



## **2020 WISCONSIN ELECTIONS** **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (REV 8/6/2020)**

2020 is an important election year. COVID-19 has created some additional challenges for voters and has increased interest in absentee voting. This FAQ addresses voting questions we are hearing from voters with disabilities. Read the FAQ to make sure you are prepared to vote!

### **For additional information:**

Disability Vote Coalition website: [disabilityvote.org/](https://disabilityvote.org/)

DRW Voter Hotline: 844-DIS-VOTE/844-347-8683 email: [info@disabilityvote.org](mailto:info@disabilityvote.org)

### **1. What other elections are scheduled for 2020?**

**August 11, 2020 Partisan Primary:** The next statewide election is the primary election for all US Congressional Representatives; all State Assembly Representatives, State Senators from even numbered districts, and county District Attorneys.

**November 3, 2020 General and Presidential Election:** General Election for President and Vice President, for all US Congressional Representatives; all State Assembly Representatives, State Senators from even numbered districts, and county District Attorneys.

### **2. What can I do to be prepared to vote?**

- **Voter Registration:** Check to be sure you are registered to vote and that your voter registration name and address are current. If you are not registered, don't delay – register to vote now.
- **Absentee:** Request an absentee ballot now for the August and November elections. Because it is likely there will still be restrictions related to COVID-19, we encourage voters to submit their requests for an absentee ballot NOW.
- **Be Informed:** Learn about the candidates.

*See additional detail in this document for each of these actions.*

### **3. Am I registered to vote? If not, how do I register?**

- To determine if you are registered to vote, check [myvote.wi.gov/](https://myvote.wi.gov/)

- Confirm that your voting address and name are current. If not, you may update them online.
- If you are not registered to vote, you have these options:
  - **Online** at [myvote.wi.gov/](https://myvote.wi.gov/). Up to 20 days before Election Day. Requires a valid State of Wisconsin Driver License or State of Wisconsin ID card issued by the DMV.
  - **Mail**. Up to 20 days before Election Day. Mail completed form to your municipal clerk.
  - **In person** at your municipal clerk's office during the clerk's business hours. You must provide proof of residence. This option ends 5 PM on Friday before election. [Find your Municipal Clerk's Contact Information here.](#)
  - **At your polling place** on Election Day, also known as "same day registration". Voters must provide proof of residence and Photo ID.

#### 4. What documents do I need to register to vote?

All voters MUST provide a Proof of Resident Document when registering to vote.

- If you register online at [myvote.wi.gov/](https://myvote.wi.gov/) your valid State of Wisconsin driver's license or State of Wisconsin ID card issued by the Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) qualify as a valid Proof of Residence document.
- If you register to vote by mail, in-person in your clerk's office, or at your polling place on Election Day, you need to provide a Proof of Residence document. In addition to a valid State of Wisconsin driver license or state ID card with the voter's current address, other documents may be used as proof of residence for registering. Some examples are a current utility bill, lease, a paycheck or paystub, a university ID card or other official document showing the voter's name and current address. See a list of acceptable documents at: [myvote.wi.gov/en-us/ProofofResidence](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/ProofofResidence)

#### 5. I moved recently. Can I register to vote using my new address?

As of July 29, 2020, the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals ruling on Voter Residency is in effect. Voters must have resided at their current address for 28 consecutive days prior to election day in order to

register at that address. Voters who do not meet the 28-day requirement at their new address are eligible to participate at their former address.

**6. *I was evicted recently and don't have a new address yet. What is my address for voting?***

Voters who have been evicted in the last 28 days may register and vote from their previous address.

**7. *I am homeless and don't have a permanent address. I want to vote. What should I use as my address for voting?***

If you are otherwise qualified to vote, Wisconsin law has a provision to protect the right to vote of individuals experiencing homelessness. If you are homeless, you may use a letter from a shelter or other organization providing services to the homeless as proof of residence when registering to vote.

For additional guidance, the Wisconsin Election Commission has a sample letter and a guide for homeless voters on their [website](#).

**8. *I have a Guardian. Am I able to vote?***

In Wisconsin, a person under guardianship retains the right to vote unless the court expressly removes it.

