



Lunch and Learn

Absentee Voting & Early Voting

Training by Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition &
Wisconsin Election Commission



*A project of Disability Rights Wisconsin and
Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.*

What's New?

- ▶ Elections news and updates

Richard Rydecki

Assistant Administrator

Wisconsin Elections Commission

How do I request an absentee ballot?

- ▶ **ONLINE:** myvote.wi.gov/en-us/VoteAbsentee
 - ▶ You will need to upload a photo ID the first time you request an absentee ballot online.
- ▶ **BY MAIL:** Download the Application for Absentee Ballot from the Wisconsin Election Commission web site. Mail the completed form and copy of your acceptable photo ID ASAP to your municipal clerk.
- ▶ **By Email:** Email your clerk your request with your full name, Wisconsin voting address, the election you want 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 unless it is already on file or you are exempt by law.
- ▶ **In-person:** Apply for an absentee ballot in person at your clerk's office.

I have a disability. What does it mean to be an indefinitely confined voter?

- ▶ A voter may consider themselves indefinitely confined if they need to vote absentee due to disability, age, illness, or infirmity.
- ▶ According to the WEC, “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.”
- ▶ An “indefinitely confined” voter will have their ballot mailed to them for each election until they don’t return a ballot. If this occurs, the municipal clerk will contact the voter to see if they want to remain on the “indefinitely confined” voter list.
- ▶ Indefinitely confined voters do not need to provide a Photo ID.
- ▶ How to apply to be an “indefinitely confined” voter: Complete the absentee ballot application. 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](#).

Completing an Absentee Ballot

- ▶ Carefully follow the instructions included with your absentee ballot to make sure your vote is counted.
- ▶ Write firmly and use a pen to complete your ballot.
- ▶ If you change your mind or think you made a mistake, contact your clerk. They'll answer your question or send you're a replacement ballot if necessary.
- ▶ Your vote must be witnessed by an adult U.S. citizen who isn't an election candidate. Witnesses don't see how you vote.
- ▶ Your witness can be a friend, spouse, neighbor, family member, care worker.

Who can I get to sign as my witness on my absentee ballot envelope if I live alone?

- ▶ Can be friend, spouse, neighbor, family member, care worker, case manager, care facility staff.
- ▶ Some communities offer drop off locations for absentee ballots and may have staff to witness your ballot.
- ▶ A family member, friend or neighbor may watch you vote through a window. Put the ballot in the envelope, seal it and leave it outside the door for the witness to sign.
- ▶ Ask your local Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) if they can help you find a witness.
- ▶ Contact your clerk if you're have trouble finding a witness.

What is the witness supposed to do?

- ▶ Verify that you completed the absentee ballot but cannot tell you who or what to vote for and cannot see the choices you make on your ballot.
- ▶ Sign the certificate envelope on the line marked “Signature of Witness” and write their full address underneath the witness signature.
- ▶ You (or your assistant) must sign and date the certificate on the return envelope on the line marked “Signature of Voter”.

X _____ Today's date: month _____ day _____ year _____
▲ Signature of Voter ▲
(All voters must sign. If a voter is unable to sign, an assistant may sign the voter's name for them. The assistant must also sign their own name under the Certification of Assistant.)

3 Have your witness sign and write their address (below).
CERTIFICATION OF WITNESS (Required!)
I, the undersigned witness, subject to the penalties for false statements of Wis. Stat. § 12.60(1)(b), certify that I am an adult U.S. citizen and that the above statements are true and the voting procedure was executed as stated. I am not a candidate for any office on the enclosed ballot (except in the case of an incumbent Municipal Clerk). I did not solicit or advise the voter to vote for or against any candidate or measure. I further certify that the name and address of the voter is correct as shown.

1. _____
▲ Signature of ONE Witness – an adult, U.S. citizen ▲
(If witnesses are Special Voting Deputies, both must sign.)

2. _____
▲ Address of Witness – REQUIRED ▲
(street number or P.O. box number, municipal route and box number, municipality, state and zip code.)

4 Mail back by _____
is received by Election Commission _____
Allow 4-5 days for delivery to be sure that your ballot is received after Election Day will NOT be counted.

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EV 09/16 | Election Commission

CERTIFICATION
I certify that the voter named _____ is an adult U.S. citizen and that the voter is not a candidate for any office on the enclosed ballot (except in the case of an incumbent Municipal Clerk).
X _____
Note: Assistants the assistant sign also required. T

What is the process for receiving assistance with completing my absentee ballot?

- ▶ You may request assistance from anyone who is not your employer or a representative of your labor union.
- ▶ Explaining how to fill out your ballot or return envelope is not considered “assistance.”
- ▶ Your assistant must sign in the Certification of Voter Assistance section on your ballot.
- ▶ Your assistant can read your ballot to you or fill out your ballot under your direction but cannot tell you how to vote.
- ▶ If someone signs your absentee return envelope on your behalf, make sure they also sign in the Certification of Assistant section.
- ▶ Your assistant may also serve as your witness.

Are care facility staff allowed to assist residents with voting if they request it?

- ▶ Yes! Facility staff can help residents complete their ballots, voter registration forms and/or absentee requests or by acting as a witness.
- ▶ Staff can only assist with the resident's permission and may not influence their decision nor disclose to others who the resident voted for.
- ▶ Staff can read the ballot, candidate names, party affiliations, ballot instructions and can mark the ballot as directed by the voter.
- ▶ Staff cannot answer questions about candidates or their political platform.
- ▶ After assisting a voter, staff should sign the ballot in the box that says, "Certification of Voter Assistance".

