

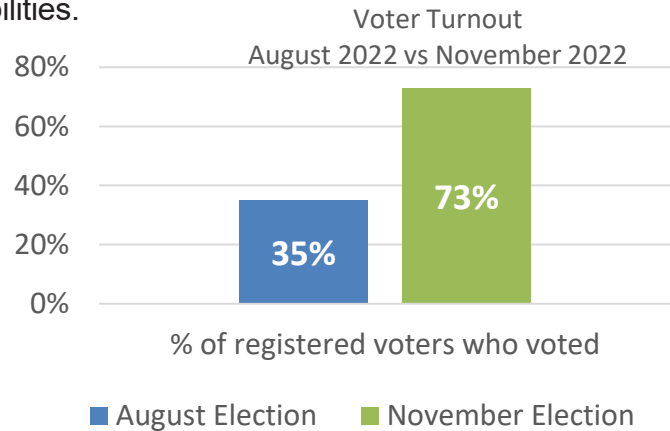
Ashland County Votes!

General Midterm Election Summary: Voting Results from November 8, 2022

Welcome to Ashland County's November 2022 election summary!

Wisconsin's elections are highly decentralized, with elections conducted at the local level by over 1,900 local election officials in 72 counties and 1,851 municipalities. There are 16 municipalities in Ashland County that have election responsibilities.

In this election, there were 9,632 registered voters in Ashland County. Of those, voters cast 7,068 ballots on November 8, which is a 73% participation rate for the County. This exceptionally high turnout can be attributed to an interest in numerous important races for state and federal positions. There were 27 new registered voters in the county.



Ashland County, Wisconsin: November 8, 2022 General Election Results Tally of Voters in 16 jurisdictions

Jurisdictions	# Registered Voters	# People who Voted	% Registered Voters who Voted
Town of Agenda	271	218	80%
Town of Ashland	356	287	81%
Town of Chippewa	247	183	74%
Town of Gingles	556	407	73%
Town of Gordon	203	166	82%
Town of Jacobs	393	300	76%
Town of LaPointe	327	278	85%
Town of Marengo	253	186	74%
Town of Morse	361	264	73%
Town of Peeksville	104	88	85%
Town of Sanborn	618	398	64%
Town of Shanagolden	97	68	70%
Town of White River	606	403	67%
Village of Butternut	201	152	76%
City of Ashland: All wards	4653	3403	73%
City of Mellen	386	267	69%
TOTAL	9632	7068	73%

These are official results as finalized by the Ashland County Clerk Office.

Election Security 101: New Educational Program About Voting Machine Testing in City of Ashland

The City of Ashland's Clerk office and Ashland County's UW Extension office co-hosted a new public program called "Election Security 101" in late October 2022. The purpose of the program was to demonstrate and conduct the state-mandated security protocols that ensure the city's voting machines are properly calibrated and securely stored before the November 8 election.

According to the Wisconsin Elections Commission: "All municipalities are required to conduct a public test of their voting equipment within 10 days before each election. Pre-election testing is intended to confirm the accuracy of voting equipment programming. This event is considered a public meeting and must be noticed at least 48 hours prior. The public is invited to attend and observe the testing process."

Sarah Szymaniak, City of Ashland Election Specialist, described how she tests the city's ballot counting machines, or tabulator, (called DS200), how the tested machines are then securely sealed, locked and stored the week before an election, and how machines are transported and maintained on election day. Sarah also described the different testing and operational redundancies built in to the security processes to ensure ballots and machines can't be tampered with.

Sarah and Deputy Clerk Chelsea List then ran several mandated tests (under State Statute 5.84(1)) on the DS 200 machines used at two city polling places. They also tested the Automark accessible voting machine.

All clerks in Wisconsin have been doing these mandatory tests of their equipment for years, and they've been publicly announced in local media and on web sites as open processes for the public to watch.

After the tests: Lissa Radke, Community Development Educator for UW Madison, Division of Extension's Ashland County office, described a new Extension publication called "Ashland County Votes! An Election Report Card." Radke developed the first edition of a four-page flyer that started in August 2022 as a way to assess turnout rates for elections for all 16 municipalities in the County.

This data informs local leaders whether residents are participating in local elections and how turnout rates might be improved. The report card also described the roles of clerks, election workers, and voters, and highlighted the friends and neighbors who safely run elections throughout 16 county towns, villages, and cities.

A report card will be published after both 2023 elections. Data from the four elections held in 2022 and 2023 will be summarized next spring, with recommendations for elected officials about future elections.



Sarah and Chelsea do a live public test of a DS200 tabulator at a public meeting to ensure its accuracy.



