

Shared Values

Over the past few years, election laws in Wisconsin have sometimes undergone sudden and significant changes. With each new change, participants at all levels in the election process were ready to shift, learn, and teach. Successful election practices are driven by election officials who are adaptable, value learning and improvement, and set voter-driven goals.

The quality and integrity of the election process has never been more important, and well-trained election officials play

a key role. Ensuring accuracy and integrity at each step in the election process further emphasizes the values that both election officials and voters share: trust, transparency, fairness, and accountability in Wisconsin elections.

About the Author:

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DID YOU KNOW?



Voting by the Numbers

- ★ **1,850** - the number of Wisconsin city, village, and town clerks who are responsible for maintaining voter lists, managing polling places, and hiring poll workers. Together with the 72 county clerks responsible for printing ballots and programming voting equipment, Wisconsin has the most decentralized election administration in America.
- ★ **3,000** - the approximate number of local election officials with credentials to access the statewide voter registration system. Every user is required to complete six modules of online security training before gaining access to the system and to use multi-factor authentication when logging in. Starting in January 2020, system access will be limited to computers meeting security standards monitored by an endpoint testing program.
- ★ **30,000** - the approximate number of election officials/inspectors who work at the polls on Election Day. Some are nominated by the two major political parties, but many have no political affiliation.
- ★ **2,800** - the approximate number of polling places available to voters each general election.
- ★ **3,329,127** - the number of active registered voters in the statewide voter registration system on October 1, 2019.
- ★ **2,673,308** - the number of voters who turned out for the 2018 midterm elections, which is 59.4 percent of the voting-age population, a record turnout. In 2016, there were 3,004,051 voters - a 67.3 percent turnout.
- ★ **100%** - the percentage of Wisconsin votes cast on paper ballots or with a paper backup:
 - **85%** on optical-scan paper ballots.
 - **10%** on DRE (touch-screen) equipment with a voter-verified paper audit trail.
 - **5%** on hand-counted paper ballots.
- ★ **150,000** - the approximate number of ballots recounted by hand from 186 randomly-selected reporting units in all 72 counties prior to certification of the 2018 General Election during the voting equipment audit. Note: The municipalities where voting equipment was audited represent more than 40 percent of all of the ballots cast statewide for this election.
- ★ **1,500+** - the number of local election officials who have participated in the WEC's election security tabletop training exercises since 2018. These sessions will continue throughout 2020.
- ★ **1 in 500,000** - the federal standard for voting equipment errors. No Wisconsin voting equipment has ever failed to meet this standard.

Source: Wisconsin Election Commission.