

VOTING IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC – PART 2

A Training for Frontline Staff

July 13, 2020



Trainers

- Barbara Beckert, Disability Rights Wisconsin
- Denise Jess, Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Jenny Neugart, Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
- Eileen Newcomer, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin
- Janet Zander, Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc



About the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition

- The WDVC is a non-partisan effort to help ensure full participation in the entire electoral process of voters with disabilities, including registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places.
- The Coalition is coordinated by Disability Rights Wisconsin and Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.
- Members: people with disabilities, and community agencies including Access to Independence, Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, NAMI Wisconsin, People First Wisconsin, Mental Health America of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Association of the Deaf, Disability Rights Wisconsin, Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, the Arc Wisconsin, IndependenceFirst and others.
- Join us! disabilityvote.org/ and www.facebook.com/wisconsinindisabilityvote



Barriers for Voters with Disabilities & Older Adults

People with disabilities are underrepresented at the polls. The *Rutgers University Fact Sheet on Disability and Voter Turnout in the 2018 Elections* notes a 10.4% gap in Wisconsin voter turnout between citizens with and without disabilities.

- Major barriers historically:
 - Accessibility concerns
 - Photo ID
 - Failure to provide accommodations
 - Transportation
 - Lack of training for poll workers
 - Limited knowledge of the law
 - Stigma and discrimination

HANDICAP ENTRANCE

KNOCK HARD

Call-

414 312 2925

to gain access
open door



Barriers reported during the April & May Elections

- People with disabilities have high vulnerability for COVID 19; voting in person became high risk.
- Confusion and changing environment due to changes in the law related to litigation.
- Many voters disenfranchised.
- DMV provides photo IDs for voting: DMV open by appointment only.
- Absentee ballots were late or did not arrive; lack of screen reader accessible absentee ballot.
- Difficulties requesting absentee ballot including requirement to provide copy of photo ID.
- Witness requirement for absentee ballots was a barrier for some voters.
- No Special Voting Deputies in care facilities; no family members or other visitors to assist. Residents not allowed to leave facilities to vote in person
- Transportation often high risk or not available.
- For those who voted in person, concerns included long lines, lack of curbside voting, some issues with failure to provide accommodations, anxiety about health risk.



Your Role and Why It Is So Important

- With many members isolated and with limited mobility, MCOs, ICAs, HMOs, and their teams, and other service providers and advocacy organizations are trusted points of contact.
- Voting is one of the essential basic needs you can address along with personal care, medication, access to health care, food, and much more.
- Help your members to plan ahead and vote safely: Voting is now a public health issue as well as a civic responsibility and right.
- Develop an organizational plan to support your members with voter registration, absentee voting, and needed accommodations,
- You are not alone. The Disability Vote Coalition, the DRW Voter Hotline, LWV and other resources are here to partner with you, to share resources, and to provide support to your staff and members, and expertise on voting issues.



Supporting your Members to Vote Safely

- Develop a plan to support safe voting, including key deadlines for voter registration and absentee voting. Define roles and responsibilities.
- Make voter registration application forms available to your members.
 - Assist members with checking their voter registration
 - Offer to provide assistance with submitting their voter registration. This may be done by mail or online at <https://myvote.wi.gov/>
- Assist members who need to obtain a photo ID for voting.
- Help members to apply for an absentee ballot. This may be done by mail or online.
- For those who vote in person, encourage early in-person voting. Help them to make a plan to address transportation, curbside voting, or other accommodations.
- All voter forms are available on the [Wisconsin Election Commission](#) website.



The 2020 Elections: August

August 11 Election:

- Partisan primary for US Congressional Representative, and Wisconsin Assembly Representative are up for re-election, as are State Senators from even numbered districts.

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*



2020 Elections: November

November 3, 2020: General Election Day

- This General Election is for President, U.S. Representative, even-numbered Wisconsin State Senate seats, all Wisconsin Assembly seats, and all District Attorneys.

