



## ***APRIL 2020 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – REVISED 4/4/2020***

COVID-19 has made the April 7<sup>th</sup> election confusing and difficult for some people to manage. This FAQ will help answer some questions we are hearing the most from people with disabilities throughout the state. Some important changes have been made as a result of two recent court rulings. Changes highlighted in this document are current as of April 4.

For additional information, check our website at [disabilityvote.org/](https://disabilityvote.org/)

### **1. Am I registered to vote, and, if not, can I still register?**

- To determine if you are registered to vote, check <https://myvote.wi.gov/>
- The deadline for online voter registration has passed. If you are not registered to vote, you still have these options:
  - Voters may [register](#) in-person in their municipal clerk's office during the clerk's business hours until 5:00 p.m. on April 3, 2020. [Find your Municipal Clerk's Contact Information here.](#)
  - Voters can [register to vote](#) at their polling place on Election Day, April 7, 2020. [Find your Polling Place here.](#)

### **2. What do I need to bring to register to vote?**

- If you have been issued a state of Wisconsin driver's license or ID card that is current and valid, bring this with you. You will be asked to provide the number and expiration date. If you do have not been issued a WI driver's license or ID card or it is expired, you must provide the last four digits of your Social Security number.
- You must provide a Proof of Residence document when registering to vote. It can be a driver license or state ID card with the voter's current address. It can also be a current utility bill, lease, university ID card or other official document showing the voter's name and current address. My Vote Wisconsin provides a list of acceptable documents: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/ProofofResidence>

### 3. I don't want to vote in person because of COVID-19 or I don't have transportation to get there. Can I vote absentee?

- Any **registered Wisconsin voter** is eligible to request an absentee ballot for any reason. If a voter is not registered, they must **register to vote** before an absentee ballot can be sent to them.

### 4. What is the deadline to request an absentee ballot?

- **NEW: April 3, 2020 5 PM** is the new deadline to request an Absentee Ballot on [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) or by email. See additional information in number 5 below.
- **April 5, 2020:** Deadline for In-Person Absentee. Voters can possibly request and vote an absentee ballot in-person in their municipal clerk's office or other location through April 5, 2020. **Office hours vary by municipality.** Some municipal offices may not offer additional in-person absentee hours. [Contact your municipal clerk for absentee voting hours.](#)
- **April 7, 2020 5 PM:** Deadline for hospitalized voters or voters quarantined in their home due to COVID-10. The voter may request a ballot be brought to them by an appointed agent if they are hospitalized or quarantined in the 7 days preceding the election. Contact your municipal clerk or the Wisconsin Election Commission for guidance.

### 5. How do I request an absentee ballot?

- A voter can apply for and vote their absentee ballot in-person in the clerk's office or can request an absentee ballot from their municipal clerk. The request can be made in writing by mail, e-mail, fax or online at [myvote.wi.gov/en-us/VoteAbsentee](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/VoteAbsentee).
- You must provide a photo ID with your absentee ballot request unless you are "indefinitely confined" due to age, illness, infirmity, or disability." If you are applying online, you will need to upload a picture of your photo ID. Mobile phone users can take a picture and upload it to MyVote.

**NEW: To request an absentee ballot on [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov)**

1. To request an absentee ballot, the voter should submit a calendar year request for an absentee ballot on MyVote through 5pm April 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will be considered a valid request for the April 7

election. *Note that the April 7 election will not display on the list of elections to choose from on the "duration of request" screen.*

2. Voters can cancel the remainder of their request if they do not want ballots for the remainder of the year but this option will work for them to make a request through the website for April 7 through April 3rd at 5 pm.

### **Guidelines to request an absentee ballot by Email:**

1. Registered voters can email or fax their municipal clerk to request an absentee ballot. It must be received by 5 PM April 3<sup>rd</sup>. A request may also be sent through the US mail but is unlikely to arrive in time, so not recommended.
2. The request should state that the voter is requesting an absentee ballot for the April 7<sup>th</sup> election, include the voter's name and address, and attach the copy of photo ID or indicate they are indefinitely confined. The request should state if the ballot should be sent through the mail or via email or fax.

