



*Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.*

October 29, 2024

Dear Fellow PROFS Member,

With Election Day just one week away, I wanted to get in touch to encourage you to share information with your students about how to vote in Wisconsin. For many students, this will be their first major election and we believe it is important to educate and encourage all students to fulfill their civic duty to vote.

First, and most importantly, we are only asking you to share information about the mechanics of voting in Wisconsin. We are not asking you to tell students which candidates to support on November 5.

Our colleagues in the School of Education prepared a handy slide deck (attached) that will help you share accurate information with students. We hope you can take a few minutes to go through all or part of the deck, or even offer time in class for students to go to vote.wisc.edu to make their plan to vote. The slides can also be uploaded to your canvas sites for future reference. Here are some talking points to share while going through the slide deck:

- Remind students that they can find answers to almost every question at vote.wisc.edu and that they should make a voting plan in advance.
- Students can register and vote in-person until November 1 at any voting site on campus, or they can register and vote in-person on November 5, but only at their assigned polling place.
- Acceptable photo identification is required to vote or register to vote. A UW-Madison student ID not a valid for voting, but students can get an ID for voting purposes at the Wiscard office. Students registering at the polls need to show proof of Madison residency, such as a lease or utility bill.
- Instructors are asked to provide flexibility to students who report they were absent or tardy on Election Day due to waiting to vote at the polls (UW-Madison Policy 856).

Finally, we urge you to share the following key messages:

- U.S. citizens who have lived in Wisconsin for 28 days or more are allowed to vote. Some students have received threatening and misleading texts about voting in Wisconsin. Voting in Wisconsin allows students to have a say in local governance, including issues relating to the university and city.
- Becoming a voter takes a few steps and can be frustrating for some or even time consuming. Keep in mind that voting is one of our greatest rights — and one of our greatest responsibilities — in a democracy.
- Making a plan to register and vote early can assure there are no last-minute emergencies that stand in the way of voting on Election Day. Students can register and vote early through Friday, November 1 at Memorial Union or Union South.

Thank you.

Regards,

Michael Bernard-Donals, PROFS President
English and Jewish Studies