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*



Voter Registration

- League of Women Voters Powerpoint on voter registration
- Video training modules produced by LWV of Dane County on voter registration and other topics:
 - [Online Voter Registration](#)
 - [Paper Registration](#)
 - [Proof of Residence](#)
 - [Voter ID](#)
 - [Helping Voters Register](#)
 - [Behavior & Communications](#)
- Assistance is available:
 - DRW Voter Hotline: 844-DIS-VOTE / 844-347-8683
 - League of Women Voters
 - Municipal Clerk (Find your clerk on [MyVote Wisconsin](#))
 - Wisconsin Election Commission: 866-VOTE-WIS / [elections.wi.gov](#)

Absentee Voting

- Due to the health risk of Covid 19, absentee voting is encouraged and is a public health imperative.
- Have a script for staff to ask members about absentee voting in a wellness call or home visit.
- Any **registered Wisconsin voter** is eligible to request an absentee ballot for any reason.
- Wisconsin does not currently have an ADA compliant screen reader accessible absentee ballot.
- Make the request as soon as possible for both August and November.
- Tip: [Check out the new update Disability Vote Coalition Absentee Voting Fact Sheet](#)

How to Request an Absentee Ballot

Online

- Request an absentee ballot at myvote.wi.gov/en-us/VoteAbsentee.
- If the voter has not requested an absentee ballot before, they will be asked to upload a copy of their photo ID.
- The ballot will be mailed to the voter.

By Mail

- Download the Application for Absentee Ballot from the Wisconsin Election Commission web site: elections.wi.gov/index.php/forms/EL-121-english.
- The voter must provide a copy of their acceptable photo ID with their application, unless exempt by law. Information about photo ID: bringit.wi.gov.
- Complete the form and mail it to your [municipal clerk's office](#).
- Mail the application as soon as possible to allow time to receive and return your ballot.



How to Request an Absentee Ballot (cont.)

By Email

- [Email your clerk](#) with a ballot request. State your full name, Wisconsin voting address, the election you would like a ballot for or if requesting for the calendar year, and mailing address if different than voting address. Include a copy of your photo ID with the email if it is not already on file.

Early voting (In-Person Absentee Voting) at your Municipal Clerk's office

- You can apply for and vote your absentee ballot in-person in your municipal clerk's office or another location designated for absentee voting in your municipality.
- Each city, village and town in Wisconsin is responsible for setting the dates and hours of in-person absentee voting for their municipality. **To find the dates and hours for in-person absentee voting where you live, [contact your municipal clerk.](#)**
- **TIP:** This is a good option for someone who also needs to register to vote.



What Is 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.
- **How to apply to be an “indefinitely confined” voter:** Complete the absentee ballot application and choose the “indefinitely confined” option in section 6 of the form, certifying that you are indefinitely confined, or send a request in writing to your [municipal clerk](#).

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.”



VOTE ABSENTEE

Vote Absentee

Request An Absentee Ballot

View My Absentee Request

Need Assistance?

Find your municipal clerk by searching for your name or address

Find My Clerk



Next Statewide
Election

2020 Partisan Primary

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Add To Calendar

More Information

SEARCH BY NAME

Please use Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Firefox, or Safari. Older browsers, such as Internet Explorer ^{*}=Required Field 11, are no longer supported.

Registered Wisconsin voters may request an absentee ballot.

If you would like to request an absentee ballot, we will first need to see if you are registered to vote. If you are not registered or your name or address has changed, you will need to [register](#) or [update your registration](#) before requesting an absentee ballot.

If you are in the military, you do not need to be registered to get an absentee ballot, but first we need you to search for your record.

Please enter your name and date of birth to get started.

Search

+ Search Tip

First Name*

Last Name*

Date of Birth*

[Clear](#)

Search

REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

[Vote Absentee](#)

[Request An Absentee Ballot](#)

[View My Absentee Request](#)

My Municipal Clerk

Caren Brustmann

**Village Of Whitefish Bay -
Milwaukee County**

[Email Clerk](#)

[\(414\)962-6690 EXT 4](#)

[More Information](#)

My Next Election

2020 Partisan Primary

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

[Add To Calendar](#)

[More Information](#)

REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

*=Required Field

My Voter Registration Information:

Name:

Wisconsin Address:

5650

[Update](#)

[Choose all that apply.](#)

The above address and name are mine and are correct.