*Note: Ballots **cannot** be returned through email. The completed ballot must be mailed or delivered in person per process in place in each municipality. If you wish to deliver or drop off your ballot, check with your municipal clerk on where to drop it off.*

### **In Person Absentee Voting:**

- To find the dates and hours for in-person absentee voting, voter should **contact their municipal clerk:** [elections.wi.gov/clerks/directory](https://elections.wi.gov/clerks/directory)
- The Disability Vote Coalition has additional resources about absentee voting:
  - Check our web site at: [disabilityvote.org/](https://disabilityvote.org/)
  - View our video on requesting an absentee ballot. It will walk you through the process step by step in just a few minutes. [disabilityvote.org/2020/how-to-request-an-absentee-ballot/](https://disabilityvote.org/2020/how-to-request-an-absentee-ballot/)

### **6. I have a disability and I am not sure if I am an "indefinitely Confined" voter.**

Wisconsin law provides an option for a voter who is indefinitely confined because of age, physical illness or infirmity or is disabled for an indefinite period to sign a statement to that effect when requesting an absentee ballot. This requests that an absentee ballot be sent to

the elector automatically for every election. Indefinitely confined voters are **not** required to provide a current Photo ID.

According to the Wisconsin Election Commission, "Designation of indefinitely confined status is for each individual voter to make based upon their current circumstance. It does not require permanent or total inability to travel outside of the residence...Statutes do not establish the option to require proof or documentation from indefinitely confined voters." They may have their witness verify their identity instead of submitting a copy of their photo ID.

## **7. I live alone. Who can I get to sign as my witness on my absentee ballot envelope?**

Absentee voters must have someone witness their absentee ballot by signing and providing their address on the certificate envelope. The witness signature confirms the voter voted the ballot and placed it in the envelope for return. The witness must also be a U.S. citizen.

Getting a witness may be a challenge if you live alone and/or if you are quarantined due to COVID-10. Some communities are offering drop off locations for voters who have completed their ballot and may also have staff there to witness your absentee ballot. Other communities are offering drive through services.

- Other creative solutions include asking essential workers when you are out picking up medications or getting groceries. Drive through pharmacies or banks, for example, have built in barriers. If you have a personal care worker, you could ask that person to sign while they are providing services.
- If you cannot have direct interaction, the Wi Election Commission has suggested that a family member, friend or neighbor may watch the vote through a window or remotely using Skype or Facetime. Then the voter may insert the ballot in the envelope and then leave it outside the door (in a mailbox, under doormat) for the witness to sign.
- If you have difficulty meeting the requirement, contact your Municipal Clerk. [myvote.wi.gov/en-US/MyMunicipalClerk](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-US/MyMunicipalClerk).

(continued)

## 8. What is the deadline for returning my absentee ballot?

### NEW

- The ruling from Judge Conley will allow absentee ballots to be counted **if they are received by 4 PM on April 13, 2020**. There is not a postmark requirement.
- If you plan to mail your completed absentee ballot, mail it as soon as possible, at least a week prior to April 13.
- **You may need to deliver your ballot in person to have it arrive in time.** Absentee ballots dropped off or hand-delivered before the new April 13<sup>th</sup> deadline but after the April 7 election will be counted.
- You may have someone else deliver your ballot for you.
- Contact your municipal clerk to ask where to deliver your completed absentee ballot. Some communities have drop off sites set up and may also have staff to witness your absentee ballot.  
[myvote.wi.gov/en-US/MyMunicipalClerk](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-US/MyMunicipalClerk)

## 9. How do I know if my absentee ballot request was received or if they received my completed ballot?

- Check the status of your absentee ballot at [myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyVoterInfo](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyVoterInfo). You can check the status of your absentee ballot from the initial request through when they received your completed ballot. See example below.

