubs)
- Work with Common Ground to register people in your personal social/professional networks; do you know people in your family who need to register to vote? What about people in your neighborhood? Do this work on your own or reach out to Common Ground to canvass your area.