I want my ballot mailed to a different address

I am an active military voter

[+ More Information](#)

I am indefinitely confined due to age, illness, infirmity, or disability and request ballots be sent to me for every election until I am no longer confined or fail to return a ballot

[Continue](#)

My
Voter Info

Find
My Polling
Place

What's
On My Ballot

Update
My Name or
Address

Register
To Vote

Vote
Absentee

REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

Vote Absentee

Request An Absentee Ballot

View My Absentee Request

My Municipal Clerk

Caren Brustmann

Village Of Whitefish Bay -
Milwaukee County

[Email Clerk](#)

[\(414\)962-6690 EXT 4](#)

[More Information](#)

My Next Election

2020 Partisan Primary

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

[Add To Calendar](#)

REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

*=Required Field

I am requesting an absentee ballot for:

- All elections for the calendar year ending 12/31/2020
- The following upcoming elections:
 - Aug 11, 2020 - 2020 Partisan Primary
 - Nov 3, 2020 - 2020 General Election

Continue

Vote Absentee

Request An Absentee Ballot

View My Absentee Request

My Municipal Clerk

Caren Brustmann

Village Of Whitefish Bay - Milwaukee County

Email Clerk

(414)962-6690 EXT 4

More Information

My Next Election

2020 Partisan Primary

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Add To Calendar

More Information



REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

*=Required Field

Review and submit my absentee ballot request

Name:

[Redacted Name]

[Edit](#)

Contact Information

Address where I'm registered to vote:

[Redacted Address]

[Edit](#)

Where I want my ballot to be sent:

[Redacted Address]

[Edit](#)

I am requesting a ballot for: 2020 Partisan Primary

[Edit](#)

Photo ID Upload Status: Acceptable Photo ID on File

I hereby certify, to the best of my knowledge, that I am a qualified elector, a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old at the time of the next election, having resided at the above address for at least 10 consecutive days preceding this election, with no present intent to move. I am not currently serving a sentence including probation or parole for a felony conviction, and am not otherwise disqualified from voting. I certify that all statements on this form are true and correct. If I have provided false information I may be subject to fine or imprisonment under State and Federal laws.*

Request Ballot

Please consider submitting your contact information below in case your clerk needs to follow up on your request (optional)

Email Address:

[Redacted Email]



Phone Number:

[Redacted Phone]



REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

- Vote Absentee**
- Request An Absentee Ballot
- View My Absentee Request

My Municipal Clerk

Caren Brustmann
 Village Of Whitefish Bay - Milwaukee County
[Email Clerk](#)
 (414)962-6690 EXT 4

[More Information](#)

My Next Election

2020 Partisan Primary
 Tuesday, August 11, 2020
[Add To Calendar](#)

REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

*=Required Field

Thank you for successfully submitting your absentee ballot request. The request has been submitted to your municipal clerk for review, and you will receive a ballot for the election(s) you selected.

Absentee Tracking Information:

Request an absentee ballot	Ballot request received Jul 12, 2020	Absentee ballot mailed to me	My completed ballot was received
----------------------------	--------------------------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------------

You can get more information about your absentee ballot request and view your other voting activity by visiting [My Voter Information](#).

If you need to change or cancel your request, please contact [your municipal clerk](#).

Completing an Absentee Ballot

- Voters should complete and return their absentee ballot AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- Be sure to read and follow the instructions included with the absentee ballot.
 - Find a time when you can have someone witness you completing your ballot. Absentee voters must have someone witness their absentee ballot by signing and providing their address on the certificate envelope. Your witness can be any adult U.S. citizen except for a candidate on your ballot. The witness should not view the voter's choices.
- Use blue or black pen to complete your ballot.
- August 11 Partisan Primary: you must choose a political party and only vote for candidates within that political party. Voting in more than one party may void your voting choices.
- Review your name and address on the return envelope to ensure it is correct.
- Put your ballot in the return envelope.
- Sign and date the certificate on the return envelope on the line marked "Signature of Voter"
- Have your witness sign the certificate envelope on the line marked "Signature of Witness" and write their address underneath the witness signature.
- Seal the envelope.