- If an individual is under guardianship and unsure of their right to vote, the Court's decision regarding the right to vote is recorded on a court form called "A Determination and Order on Petition for Guardianship Due to Incompetency." (GN-3170).
- The language in the court order will not specifically say that the person has retained the right to vote, however, a box will be checked if the right has been removed.
- If someone is under guardianship and not sure if they have the right to vote, they should:
  - Ask their guardian to look at the "Determination and Order form" mentioned above to see if their right to vote was removed. A copy of this form may be requested from Probate Court in their county (costs about \$2.00 to get a copy).

OR

- Contact the Municipal Clerk for their community. The Clerk can check the list they receive from the state of individuals adjudicated incompetent and ineligible to vote.

A person who has a guardian and has lost the right to vote may petition the court to restore their right to vote (Wis. Stat 54.64(2)(a)).

## **9. I want to vote absentee. Am I eligible to 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.
- **We encourage all voters to act now to request absentee ballots for both the August and November elections.**

## **10. How do I request an absentee ballot?**

- A voter can apply for their absentee ballot in-person in the clerk's office or the request can be made in writing by mail 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 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 mail your request, the request should state the election you are requesting an absentee ballot for, 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.
- You can mail your completed ballot **if it is at least a week before Election Day**. The US Post Office recommends allowing a week for mail delivery of your absentee ballot. If it is less than a week before the election, consider other options for delivery. Your completed

absentee ballot must be delivered to your municipal clerk's office, your [polling place](#), or a local dropbox established by your clerk no later than 8 PM on Election Day. Check with your clerk for additional information.

### **11. What is Early Voting / In-person absentee voting?**

- Voters can vote early at their local clerk's office in advance of each election. This is also called "in-person absentee voting." If you need to register to vote, you may do so at this time.
- Each city, village and town in Wisconsin is responsible for setting the dates and hours of in-person absentee voting for their municipality. Some municipalities may only offer in-person absentee voting by appointment. Contact your clerk for absentee voting hours and locations: [Find my Clerk](#) on MyVote Wisconsin.

### **12. 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."

### **13. 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-10. Some communities are offering drop off locations for voters who have completed their ballot and may have staff there to witness your absentee ballot.

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 Skye or Facetime. Then the voter may insert the ballot in the envelope and then leave it outside the door for the witness to sign.

If you still have difficulty meeting the requirement or have questions, contact your Municipal Clerk or the DRW Voter Hotline for assistance.

#### **14. What is the deadline for returning my 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 election day.
- You may have someone else deliver your ballot for you.
- 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.

#### **15. 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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## 16. I need to vote in person for the August and November elections. 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](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 [myvote.wi.gov/en-us/FindMyPollingPlace](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 Driver's 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. We recommend that you contact your Municipal Clerk in advance to determine the process to access curbside voting.
- 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. The Disability Vote Coalition recommends that you wear a mask.
- Be patient and courteous. Election workers are doing their best under difficult circumstances.



**17. Is there a requirement to wear face coverings (masks) while voting at the polls on election day?**

The Wisconsin Election Commission and the Disability Vote Coalition recommends the use of face coverings/ masks by voters, unless they are unable to do so because of disability related or medical reasons. However, if you choose not to wear one, this will not interfere with your right to vote. You may be asked to remove your mask briefly for identification purposes. Poll workers and election officials are required to wear face coverings.

Clerks may establish procedures to allow for voters without facial coverings to cast a ballot safely on election day. This may involve using designated areas of the polling place for these voters or assigning poll workers with additional personal protective equipment (PPE) to serve these voters.

**18. I need to vote in person, but I have difficulty entering my polling place. Is curbside voting available?**

Curbside voting is required by law for any voter who cannot enter the polling place due to a disability. The Wisconsin Election Commission believes that individuals who are immunocompromised or have symptoms of COVID-19 are eligible to curbside vote. Curbside voting should also be available during in-person absentee voting at the clerk's office or alternate site.

We recommend that you contact your Municipal Clerk in advance of Election Day to determine the process to access curbside voting.