You have an absentee ballot on file for this election:

Request an absentee ballot	Ballot request sent to clerk Mar 12, 2020	Ballot request received Mar 12, 2020	Absentee ballot mailed to me Mar 19, 2020	My completed ballot was received Mar 27, 2020
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## **10. Can I still vote in-person absentee for the April election?**

- Voters can possibly request and vote an absentee ballot in-person in their municipal clerk's office through April 5, 2020. **Office hours vary by municipality.** Some municipal offices may not offer additional in-person absentee hours. [Please contact your municipal clerk for absentee voting hours.](#)

## **11. What if I am hospitalized or quarantined in my home due to COVID-19?**

- You may request an absentee ballot between March 31, 2020 and April 7, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. The ballot may be requested at [myvote.wi.gov/en-us/](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/)
  - The hospitalized or quarantined at home voter can assign an agent (any qualified elector of their choosing) to serve as the carrier of the application and ballot materials between the hospitalized or quarantined voter and the municipal clerk's office.
  - For assistance, contact your municipal clerk. [myvote.wi.gov/en-US/MyMunicipalClerk](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-US/MyMunicipalClerk)
  - Additional information is available from the Wisconsin Election Commission [elections.wi.gov/voters/hospitalized-voters-absentee](https://elections.wi.gov/voters/hospitalized-voters-absentee)

## **12. I need to vote in person on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Do you have any tips for staying safe while voting in person?**

- Review your ballot online before you go to the polls. That will give you a chance to research candidates in advance and decide who you want to vote for to minimize the amount of time you have to spend at the polls. To see who is on your ballot go to <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/PreviewMyBallot>
- Check your polling place before you go. It may have changed. You can find your polling place at <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/FindMyPollingPlace>. You may also want to call your municipal clerk to check as there is not a deadline for making updates on the My Vote WI website. Find your municipal clerk here [myvote.wi.gov/en-US/MyMunicipalClerk](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-US/MyMunicipalClerk)
- **You must have an Acceptable Photo ID to vote**, such as a current Wisconsin Drivers License or State ID. Bring It to the Ballot has a list of acceptable Photo Ids: [bringit.wi.gov/](https://bringit.wi.gov/)

- If you are not able to enter your polling place due to disability, you may request **curbside voting**. Curbside voters are exempt from signing the pollbook.
- Your polling place may be offering drive through voting.
- Voters who are unable or unwilling to use the drive-through process should have the ability to vote using traditional methods in the polling location, or the location that may have been moved outdoors to complement the drive-through voting option. **This includes the use of accessible voting equipment if requested.**
- You may want to bring a black pen to use to mark your ballot.
- If you must get out of your car to vote, practice social distancing, and wash your hands before and after you vote.
- Be patient and courteous. Election workers are doing their best under difficult circumstances.

### **13. As a voter with a disability, what are some key rights I should know about before I vote in person?**

- Right to vote privately and independently
- Right to access the polling place, including an accessible route to enter the building.
- Right to use an accessible voting machine (all polling places are required by law to have an accessible voting machine on site)
- Right to assistance with marking your ballot (you may bring someone to assist you or ask a poll worker. Poll workers are required to assist you if you request it. You cannot receive assistance from your employer or union representative)
- Right to ask for reasonable accommodations at the polling place such as, chair to sit, signature guide, magnifying glass, assistance stating a person's name/address or assistance signing a person's name or marking a ballot.
- For more information about voting rights, watch the Disability Vote Coalition video "Know Your Rights" before you vote in person: [disabilityvote.org/2019/know-your-rights/](https://disabilityvote.org/2019/know-your-rights/)



#### **14. What should I do if I run into a problem at the polling place or if my request for an accommodation is not honored?**

Remember, this election is unlike any other we've experienced and communities are having a difficult time keeping poll workers. New workers and, in some cases, the National Guard may be filling in. Workers may not be trained as well as they should be. Please be patient.

