

Voter Photo ID

Supporting voter education and participation

Core Member Organizations

- Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW)
- Alzheimer's Association SE Wisconsin Chapter
- Wisconsin Adult Day Services Association (WADSA)
- Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A)
- Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists (WABS)
- Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors (WAND)
- Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (WASC)
- Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA)

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network is a collaborative group of individuals and associations working with and for Wisconsin's older adults to shape public policy to improve their quality of life.

WAAN State Issue Brief
July 2016

WAAN's Position: Implement targeted voter education, improve training, and enhance staffing for polling sites to ensure every eligible older adult who wants to vote can vote.

Helping older people vote is a basic part of assisting them maintain their community connections and citizenship. Some of the ways the aging network can help include sharing information about the new voting rules, the issues, who's running, the voting process (by mail, in-person/early, on election day, etc.), and where to vote and how to get there. Aging units and aging and disability resource centers (ADRCs)—in partnership with other community partners (local clerks, League of Women Voters, etc.) and organizations/groups (civic, veterans, etc.)—can assist with education materials and events, rides, registration, senior voting days, and other activities.

Provide Education and Outreach to Older Adults

As a result of a final ruling to implement Wisconsin Act 23, all Wisconsin voters need to provide a valid photo ID in order to receive an election ballot.

All eligible voters should be informed about the implementation of Act 23 and its requirement to provide a photo ID when they vote. Outreach and education should include information about all acceptable types of photo ID—as well as how to find

one's polling place, what are acceptable proof of residence documents for registration, and how to fill out a ballot.

Targeted education for older adults needs to include how to obtain a free state ID—if applicable—as well as information about absentee

voting and mail-in ballots. Education should be provided through—but not limited to—public service announcements, press releases, flyers, programs targeting older adults, and one-on-one assistance as needed.



Assistance to Older Adults to Get a Free Photo ID

Many Wisconsin older adults do not have a driver license with a photo ID; after giving up their driver license for health and/or safety reasons, they primarily use public transportation or rides from family/friends.

There is a significant need for both voter education and training of election officials.

While many older adults live independently, some depend on others for transportation. It can be difficult to find personal drivers who can get them to Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices during scheduled business hours.

Some older adults do not have birth certificates, do not know how to get them, or were born in other states or countries so they have no proof to verify either their identity or date of birth.

Options for Providing Assistance

- Provide transportation to the local county offices and/or DMVs.
- Provide assistance to older adults who do not have proof of name, date of birth, and/or citizenship by assisting them with completing the necessary DOT forms.
- Distribute voter registration, voter ID, and other voter education materials.



Contact WAAN

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Increasing Polling Site Staffing and Election Official Training

After observing the April 5, 2016, election, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin released their election observation report. In addition to voter education, the report includes a number of election administration recommendations including:

- Increasing polling site staff to provide a sufficient number of registrars and a greeter at every polling place to respond to registration needs, questions, and high voter turnout.
- Improving election official training to ensure they understand all of the changing procedures and requirements.

Voter education and support are needed—as are increased polling site staff and improved election official training—to ensure older voters and all eligible voters can exercise their right to vote.