What is the deadline for returning my absentee ballot?

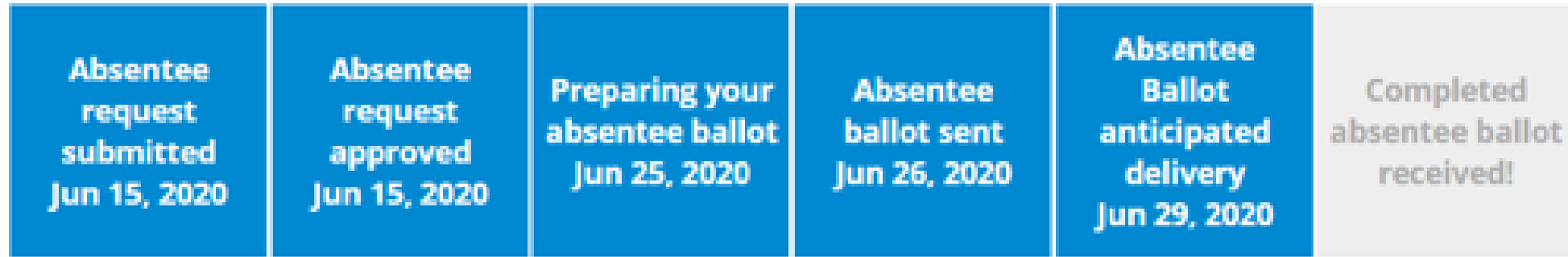
- ▶ *Your completed absentee ballot must be received in time to be delivered to your polling place or central count location no later than 8 PM on Election Day.*
 - ▶ **By Mail:** The U.S.P.S. recommends a minimum of one week before Election Day to arrive in time.
 - ▶ **Other delivery:** If within a week of the election, you can drop off your ballot at your clerk's office or an absentee ballot drop box if available.
 - ▶ **On election day:** Ask your clerk about options to drop off your ballot on election day.
- ▶ You may ask someone else to deliver your ballot for you.

How can I find the location for an absentee drop box?

- ▶ MyVote now shows the voter their In-person Absentee Options (also called Early Voting) and Absentee Ballot Drop Box Options.
 1. Go to <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/VoteAbsentee>
 2. Enter the Voter's first name, last name and date of birth, and search.
 3. Select "Find My Local Absentee Options"
 4. The options for In Person Absentee Voting and Drop box Options will display.
 - ▶ Note: if these do not display for a voter, they should check with their clerk to request this information.
 - ▶ Your community may also list drop box locations on their web site.

How do I know if they received my ballot?

MY ABSENTEE STATUS



- ▶ **If you requested your absentee ballot and it did not arrive you may vote in person on Election Day or you could vote early at your clerk's office.**

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 municipality sets their own dates and hours for in-person absentee voting.
- ▶ Contact your clerk for absentee voting hours and locations.
- ▶ Early voting locations are now listed on the *My Vote Wisconsin* website.

What is curbside voting?

- ▶ Required by law for any voter who cannot enter the polling place due to a disability.
- ▶ The WEC 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.
- ▶ Contact your Municipal Clerk in advance of Election Day to determine the process to access curbside voting (e.g. honk your horn, ring a doorbell, call a phone number).

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

- ▶ The WEC and the WDVC recommends the use of face coverings/masks by voters, unless they are unable to do so because of disability related or medical reasons.
- ▶ 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 (i.e. using designated areas of the polling place for these voters or assigning poll workers with additional personal protective equipment (PPE) to serve these voters).

What do I do if I run into a problem?

- ▶ Contact the Chief Election Inspector at your polling place or the municipal clerk.
- ▶ Report the concern to the Wisconsin Elections Commission at elections.wi.gov/complaints. You may use the option to “Report an Accessibility Concern”. Or call toll free 1-866-VOTE-WIS (866- 868-3947) for assistance.
- ▶ Contact the *Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline* at 844-DIS-VOTE (844-347-8683) or info@disabilityvote.org
- ▶ Wisconsin Election Protection Hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE/866-687-8633.

What are the key voting resources I should know about?

▶ Disability Vote Coalition:

- Website www.disabilityvote.org
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wisconsin Disability Vote/>
- Email: info@disabilityvote.org

▶ Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline

- 844-DIS-VOTE / 844-347-8683 or email info@disabilityvote.org

▶ WI Voter Information

- www.myvote.wi.gov

▶ Photo IDs

- www.bringit.wi.gov
- Wisconsin DMV Voter ID hotline: 844-588-1069
- Your municipal clerk <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyMunicipalClerk>

Key Resources for Voter Education

From the Disability Vote Coalition

- ▶ *2020 Elections Frequently Asked Questions* (rev. 9/2020)
- ▶ *Absentee Voting Fact Sheet* (rev. 9/2020)
- ▶ *Make Your Plan to Vote on November 3rd*
- ▶ *Guardianship & Voting - Restoring Your Rights to Vote*
- ▶ *Candidate education: Issues that Impact People with Disabilities in Wisconsin Background Papers*
- ▶ *Training videos - each video is also available in a split screen version with ASL interpreter*
- ▶ *Know Your Rights video*

WEC Voter Education Resources

Wisconsin Election Commission Voter Education Materials

elections.wi.gov/clerks/voter-outreach

- ▶ 2020 Absentee Voting Videos
- ▶ Absentee Voting fact Sheets
- ▶ And much more!