- If you run into problems on election day, contact the Chief Election Inspector at your polling place or ask for the municipal clerk.
- If you aren't satisfied with how the issue was resolved, you can report the issues to the Wisconsin Elections Commission at [elections.wi.gov/complaints](https://elections.wi.gov/complaints) or call toll free 1-866-VOTE-WIS (866-868-3947) for assistance.
- Voters with disabilities who have a problem at the polls, or need assistance reporting a complaint can call the Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline at 1-844-DIS-VOTE (844-347-8683).
- Wisconsin Election Protection may be available to assist. Call 866-687-8683. Get assistance from non-partisan Election Protection volunteer attorneys.

#### **15. Why is it so important to vote in this election? With everything going on with COVID-19, why can't I just skip it?**

- This election has many important races on the ballot including the Presidential Primary and electing a State Supreme Court justice who will serve for 10 years once elected! Just as important are the many local races and local referendums that will impact you. Local races for things like school board, Mayor and other positions that make decisions for your city or town.
- A statewide referendum called Marsy's Law is on everyone's ballot. Marsy's Law is a constitutional amendment that addresses the rights of crime victims and is controversial. Here are a few places to help you learn more about Marsy's law:
  - [Ballotopedia](#)
  - [Marsy's Law for Wisconsin](#): Join the Fight for Equal Rights for Crime Victims
  - [Marsy's Law Fails the Victims it Purports to Protect](#)



## **16. I'm also hearing a lot about the 2020 Census. What do I need to know?**

- The 2020 Census results will determine how many Congressional Representatives Wisconsin will have, it informs decisions that will be made about our legislative districts, and impacts how much money comes to our state for things like roads, transportation, schools and even Medicaid services. If you're not counted, there is less money available for services.
- You can complete your census online, by phone or mail. Online is the preferred method. You will be mailed information that includes a unique 12-digit ID. Just go to [www.2020Census.gov](http://www.2020Census.gov) and enter your code. You'll be asked to answer a few questions about your household and it just takes a few minutes!
- Only one person per household completes the census. If you live with other people, talk with them about who will complete the census.
- The Census is accessible. Braille and large print guides are available to assist you with completing the paper questionnaire. A [braille BRF file](#) and [large-print](#) English language guides, as well as non-English language guides, are now available on the bureau's website: <https://www.census.gov/en.html>

## **17. What are some other voting related resources you can recommend?**

- ***Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition***
  - ***Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline:***  
1-844-DIS-VOTE/844-347-8683
  - ***Email:*** [info@disabilityvote.org](mailto:info@disabilityvote.org)
  - ***Website:*** [www.disabilityvote.org](http://www.disabilityvote.org) (check out the numerous resources and videos!)
  - ***Email List/Newsletter*** – call or email us your name and email address to be added to our email list. Get the latest on voting issues and receive our monthly newsletter.
  - ***Like us on Facebook!***  
[www.facebook.com/wisconsin disabilityvote/](https://www.facebook.com/wisconsin disabilityvote/)

- **Wisconsin Elections Commission**
  - **Phone:** 1-866-VOTE-WIS/868-3944 (staffed Mon – Fri from 7:45 AM – 4:30 PM/ longer hours on Election Day)
  - **Email:** [elections@wi.gov](mailto:elections@wi.gov).
  - **Website:** <https://elections.wi.gov/>
- **Wisconsin Municipal Clerks** are responsible for administering elections for their municipality. The Clerk is a resource for your voting questions, including about absentee voting. Contact information for clerks: <https://elections.wi.gov/clerks/directory>
- **MyVote Wisconsin** <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>  
Resource for voters to check if they are registered to vote, what is their polling place, and view what's on the ballot, and online registration.
- **Wisconsin Election Protection** Call 866-687-8683 or text "Our Vote" to 97779. Non-partisan assistance from volunteer attorneys.