Sarah and Chelsea unlocking the Automark for testing.

Get Out the Youth Vote! 2022 Youth Voter Registration Campaign

The Voter Services Committee of the League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties received a grant from the national, nonpartisan group, the League of Women Voters, Education Fund to help young voters register to vote for the first time. The purpose of the program was to increase the number of 18-year-old voters in Ashland and Bayfield counties so they could start their voting history in the 2022 primary and general midterm elections.

A core group of League members in both counties identified how and where to reach young voters, then developed educational materials such as voter pledge cards using the national toolkit, including information about the nonpartisan MyVote.gov website and Vote411.org. League members arranged visits to high school classes and clubs, offered voting registration tables at school lunch periods and college and community events, and sought student participation in League-sponsored candidate forums.

From January through June 2022, nine League volunteers organized and held 10 registration events, reaching 115 young people. New voters could register in person at the events or online later.

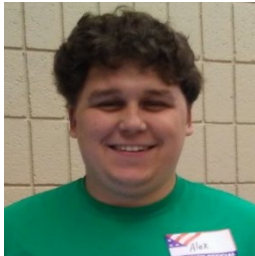
In addition, the League held local candidate forums and, for the first time, arranged to have student participation during planning and conducting the forums. Students contributed candidate questions from the community before the forums, and worked at the forums by collecting participants' questions and serving as timers.

These efforts to engage young voters in local election opportunities helps set a foundation of civic engagement that can continue into adulthood.

"This was an important campaign for the local League," said Diane Koosed, the co-chair of the Voting Services Committee of the local League of Women Voters chapter. "We knew there were young people becoming eligible to vote who might not know what steps to take to register. We hope those students we reached have started a life-long voting habit."

Highlight: Young Election Workers Join the Ranks!

New young election workers were trained and ready to join seasoned officials at the polls in the November election! Meet two of them:



Alex Wuethrich, Ashland, enjoyed his first election as a poll worker working in tandem with Leslie Jagger, processing and counting absentee ballots at the Northwood Technical College poll site. The 23-year-old, who was trained by Ashland city clerks this fall, said he was enthusiastic about his contribution. "My fiancé's whole family is very involved in helping at local elections, so I got involved too. I like it. It's a very good and important job, and I like the purpose of doing it," he said.

Alec Malenfant, Ashland, enjoyed his second election of working at NWTC registering new voters and verifying that hundreds of voters were eligible to receive their ballots. The 27-year-old Northland College grad was recruited to this work by the Ashland city clerk. "I've voted in Ashland since I moved here, and I saw mostly senior workers working at the polls, so I thought as a young person I should be helping too," he said. He thinks the work is "super fun" because he likes seeing people who are excited and ready to vote, and he wants to help make sure the voting experience is friendly, accurate, and easy.



Welcome and thanks to Alex, Alec, and all new young—and older!—poll workers in Ashland County!

Thanks to Ashland County Election Workers! Meet folks from Ashland and Morse



<<<Thanks to election workers at Northwood Technical College on the morning shift for processing over 1,300 voters in about 6 hours! (Left to right): Bronte, Cheryl, Bob, Jacob, Peter (election observer), Alex, Alec, Mary Beth, Ed, and Leslie.



Source: Wisconsin League of Women Voters



Poll workers ready for voters in the Town of Morse! Theresa Koosmann, Gwen Lawver, and Gerri Wrege. Photo Credit: Jeff Ehrhardt

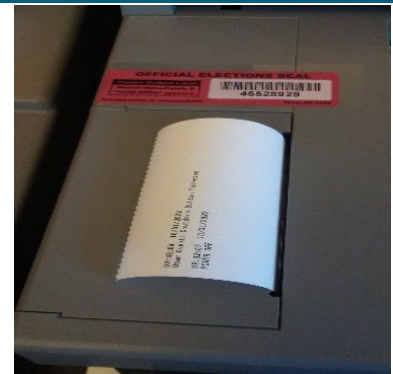
2023: Two Elections Are Scheduled

Dates are set under Wis. Stat. 5.02(21).

Spring Primary: February 21

Spring Election: April 4. Positions that voters will be voting on include Wisconsin Supreme Court Judge, two seats on the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, as well as several other nonpartisan local and judicial elections, and in some cases local referendums.

See the Wisconsin Elections Commission web site at wisconsin.elections.gov for more information.



A City of Ashland voting machine is sealed with an official verification seal indicating it passed security tests and is locked until election day.

*Election results provided by Ashland County Clerk's Office and are available online at the Ashland County web site.

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