

Why Vote Absentee?

The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition encourages voters to vote absentee for 2021 elections because of concerns about Covid-19. Some voters with disabilities prefer also voting absentee because of difficulty getting transportation to the polls, accessibility concerns, or other reasons.

Note: Wisconsin does not currently have a screen reader accessible absentee ballot. The Disability Vote Coalition is advocating for this important accessible option.



Who can assist me with absentee voting questions?

- Contact your municipal clerk for help with absentee voting and how to request a ballot. Find your clerk's information at [myvote.wi.gov/en-US/ MyMunicipalClerk](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-US/MyMunicipalClerk).
- The Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) Voter Hotline can assist, especially with disability related voting questions: 844-DIS-VOTE / 844-347-8683 / [email info@disabilityvote.org](mailto:info@disabilityvote.org)
- Wisconsin Elections Commission: 866-VOTE-WIS / [email elections@wi.gov](mailto:elections@wi.gov)

Who can request an Absentee Ballot?

- Any **registered Wisconsin** voter is eligible to request an absentee ballot. Your name and address must be current on your voter registration.
- Special provisions are made for hospitalized electors and sequestered jurors to request and vote by absentee ballot on election day. Contact your **municipal clerk** for assistance.

I want to vote absentee but I am not registered to vote

- If you are not already registered, you will need to register to vote before an absentee ballot can be sent to you.
- You may register online at myvote.wi.gov/en-us/RegisterToVote, by mail, in person at your municipal clerk's office, or at your polling place on election day.
- To register online, you need a Wisconsin driver's license or Wisconsin ID Card.
- Don't have a valid Wisconsin State ID or Driver License? Complete a registration form. Mail it to your clerk with a Proof of Residence document with your name and current address, such as a utility bill, or bank statement.

Deadlines: If you are registering by mail or online, you must register at least 20 days before the election. After this deadline, you can register at your clerk's office or at your polling place on Election Day.

When should I request my Absentee Ballot?

- Request your absentee ballot as soon as possible to allow time to complete and return your ballot.
- **Deadline to request an absentee ballot for 2021 Spring Elections**
 - **February 16th Primary:** No later than February 11th at 5PM for regular voters.
 - **April 6th Election:** No later than April 1st at 5PM for regular voters.
- Although this is the legal deadline, make your request at least two weeks before the election to allow time to receive and return your ballot by mail.
- **Accommodations:** If a voter needs an accommodation, such as a large print ballot, include that information on the absentee request or contact your clerk as soon as possible.

Requesting an Absentee Ballot



Online

- Request an absentee ballot at myvote.wi.gov/en-us/VoteAbsentee.
- If you haven't requested an absentee ballot before, you will be asked to upload a copy of your photo ID: a Wisconsin Driver's license or state ID card.
- The ballot will be mailed to you.



By Mail

- Download the Application for Absentee Ballot from the Wisconsin Election Commission web site: elections.wi.gov/index.php/forms/EL-121-english.
- Provide a copy of your acceptable photo ID with your application, unless you are exempt by law or it is on file. Information about photo ID: bringit.wi.gov.
- Complete the form and mail it to your municipal clerk's office.
- Mail your application ASAP to allow time to receive and return your ballot.



By Email

- **Email your clerk** with a ballot request. State 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**.

Early voting: In-Person Voting by Absentee Ballot

- You can apply for and vote your absentee ballot in-person before election day. Contact your municipal clerk to learn about your community's in-person absentee voting options, locations, and hours of operation. It may also be listed on MyVote Wisconsin: myvote.wi.gov/.



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What if I always need to absentee vote due to disability, age, physical illness, or infirmity?

- If you always need to vote absentee due to disability, age, illness, or infirmity, you may certify that you are an **“indefinitely confined”** voter. “Indefinitely confined” **does not** require permanent or total inability to travel outside of the residence. The law does not require the voter to provide documentation of this status.
- 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.
- Wisconsin law exempts voters who are indefinitely confined from the requirement 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](#).

Voters who live in a Care Facility

If voter lives in a care facility such as a nursing home or group home, and does not have an acceptable photo ID, the care facility administrator can sign a special certificate (EL-122sp) to verify the voter’s identity. This certificate is available for download on the WI Elections Commission website at elections.wi.gov/forms/el-122.

Or the resident may certify they are an “indefinitely confined” voter.

Completing Your Absentee Ballot

- Complete and return your absentee ballot AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- Follow the instructions included with your absentee ballot. Mistakes may prevent your vote from being counted. *If you make a mistake and need a replacement, contact your clerk to request assistance.*
- You must vote your ballot in the presence of an adult witness. *The witness can be any adult US citizen except for a candidate on your ballot.* A witness can be a friend, spouse, family member, or care worker. *Contact your clerk if you have trouble finding a witness.*
- The witness must verify that you completed the absentee ballot, but because voting is a private activity, your witness cannot tell you who or what to vote for and cannot see the choices you make on your ballot.
- Use a black pen to complete your ballot.
- Put your ballot in the return envelope. Review your name and address on the return envelope to ensure it is correct.



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- Seal the envelope in the presence of your witness.
- You (or your assistant) must 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 **full** address underneath the witness signature.
- Mail or deliver your ballot to your clerk by the deadline.

Getting Assistance

- If you need help reading or completing your ballot or absentee return envelope, you may request assistance from anyone who is not your employer or a representative of your labor union.
- Your assistant may also serve as your witness.
- 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.

Returning Your Absentee Ballot

- Your completed absentee ballot must be received in time to be delivered to your polling place **no later than 8 PM on Election Day**.
 - **By Mail:** The U.S. Postal Service recommends absentee ballots be mailed at least one week before Election Day to arrive in time.
 - **Other delivery:** If within a week of the election, the US mail may not get your ballot there in time. You can drop off your ballot at your clerk’s office or an absentee ballot dropbox if available. Drop box locations may be listed on myvote.wi.gov/
 - **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 to check the status of your Absentee Ballot

Check the status of your absentee ballot request at myvote.wi.gov. This will show the date you requested the ballot, the date mailed to you, and the date your completed ballot was received.

If your requested Absentee Ballot does not arrive

If you requested your absentee ballot and it did not arrive in time, you may vote in person on Election Day or you can vote early. Contact your clerk for early voting locations and hours.



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