



MAY 12, 2020 SPECIAL ELECTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (REV 4/23/2020)

The 7th Congressional District Special Election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12th. This election is to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Representative Duffy. COVID-19 has created some additional challenges and increased interest in absentee voting. This FAQ will help answer some questions we are hearing the most from people with disabilities.

For additional information, check our website at 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 is April 22. 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 May 8, 2020. [Find your Municipal Clerk's Contact Information here.](#)
 - Voters can [register to vote](#) at their polling place on Election Day, May 12, 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 have not been issued a valid WI driver's license or ID card and you have a Social Security number, 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.
- Voters may request their absentee ballot in writing as explained below.

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

IMPORTANT: Request your absentee ballot as soon as possible to allow time for your request to be processed. When you make your request, we suggest you also request absentee ballots for other elections this year. If you change your mind and want to vote in person in future elections rather than absentee, you can do so.

- **May 7, 2020 @ 5 PM** is the deadline to request an Absentee Ballot on myvote.wi.gov or by email. You must provide a photo ID with your request. See additional information in number 5 below.
- **May 8, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.** - *Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot-Indefinitely Confined* - If you are [indefinitely confined](#) your absentee ballot request must be received by your municipal clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 8, 2020
- **Possibly through May 10, 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 May 10, 2020. **Office hours vary by municipality.** Some municipalities may only offer in-person absentee voting by appointment. [Contact your municipal clerk for absentee voting hours.](#)
- **May 12, 2020 5 PM:** *Deadline for hospitalized voters or voters quarantined in their home due to COVID-19.* 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 Elections 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.

The deadline is May 7th at 5 PM.

- You must provide a photo ID with your absentee ballot request if you have not submitted a copy of your photo ID for a previous request at your current address. If you are applying online at the MyVote website, you will need to upload a picture of your photo ID. Mobile phone users can take a picture and upload it to MyVote.
- If you are "indefinitely confined" due to age, illness, infirmity, or disability, you may certify this on your request and you will not need to submit a copy of your photo ID.
- If you email or mail your request, the request should state that the voter is requesting an absentee ballot for the May 12 election, include the voter's name, voting address, mailing address (if different than voting address). Include or attach a copy of your photo ID (if not previously provided) or indicate you are indefinitely confined. State if the ballot should be sent to you through the mail or via email or fax.

Note: Not every clerk does email ballots. They are not required to do so unless the voter is overseas or in the military.

- Ballots **cannot** be returned through email. The completed ballot must be mailed or delivered in person per process in place in each municipality. You can drop off your ballot at your polling place or at the clerk's office. Check with your clerk for additional information. Some communities have drop boxes for absentee ballots.
- The Disability Vote Coalition has resources about absentee voting:
 - Check our web site at: 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/

6. What is Early Voting / In-person absentee voting?

- Voters can vote early at their local clerk's office **through May 10th**. This is also called "in-person absentee voting." If you need to register to vote, you may do so at this time.
- Voters can possibly request and vote an absentee ballot in-person in their municipal clerk's office or other location through May 10, 2020. You will need to show your acceptable photo ID when voting.
- **Office hours vary by municipality.** Some municipalities may only offer in-person absentee voting by appointment. Contact your clerk for absentee voting hours: elections.wi.gov/clerks/directory

7. 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 copy of their photo ID.

According to the Wisconsin Elections 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.

8. 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. This is a requirement for your vote to be counted.

- Getting a witness may be a challenge if you live alone and/or if you are quarantined due to COVID-19. 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 Elections 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 leave it outside the door (in a mailbox, under doormat) for a witness to sign.
- If you have difficulty meeting the requirement, contact your Municipal Clerk. myvote.wi.gov/en-US/MyMunicipalClerk.

