Ashland County Votes!
General Election Summary: Voting Results from April 4, 2023

Welcome to Ashland County's April 2023 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.

Ashland County, Wisconsin: April 4, 2023 General Election Results
Tally of Voters in 16 Jurisdictions *Unofficial Results from the Ashland County Clerk's Office*

Jurisdictions	# of Registered Voters*	# of People who Voted	% of Registered Voters who Voted
Towns of			
Agenda	275	143	52
Ashland	361	217	60
Chippewa	242	129	53
Gingles	542	234	43
Gordon	202	98	48
Jacobs	405	227	56
La Pointe	338	252	75
Marengo	250	136	54
Morse	362	187	52
Peeksville	107	67	63
Sanborn	625	194	31
Shanagolden	94	50	53
White River	615	273	44
Village of Butternut	198	88	44
City of Ashland: All wards	4,839	2,374	49
City of Mellen	383	189	49
TOTAL	**9383**	**4,858**	51%

From Registered Voters By Municipality at https://elections.wi.gov/sites

THANK YOU

Many thanks to Ashland County Clerk Heather Schutte for ongoing assistance with election data and input on our Election Report Cards!

The Case of the Missing Voters: Unregistered but Eligible Residents

After each election, clerks tally the number of registered voters who actually voted by counting their completed ballots. If you've been reading our last three Ashland County voting report cards, you've noticed that **the percentages of those registered voters who actually do cast a ballot differs from election to election:** From a low of 9% (February 2023) of the total registered in one town all the way up to 85% turnout in another town (November 2022). But that turnout rate only looks at registered voters.

To be eligible to register to vote in Wisconsin, a person needs to be:

1. A U.S. citizen
2. 18 years old on or before Election Day
3. Reside at their current address for at least 28 days prior to the election.

What about the non-registered but eligible to vote residents?

This chart shows that in all of Ashland County's 16 jurisdictions (towns, cities, villages), there are residents who are eligible to vote, but have not registered. For example, in Peeksville, almost every eligible voter has already registered; only seven residents haven't registered yet. In the whole county, there are 2,682 eligible residents who haven't registered yet, which is about 21 percent. That's a significant number!

There are numerous reasons why a person may decide not to register to vote. We asked some non-registered community members and heard the following reasons:

"I don't feel represented by the candidates' viewpoints."

"I don't think candidates can truly make a difference in all the problems we have."

"One vote can't make a difference."

"I don't trust politicians."

"It's too hard to find out who stands for what when the media twists candidates' voices."

These are understandable reasons for choosing not to participate in voting processes. **However, to be healthy, sustainable, and fair, ALL voices should be heard in a democracy.** Organizations like Vote411.org offer nonpartisan election information, so you can research candidates and find those that most closely resemble your viewpoints.

VOTE 411

*Eligible Voters in Ashland County

Type	Name	*Eligible Nonregistered Voters (Estimates on January 1, 2020)	Registered Voters (as of February 1, 2023)	Number of Missing Eligible Voters
Town	Agenda	319	273	46
City	Ashland	6,413	4,771	1,642
Town	Ashland	440	369	71
Village	Butternut	284	195	89
Town	Chippewa	292	240	52
Town	Gingles	604	481	123
Town	Gordon	246	199	47
Town	Jacobs	519	432	87
Town	LaPointe	373	310	63
Town	Marengo	269	239	30
City	Mellen	554	435	119
Town	Morse	406	351	55
Town	Peeksville	126	119	7
Town	Sanborn	983	666	317
Town	Shanagolden	109	87	22
Town	White River	642	535	107
	TOTAL	**12,572**	**9,890**	**2,682**

*Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration web site, report called "Final Population Estimates for Municipalities in Multiple Counties," at https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/LocalGovtsGrants/Population_Estimates.aspx

In our final summary report of the last four election turnouts in Ashland County (to be published in late Spring 2023), we'll go deeper into why some Ashland County voters don't vote and try to find ways to encourage voters and make voting more accessible.

Did you know this about American democracy?

- George Washington gave the shortest inauguration speech:135 words. William Henry Harrison's was the longest, at 8,445 words.Harrison spoke for over two hours in a heavy snowstorm, which made him catch a cold and die from pneumonia one month later.

- The first U.S. presidential election was in 1789. Only white men who owned property could vote, a stipulation that prohibited 94% of the population from casting a ballot.

Theresa Koosmann has been the clerk/treasurer for the town of Morse since October 2021, when she was appointed to the position after the previous clerk retired. **"I didn't know anything about working an election when I took the job!"** Theresa said. But happily the town's former clerk rigorously trained her the month before the election, so she felt prepared.

Meet Town of Morse Clerk Theresa Koosmann!

