

Wisconsin Candidate Eligibility

Candidate, age, residency, and special requirements

United States Senator: 30 year of age, a citizen of the United States for 9 years and an inhabitant of the state at the time of the election. Article I, Section 3, U.S. Constitution.

Representative in Congress: 25 years of age, a citizen of the United States for 7 years and an inhabitant of the state at time of election. Article I, Section 2, U. S. Constitution.
(Representative need not be a resident at the time they file nomination papers and executes declaration of candidacy. 61 Atty. Gen. 155).

Governor and Lieutenant Governor[†]: A qualified elector* of the state at the time of taking office. Article V, Section 2, Wis. Constitution.

Attorney General: A qualified elector* of the state at the time of taking office.

State Representative Office[†]: A resident for one year within the state and a qualified elector* of the district at the time of taking office. Article IV, Section 6, Wis. Constitution. 65 Atty. Gen. 165.

Supreme Court Justice[†]: Licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for 5 years immediately prior to the election and a qualified elector* of the state at time of election. Article VII, Sections 10, 24, Wis. Constitution.

Court of Appeals Judge[†]: Licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for 5 years immediately prior to the election and a qualified elector* of the appeals court district at the time of election. Article VII, Sections 10, 24, Wis. Constitution.

Circuit Court Judge[†]: Licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for 5 years immediately prior to the election and a qualified elector* of the circuit at the time of election. Article VII, Sections 7, 10, 24, Wis. Constitution.

District Attorney[†]: Licensed to practice law in Wisconsin and a resident of the prosecutorial unit (county) at the time of taking office. Wis. Stat. § 978.02.

County Supervisor (including Milwaukee)[†]: Resident and qualified elector* of district at the time of filing nomination papers. Wis. Stat. § 59.20(1).

Other County Office[†]: A qualified elector* of the county at the time of filing nomination papers. Wis. Stat. § 59.20(1).

Aldersperson (including Milwaukee)[†]: A qualified elector* of the city and, if aldermanic district, a qualified elector* of the district and actually residing in the district at the time of election. Wis. Stat. §.62.09(2)(a).

Other City Office (including Milwaukee)[†]: A qualified elector* of the city and an actual resident of the city at the time of election. Wis. Stat. § 62.09(2)(a).

Village office[†]: A qualified elector* and an actual resident of the village at the time of election. Wis. Stat. § 61.19.

Town Office[†]: A qualified elector* of the town at the time of taking office, except an assessor who is appointed under Wis. Stat. § 60.307. Wis. Stat. § 60.30(2).

School Board Member (At-Large)[†]: A qualified elector* of the school district at the time of filing a Declaration of Candidacy. Wis. Stat. §§ 120.06(2), (6)(b)2.

School Board Member Representing an Apportioned Area[†]: A qualified elector* of the school district at the time of filing a Declaration of Candidacy and a resident of the apportioned area at the time of taking office (4th Monday in April). Wis. Stat. §§ 120.05(1)(d), 120.06(2), (4).

†

No person may hold any state or local elected office in Wisconsin if the person has been convicted of a felony in any court in the United States unless the person has been pardoned of the conviction. No person may have their name placed on the ballot for any state or local elected office in Wisconsin if the person has been convicted of a felony in any court in the United States unless the person has been pardoned of the conviction. Article XIII, Section 3 (2), (3), Wis. Constitution.

*Qualified elector is defined in Wis. Stat. § 6.02, as a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older, who has resided in the election district for at least 28 consecutive days before any election at which they offer to vote (and who is not disqualified by virtue of one or more of the impediments described in Wis. Stat. § 6.03).

Terms-Federal Offices

The terms of the President and Vice-President begin and end at noon on the 20th day of January. The terms of U.S. Senators and Representatives in Congress begin and end at noon on the 3rd day of January. Article XX, Section 1, U.S. Constitution.

Terms-State Offices

State Senator, Representative to the Assembly, District Attorney, and County Offices.

The terms for these offices begin and end on the first Monday of January. Article XIII, Section 1, Wisconsin Constitution

State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The term for this office begins and ends on the first Monday in July. Article X, Section 1, Wisconsin Constitution.

Supreme Court – August 1 Article VII, Sec. 4 Wisconsin Constitution

(Last revised January 2021)