9. What is the deadline for returning my absentee ballot?

- **May 12, 2020 @ 8:00 p.m.** is the *Deadline to Return Absentee Ballot*. You must return your absentee ballot by mail or delivery to your [municipal clerk](#), your polling place, or a local dropbox established by your clerk (if available). Your ballot must be received by your municipal clerk no later than 8:00 p.m. on May 12, 2020.
- 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
- **DO NOT DELAY!** Return your ballot as soon as possible to ensure your vote is counted. If it is within a week of the election, the US mail may not get your ballot there in time. If at all possible, drop off your ballot to your clerk or to a drop box if available.

10. I requested an absentee ballot and it did not arrive. What are my options for voting?

You may vote in person on Election Day or you could vote early at your clerk's office through May 10th.

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

- You may request an absentee ballot between May 5, 2020 and May 12, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. The ballot may be requested at 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
- Additional information is available from the Wisconsin Election Commission elections.wi.gov/voters/hospitalized-voters-absentee

13. I need to vote in person on May 12th. 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 myvote.wi.gov/en-us/PreviewMyBallot
- **Check your polling place before you go.** It may have changed. You can find your polling place at 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
- **You must have an Acceptable Photo ID to vote**, such as a current Wisconsin Driver License or State ID. Bring It to the Ballot has a list of acceptable Photo Ids: 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, but still must show their acceptable photo ID.
- 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, wash your hands before and after you vote, wear a mask if possible.
- Be patient and courteous. Election workers are doing their best under difficult circumstances.

14. 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 may 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.

15. 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 have limited training or experience. 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 or call toll free 1-866-VOTE-WIS (866-868-3947) for assistance.
- Voters with disabilities who have a problem at the polls, need assistance reporting a complaint, or have a voting question can call the *Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline* at 1-844-DIS-VOTE (844-347-8683) to receive assistance.

- Wisconsin Election Protection may be available to assist. Call 866-687-8683 to get assistance from non-partisan Election Protection volunteer attorneys.
- **File a Complaint:** If you experience a problem voting, we encourage you to file a complaint with the Wisconsin Elections Commission, so this concern can be addressed.
 - Complaints may be entered online at elections.wi.gov/complaints or call the Commission
 - You may also call or email to request that a complaint form be mailed to you, or to share your concern. Email elections@wi.gov or call 1-866-VOTE-WIS.
 - For assistance with reporting a complaint, contact the DRW Voter Hotline: 1-844-DIS-VOTE / email info@disabilityvote.org.

16. 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 will determine the Congressional Representative for the 7th Congressional District, who will vote on many important policy and funding proposals that will impact your life.
- One resource for nonpartisan candidate information is VOTE 411 which is coordinated by the League of Women Voters: www.vote411.org/

17. 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 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>

18. What are some other voting related resources you can recommend?

- ***Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition***
 - **Email:** info@disabilityvote.org
 - **Website:** 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 disability vote/
- ***Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW)***
 - **DRW Voter Hotline:** 1-844-DIS-VOTE/844-347-8683
email: info@disabilityvote.org
- ***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.
 - **Website:** <https://elections.wi.gov/>

- **Wisconsin Municipal Clerks** are responsible for administering elections for their municipality. Your Clerk is a resource for your voting questions, including about absentee voting. You should also contact your clerk if you have concerns regarding accessibility, accommodations, or other issues.
 - Contact information for clerks: 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, view what's on the ballot, online registration, and online request for an absentee ballot.
 - **Wisconsin Election Protection** Call 866-687-8683 or text "Our Vote" to 97779. Non-partisan assistance from volunteer attorneys.
 - **VOTE 411** www.vote411.org/
Election information: what's on your ballot, upcoming debates in your area, and more
 - **Filing a Complaint:**
Complaints may be entered online at the Wisconsin Election Commission website at: elections.wi.gov/complaints. You may also call or email to request that a complaint form be mailed to you, or to share your concern. Email elections@wi.gov/ call 1-866-VOTE-WIS.
- For assistance with submitting a complaint:
- DRW Voter Hotline:
1-844-DIS-VOTE/ email info@disabilityvote.org