Returning an Absentee Ballot

- The completed absentee ballot must be delivered to the voter's municipal clerk's office, their [polling place](#), or a local drop box established by their clerk (if available) no later than 8 PM on Election Day.
 - By Mail: The U.S. Postal Service recommends absentee ballots be mailed one week before Election Day to arrive in time.
- Other delivery: If it is within a week of the election, the US mail may not get the ballot there in time. If at all possible, drop off the ballot to the voter's clerk or to a drop box if available. On election day, it should be delivered to their voter's [polling place](#).
- A voter may ask someone else to deliver their completed sealed ballot for them.

Voting in person during a pandemic

PLAN AHEAD!

- Absentee voting by mail or in person is strongly encouraged.
- Voters should check their polling place on MyVote – it may have changed.
- Review your ballot online at myvote.wi.gov. This gives you time to research the candidates in advance and decide who you want to vote for.
- The voter should check in advance to make sure they are registered at their current address. If not, they will need to bring proof of residence.
- Curbside voting: if a voter is not able to enter their polling place due to disability, you may request curbside voting.
- Bring your photo ID with you, and a black or blue pen to mark your ballot. **Bring It to the Ballot** has a list of acceptable Photo Ids: bringit.wi.gov/
- Wear a mask. If you must get out of your car to vote, practice social distancing, and wash your hands before and after you vote.



Voters in Care Facilities

- Special Voting Deputies will **NOT** be dispatched to care facilities to administer voting for the April and November elections.
- The Wisconsin Election Commission will be sending a letter to Care Facilities to address voting for the August and November elections, and training materials will also be provided
- Residents of care facilities normally served by SVDs will instead be mailed absentee ballots for each election, if they have an absentee request on file.
- Residents who receive ballots will have to vote their ballot, have a witness provide required information on the return envelope, and return their ballot by mail in order to participate.
- If a voter asks for assistance completing their ballot, staff may assist them, however, the person helping the voter must then sign the ballot in the space provided.
- **All ballots must be returned by mail or in-person delivery to the municipal clerk's office by 8:00 PM on election day in order to be counted.**
-



Voters in Care Facilities (cont)

- Care facility staff may assist residents of their facility who are not registered to vote or who do not have an absentee ballot request on file with the municipal clerk or who need assistance with voting and returning their absentee ballot.
 - For the August 11 election, online and by-mail registration closes on Wednesday, July 22, 2020. Unregistered voters, or voters who need to update their registration due to a name or address change will need to register online or mail a voter registration form back to the municipal clerk by this deadline.
 - If you have a resident of your facility who does not have an active absentee request on file with the municipal clerk, they will have to submit a request in writing in order to receive a ballot. They will not automatically be mailed a ballot along the other residents of your facility. The deadline to make a request for the August 11, 2020 Partisan Primary is Thursday August 6, 2020 for regular voters and Friday August 7, 2020 for voters who self-certify they are “indefinitely confined” due to age, illness, infirmity or disability.



Voters in Care Facilities (cont)

Voters in care facilities could use the following options for proof of residency:

- Intake form from the facility
- Bank statement
- Other government issued document that lists their current name and address

Voting and Guardianship

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" to see if their right to vote was removed. A copy of this form may be requested from Probate Court in their county (about \$2.00 for 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)).

You do not need to make a decision if someone is able to vote or not. The courts have the responsibility to decide.



Voter rights

- You have the right to vote privately and independently.
- You have the right to access the polling place, including an accessible route to enter the building.
- You have the right to use an accessible voting machine at your polling place.
- All polling places are required by law to have an accessible voting machine.
Note: The law does not require this for early in-person absentee voting,
- You have the right to assistance marking your ballot. You may bring someone to assist you or ask a poll worker for assistance. Poll workers are required to assist a voter if they request it.

Note: You cannot receive assistance from your employer or from your union representative.



Voter Rights (cont)

- You have the right to ask for reasonable accommodations at the polling place.
Some common accommodations might be: a chair to sit on a signature guide a magnifying glass, assistance with stating a person's name and address, tools to help poll workers interact with deaf and hard of hearing voters such as pen and paper or an easel for announcements.
- 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, honk horn etc.)*
- Tip: 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/



If a Voter has a problem with accommodation request or accessibility concern

- If a voter has a problems on election day, ask to speak to 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 contact the Wisconsin Elections Commission at elections.wi.gov/complaints or call toll free 1-866-VOTE-WIS (866-868-3947) for assistance.
- You may call the *Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline* at 1-844-DIS-VOTE (844-347-8683) to receive assistance with your concern.