**19. 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.
- If a voter cannot enter the absentee voting location or polling place due to disability, Wis. Stat. § 6.82(1) requires that curbside voting must be available. *Tip: contact your clerk in advance to discuss how to access curbside voting. (number to call, bell to ring, etc.)*
- 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/)

## 20. How can I be an informed voter?

- Review a list of your elected officials: [myvote.wi.gov/en-us/](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/). Your US Congressional Representative, and Wisconsin Assembly Representative are up for re-election, as are State Senators from even numbered districts.
- **Learn about the candidates.** Visit their websites, watch candidate forums and interviews, follow the candidates on social media, and review the past votes of incumbents. If there is a candidate you support, you may want to sign their nomination papers or help in other ways. As the election gets closer, [Vote411.org](https://Vote411.org) is a helpful site to find nonpartisan information about the candidates.
- **Ask questions.** The Disability Vote Coalition, NAMI Wisconsin, The Arc Wisconsin, and other groups may share sample questions that you can ask the candidates. You may also want to share background on issues that are important to you.
- **Review your ballot in advance of the election.** You may view your ballot online at [myvote.wi.gov/](https://myvote.wi.gov/). Ballots are typically available 47 days before an election with federal contests and 21 days before state and local contests.

- **Follow the Disability Vote Coalition** and sign up for our e-newsletter. Check out the resources on our website ([disabilityvote.org/](http://disabilityvote.org/)) and Facebook page [www.facebook.com/wisconsin Disability Vote/](http://www.facebook.com/wisconsin Disability Vote/)

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

- 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](http://elections.wi.gov/complaints) or call toll free 1-866-VOTE-WIS (866-868-3947) for assistance. The WEC Complaints page has an option to "Report an Accessibility Concern".
- You may contact the *Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline* at 1-844-DIS-VOTE (844-347-8683), email [info@disabilityvote.org](mailto:info@disabilityvote.org) to receive assistance with your concern.
- Assistance is also available from the Wisconsin Election Protection Hotline which is staffed by attorneys. Contact the Hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE / 866-687-8633.
- **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](http://elections.wi.gov/complaints) or call the Commission. You may use the option to "Report an Accessibility Concern".
  - 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@disabilityvote.org). We can assist you with the process of filing a formal complaint.

## 22. What are other voting related resources?

- **Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition**
  - **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** – Complete the form on our website 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](http://www.facebook.com/wisconsin Disability Vote)
- **Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW)**
  - **DRW Voter Hotline:** 1-844-DIS-VOTE/844-347-8683  
email: [info@disabilityvote.org](mailto: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](mailto:elections@wi.gov).
  - **Website:** <https://elections.wi.gov/>
- **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 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](http://elections.wi.gov/clerks/directory)
- **Wisconsin Election Protection** Call 866-687-8683 or text “Our Vote” to 97779. Non-partisan assistance from volunteer attorneys.
- **VOTE 411** [www.vote411.org/](http://www.vote411.org/)  
Election information: what’s on your ballot, upcoming debates in your area, and more.
- **League of Women Voters of Wisconsin** Find your local league.

## **IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2020 ELECTIONS**

### **Deadlines for August 11 Election Primary**

#### Voter Registration Deadlines

- BY MAIL: Wednesday, July 22, 2020
- IN PERSON: Tuesday, August 11, 2020
- ONLINE: Wednesday, July 22, 2020

#### Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot:

- For Regular voters: **August 6, 2020 @ 5:00 PM**
- For Indefinitely Confined voters: **August 7, 2020 @ 5:00 PM**

#### Deadline to Return Absentee Ballot: **August 11, 2020 @ 8:00 PM**

### **Deadlines for November 3 General and Presidential Election:**

#### Voter Registration Deadlines

- By Mail: Wednesday, October 14, 2020
- In-Person: Tuesday, November 3, 2020
- Online: Wednesday, October 14, 2020

#### Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot:

- For Regular voters: **October 29, 2020 @ 5:00 PM**
- For Indefinitely Confined voters: **October 30, 2020 @ 5:00 PM**

#### Deadline to Return Absentee Ballot: **November 3, 2020 @ 8:00 PM**