"Our Ashland County Clerk Heather {Schutte} has been very good about helping me out whenever I need it. If we didn't have dedicated workers, these elections would be nearly impossible to do. With plenty of trained workers, we're never left stranded"

Recently Theresa received an election cybersecurity subgrant from the Wisconsin Elections Commission to make sure she knew as much as possible about how to keep the town's internet and email system—which can have election information on it--safe from hackers or malware. This is a new security system the town never had before, which Theresa is relieved to now have. "I enjoyed pursuing that grant, and I'm going after another one, too. Elections need to be safe at all levels," she said.

Being a clerk is a big job, even for a small community like Morse. Although Theresa's currently facing some health challenges, she's sure local elections will continue to run smoothly. With all the townspeople, state agencies, county assistance, and town organizations helping, it's highly likely accurate and fair elections will continue!

Highlights!

- **To make sure Theresa always has plenty of poll workers available, the town's road crew have been trained to fill in if needed**
- **Theresa (and all Clerks) rely on legal expertise offered by the Wisconsin Towns Association's attorney's, and she's used resources in the WTA monthly magazine to get needed information.**
- **The Town of Morse's seven experienced election workers have been a wealth of knowledge, as some have worked every election for years.**

- In 1845, Congress decided that voting day would be the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, which was after the fall harvest and before winter conditions made travel too difficult.

- It wasn't until 1856 that Congress removed the requirement that a voter had to own property to be able to vote in elections.

- In 1870, Congress passed the 15th Amendment, which granted the right to vote to African Americans and other nonwhite men. However, an African American's right to vote was often denied in the South and parts of the North until the 1960s.

- During the 1872 election, presidential incumbent Ulysses S. Grant ran against a corpse. His opponent, Horace Greeley, died before the election was finalized. Grant won the election.

- The first woman to run for U.S. President was Victoria Woodhull in 1872, nearly 50 years before the 19th Amendment allowed women to vote in presidential elections. Her running mate, Frederick Douglass, was the first African-American ever nominated for Vice President, until 2019 when Kamala Harris ran as VP with Joseph Biden.

- In 1872, Susan B. Anthony was arrested for attempting to vote in the presidential election. At the same time, Sojourner Truth, a former slave and advocate for justice, demanded a ballot in Michigan, but she was turned away. American women of all races finally won the right to vote in 1920.

- The first election to use a voting machine was in 1892. Though it was actually invented earlier, candidates initially opposed the idea because it eliminated the wheeling and dealing for votes they made over the phone.

- Congress gave Native Americans the right to vote in presidential elections in 1924; however, some states banned them from voting until the 1940s.

- Until 1937, presidents weren't sworn in until March 4 because it took so long to count and report ballots. In light of better technology, the 20th amendment moved inauguration day to Noon on January 20.

What Elections Are Scheduled in 2024?

Next year will be another big year for voters and candidates, as state and federal seats will be up for grabs, including for US president and vice president. All 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives and 34 of the 100 seats in the United States Senate will be contested to determine the membership of the 119th United States Congress. Wisconsin is considered to be a crucial swing state in 2024.

Wisconsin has 10 electoral votes in the Electoral College, following reapportionment due to the 2020 United States census in which the state neither gained nor lost a seat. A simple majority (270) of the 538 electoral votes are required to win the presidential election.

What Elections Are Scheduled in 2024?
Presidential Primary: April 2
State Primary: August 13
Presidential Election: November 5

Take a look at how many voters are currently registered in Ashland County! Are you one of them?

If you're not yet registered, visit the nonpartisan website MyVote Wisconsin at myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Register-To-Vote.

"Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient. It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop."
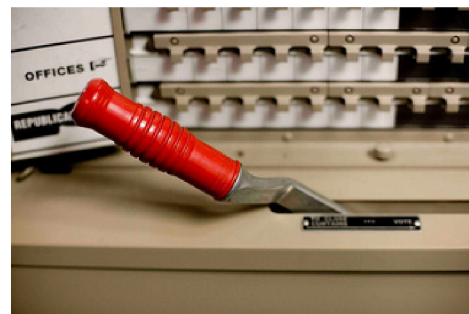
-Dorothy Height.
Ms. Height was a teacher, social service worker, and president of the National Council of Negro Women for 40 years. She was called the 'godmother of the women's movement' for her work for women's rights.

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Sanborn	625
Shanagolden	94
White River	615
Village of Butternut	198
City of Ashland	4,839
City of Mellen	383

Fun Fact: American astronauts on the International Space Station can vote in elections from orbit by secure email.

Out of 172 countries that hold democratic elections, the United States is ranked 139th in voter participation.

The mechanical voting machine is extinct. The classic mechanical lever voting machine was phased out by 2010 in the United States. Most votes are now conducted using electronic digital voting machines or by using paper ballots that are sometimes optically scanned. *Source: Constitution Center.org*

Voting machine lever via Wikimedia Commons

Election results were provided by Ashland County Clerk's Office and are available online at the Ashland County website: https://co.ashland.wi.us/county_clerk. Published April 2023. Source for information and state statistics: Wisconsin Elections Commission website: https://elections.wi.gov/elections,

Extension
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