



What if My Right to Vote is Challenged?

The Wisconsin Government Accountability Board has established a specific procedure for and the method by which an elector's ballot is challenged at a polling place.

WHO CAN CHALLENGE A VOTER?

A poll inspector or an elector may challenge your right to vote only if they have personal knowledge or suspect that you:

1. Are not a U.S. Citizen
2. Are not 18 years old
3. Have not resided in the election district for at least 10 days
4. Have a felony conviction and have not been restored to civil rights
5. You have been adjudicated incompetent
6. You have voted previously in the SAME ELECTION

WHEN A VOTER CANNOT BE CHALLENGED

Your right to vote **CANNOT BE CHALLENGED** using any of the following criteria: (not a complete list)

1. *You don't "look American"
2. *You don't speak English
3. You don't look familiar to the challenger
4. You have never voted before
5. You worked on a campaign for a candidate
6. You need assistance to cast your vote
7. You voted in an earlier election
8. You have been convicted of a misdemeanor or traffic violation
9. You have an outstanding warrant
10. You have outstanding parking tickets
11. You helped register people to vote
12. You are new to the neighborhood (You have to have been a resident for at least 10 days)
13. ANY OTHER CRITERIA NOT LISTED IN "WHO CAN CHALLENGE A VOTER" SECTION

(*Source: [The New York Times](#), "Big G.O.P. Bid to Challenge Voters at Polls in Key State," 10/23/2004)

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IF YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE IS CHALLENGED

If a poll inspector or elector challenges your right to vote using one of the 6 valid criteria, one of the inspectors will ask for you to make an oath or affirmation of veracity about your place of residence and qualifications as an elector.

- **IF YOU REFUSE TO ANSWER:** The inspectors shall not issue a ballot to you
- **IF YOU ANSWER TRUTHFULLY AND YOUR ANSWERS INDICATE THAT YOU DO NOT MEET VOTING REQUIREMENTS:** The inspectors shall not issue a ballot to you
- **IF YOU ANSWER TRUTHFULLY AND SWEAR THAT YOU MEET VOTING REQUIREMENTS:** The inspectors are required to provide you a ballot and follow normal voting procedures

PLEASE NOTE: As a challenged voter, you may be asked to fill out an absentee ballot in certain municipalities. The ballot you submit must be counted as required by Wisconsin State Statutes ch. 5.85 or 7.51(2)(c).

Poll inspectors must make a written record of all challenges at the polling place, whether or not you receive a ballot. The written record shall contain the name and address of the challenger and the challenged elector; the cause for the challenge; the questions asked of the elector, and the elector's response. The record will also note whether or not the challenged elector took the oath or affirmation of eligibility. [Example of a [Written Challenge Record](#)]

If you feel as though your were incorrectly challenged, or you feel as though the standard procedure for dealing with elector challenges was not followed, you can file a complaint with the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board. [[Complaint Form](#)]