Filing a Complaint

If a voter experiences a problem voting, we encourage them 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 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 or call 866-VOTE-WIS.
- For assistance with reporting a complaint, contact the DRW Voter Hotline: 844-DIS-VOTE / email info@disabilityvote.org. We can assist you with the process of filing a formal complaint.



For Help with Voting Concerns

- **DRW Voter Hotline:** 844-DIS-VOTE/ 844-347-8683 email: info@disabilityvote.org
- **Wisconsin Elections Commission:** 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/>
- **Your municipal clerk:** myvote.wi.gov/en-US/MyMunicipalClerk
- **Wisconsin Election Protection** Call 866-687-8683 or text “Our Vote” to 97779.
Non-partisan assistance from volunteer attorneys
- **DMV Voter ID Hotline:** (844) 588-1069. Apply for a free Photo ID for voting at the Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV).
- Vote411.org: nonpartisan information about the candidates
- **Disability Vote Coalition:** disabilityvote.org/
Like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/wisconsin DisabilityVote/



Tips for your members: How to be an informed voter

Review a list of your elected officials and what's on your ballot on MyVote Wisconsin.

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.

Vote411.org is a helpful site to find nonpartisan information about the candidates.

Help to educate the candidates and the community about disability issues. Use the Disability Vote Coalition [Key Questions for Congressional Candidates](#) and [Key Questions for State Candidates](#) to educate candidates. Post questions to a candidate's social media accounts, or ask a question at a candidate forum or town hall.

Follow the Disability Vote Coalition and sign up for our e-newsletter.



How Your Agency Can Make a Difference

- Develop a plan to support your members to safely participate in the electoral process.
- Define staff roles, responsibilities, and timelines.
- We can work with you to develop a plan and provide resources:
 - Provide a script / flowchart that your staff can use to address voter registration and absentee voting.
 - Provide voting materials for you to mail
 - Provide online materials that you can link to and share
 - Provide you with voting postcards and other materials that your staff can leave in people's homes when they visit members.
 - Provide e-newsletters that you can forward to staff/ members/ clients
 - Partner with you to hold an online training or educational program for your members/staff/clients
 - Provide assistance to your members who need a hand with voter registration or to request an absentee ballot. (DRW Voter Hotline)
 - Provide Facebook posts about voting that you can post on your page



How We Can Partner

DRW Voter Hotline: 844-DIS-VOTE/ 844-347-8683 info@disabilityvote.org

- Assist with voting questions, accommodations, support voters to register, request absentee ballot, file a complaint.

The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition:

Resource material

We can provide training or educational programs

Can provide you with content for newsletter or social media

Join our email list – sign up at disabilityvote.org/

League of Women Votes is ready and willing to partner



Next Steps

- Review the Disability Vote Coalition resources including:
 - Sample Voter Outreach script
 - DVC Partnering Ideas
 - My Voting Plan
 - Disability Vote Coalition fact sheets, posters, postcards:
 - Absentee Voting Fact Sheet
 - June 2020 Voting FAQ
 - Residential Service Provider: Resources for Voters with Disabilities
 - DVC Product List
 - Videos: Know Your Rights, Voter Registration, Wisconsin Youth Voices on Voting, Consider Becoming a Poll Worker,

Note: Resources from this training will be posted at disabilityvote.org/ within 48 hours.



Develop your Plan

- Develop your organizations plan to support your members with voter registration and absentee voting. Sample ideas:
 - Give staff a script to include voter registration and absentee voting in wellness checks.
 - Provide direct care workers with voter registration / absentee voting materials to share with consumers.
 - Work with the DVC to schedule a short virtual training for your staff or members.
 - Share our voting FAQ with staff
 - Refer voters who need additional help to the DRW Voter Hotline.
 - The DVC can provide social media content, speakers, resource material.
Remember to sign up for our email list at disabilityvote.org/



July Opportunities

- ***National Disability Voter Registration Week*** is July 13 – 17
 - Check out events on the DVC website
 - AAPD Rev up campaign: <https://www.aapd.com/advocacy/voting/>
- Promote voting w/30th anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)/July 26



Questions and Discussion

