



Get the Lead Out of Government!
Election Day: The Other Earth Day


cleanwisconsin
your environmental voice since 1970


Vote
2004

Your vote CAN make a difference in 2004



Do you want
this....



or this?

Election Day: The Other Earth Day



In the 2002 elections, many seats were at stake. Enduring memories from the most recent election cycle were the narrow margins by which some races were decided. In an era when low voter turnout continues to plague the country and Wisconsin, many elections are being won or lost on a handful of votes. The two stories below illustrate how important it is to vote for the environment.

1

In 2002, Jim Baumgart lost his re-election bid for State Senator by 46 votes. Jim was first elected to the State Assembly in 1990. He was a champion of hunting and fishing, resource protection and recycling. And in 1998 he was elected to the State Senate. Jim was a friend of the environment, stood up for his values and refused to take Political Action Committee money.

When asked to reflect on his race, Jim noted the importance of getting to know your elected officials so you have a chance to sort through campaign rhetoric. "People need to pay attention to who their representatives are. At the time of the election there are a lot of things said and done. Get to know your legislator during the entire time they represent you and not just during the election."

2

Susan Greenfield, Town Chairwoman of Caledonia won her re-election in 2002 by 58 votes. Susan has been a champion of clean energy in the Town of Caledonia. She has opposed the construction of new coal-burning power plants in Oak Creek (located near Caledonia). Not being content with only opposing the proposed coal plants, she has put forth new ideas for future power production for her town.

"During my race, one of the hottest issues was my town's opposition to WE Energies' coal plant expansion plan called Power the Future II," explained Susan. Her advice to voters, particularly in local races can be summed up as "Town races are about as local as it gets. The bottom line is if you do nothing else, [get out there and] vote."

These two stories illustrate how close some elections can be and that every single vote counts. In order to make our voices heard on the issues that we care about, we encourage you to act on your values and exercise your right to vote. The special places where we hunt, fish and recreate, and the fresh water and clean air we rely on, all depend on you.

In 2004, you have four opportunities to vote and there are some changes that you should know about. Congress enacted the Help America to Vote Act of 2002 which specifies improvements in the voting systems and ways to improve voter access; some provisions of this act are shown in the side bar. We encourage you to be part of the solution – **VOTE!**

For the full content of the act, please go to: www.elections.state.wi.us or contact the State Elections Board.

Getting Out to Vote in 2004

- Important Things for you to Know -

2004 Voting Dates

April 6
Spring Election

September 14
Partisan Primary

November 2
Presidential & General
Election

WHERE TO VOTE

You can find out where to vote by going to the State Election Board (SEB) web site (<http://elections.state.wi.us/>) and use the on-line search for your polling place. These are available for the cities of Madison and Milwaukee, and Dane County. For all other municipalities, go to the SEB website, find contact information for your municipal clerk's office, and contact them to find where you vote.

REGISTERING TO VOTE

In order to register to vote, you must be able to answer the following two questions affirmatively: Are you a citizen of the United States of America, and will you be 18 years of age on or before election day? Wisconsin offers three ways to register to vote. Check with your municipal clerk to determine if you are required to pre-register before Election Day.

- 1. BY MAIL:** Download the [Application for Voter Registration \(EB131\)](#) from the SEB website, complete the form and mail it to your municipal clerk's office up to 5:00 p.m. on the 13th day before the election. (For the Spring 2004 general election, that day is Wednesday, March 24, 2004.) You must provide a copy of acceptable identification as part of the application. See the instructions for what is deemed acceptable.
- 2. IN PERSON:** Register in the municipal clerk's office up to 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election. (For the Spring 2004 general election, that day is Monday, April 5, 2004.) Note: after the BY MAIL deadline, the elector shall present acceptable proof of residence.
- 3. AT THE POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY:** If you wish to register to vote at your polling place, you must bring proof that you have lived at your present location for 10 days preceding the election.

For purposes of voter registration, a form of identification constitutes acceptable proof of residence if it includes:

1. A current and complete name, including both the given and family name; and
2. A current and complete residential address, including a numbered street address, if any, and the name of a municipality.

If you cannot supply acceptable proof of residence, your registration form can be substantiated and signed by one other elector who resides in your municipality, corroborating your residency information. The corroborator must then provide acceptable proof of residence.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

(You must be registered to vote first)

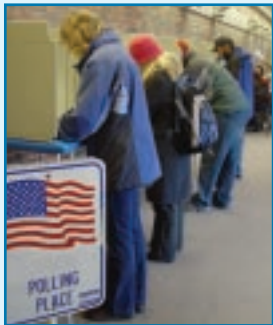
You can now apply for an absentee ballot, both on a long-term basis due to confinement or hospitalization, or on an election-by-election basis. There are two ways to vote absentee:

1. Download the [Application For Absentee Ballot \(EB-121\)](#) from the SEB web site, complete the form and mail it to your municipal clerk's office. The application must be received by the clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election in order for an absentee ballot to be mailed to you. (For the Spring 2004 general election, that date is April 2, 2004.)
2. Request an absentee ballot in person at your municipal clerk's office. This can be done up until 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election. (For the Spring 2004 general election, that date is April 5, 2004.)

STATE ELECTIONS BOARD

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Vote! We all have a responsibility to defend Wisconsin's special places and valuable resources so we can continue to enjoy their use.



IMPORTANT VOTING DATES TO REMEMBER

April 6, 2004 - Spring Election

September 14, 2004 - Partisan Primary

November 2, 2004 - Presidential & General Election

About Clean Wisconsin

Clean Wisconsin, an environmental advocacy organization, protects Wisconsin's clean water and air and advocates for clean energy by being an effective voice in the state legislature and by holding elected officials and corporations accountable.

Founded in 1970 as Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, Clean Wisconsin exposes corporate polluters, makes sure existing environmental laws are enforced, and educates citizens and businesses. On behalf of its 10,000 members and its coalition partners, Clean Wisconsin protects the special places that make Wisconsin such a wonderful place to live, work and play.

Highlights

Landmark laws, policies and actions Clean Wisconsin has helped put in place:

- 1972: Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act
- 1978: Wisconsin Mining Reclamation Law
- 1983: Comprehensive Groundwater Protection Act
- 1986: Wisconsin Acid Rain Law
- 1990: Wisconsin Comprehensive Recycling Law
- 1991: Wetland Water Quality Rules
- 1994: Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Bill
- 1998: Sulfide Mining Moratorium Law
- 1999: Statewide Energy Efficiency Fund
- 2002: Polluted Run-off Reduction Rules
- 2003: Ended Crandon Mine threat to the Wolf River

Become a Member Today

As we look back at our record of success and to the future, we know that we are here because of people like YOU - people who care deeply about the future of Wisconsin. Clean Wisconsin invites you to join our organization, for an annual membership of \$30, and become part of the voice that speaks on behalf of Wisconsin's special places that we all use and enjoy. You make our voice heard and our success possible. As a member of Clean Wisconsin, you will receive our quarterly newsletter, The Defender, as well as timely mailings and alerts on topics impacting Wisconsin's air and water resources. We hope you will also join us for local gatherings and other events.



CLEAN WATER



CLEAN AIR



CLEAN ENERGY



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