



Voting in the Spring Primary Election: What You Should Know

Training by Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition

January 26, 2021



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

Why Vote?

- ▶ A personal perspective on voting
- ▶ Why is voting important?
- ▶ Why is voting in this election important?

2021 Spring Elections

- ▶ **Spring Primary: February 16, 2021**
- ▶ **Spring Election: April 6, 2021**

Offices to be Elected

- ▶ State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- ▶ Court of Appeals Judge, Districts I, II and III
- ▶ Circuit Court Judge
- ▶ May have local offices such as alderman or school board.

A special partisan primary and special partisan election:

- ▶ Representative to the Assembly - District 89 (replaces John Nygren)
- ▶ State Senator - District 13 (replaces Scott Fitzgerald)

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

What is the State Superintendent of Public Instruction?

- Head of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
- Oversees public schools and libraries
- Seeks and promotes ways to improve schools
- Assesses performance of schools
- Elected to serve a four year term
- Nonpartisan office with no term limit
- Ensures school districts meet their responsibilities to students with disabilities as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Circuit Court Judges

- ▶ Wisconsin has 249 circuit court judges; at least one in each county.
- ▶ Judges are elected in non-partisan elections to serve for six year terms.
- ▶ Circuit courts are main trial courts for civil and criminal cases;
- ▶ Also hear cases appealing from Municipal Court and administrative hearings.
- ▶ Circuit Courts address issues that may impact people with disabilities:
 - ▶ Guardianships, civil mental health commitments, Termination of Parental Rights (TPR), CHIPS Petition (Child in Need of Protection and/or Services)

Am I Registered to Vote?

- ▶ Check at www.myvote.wi.gov.
- ▶ Confirm your voting address and mailing address are current (can update online).
- ▶ Options if you are not registered to vote:
 - ▶ Online at myvote.wi.gov/ Requires Photo ID.
 - ▶ Mail. Up to 20 days before Election Day. Mail completed form to your municipal clerk.
 - ▶ In person, at the municipal clerk's office. Must provide proof of residence.
 - ▶ At your polling place on Election Day. Must provide proof of residence and photo ID.



Registration Deadlines for Spring Primary

- ▶ **At Municipal Clerk's Office until Feb 12**
- ▶ **In-Person: Feb 16**
- ▶ **By mail or online: Jan 27**

www.myvote.wi.gov

My
Voter Info

Find
My Polling
Place

What's
On My Ballot

Update
My Name or
Address

Register
To Vote

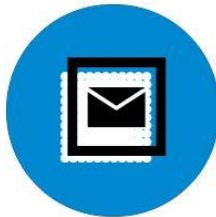
Vote
Absentee



NEXT STATEWIDE ELECTION

2020 Partisan Primary

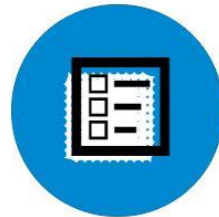
Tuesday, August 11, 2020



[Vote Absentee](#)



[Where Do I Vote?](#)



[What's On My Ballot?](#)



[Register To Vote](#)

What documents do I need to register to vote?

Proof of Residence document is required.

- ▶ Register online at myvote.wi.gov: your valid Wisconsin driver's license or Wisconsin ID card issued by DMV serve as Proof of Residence.
- ▶ Register by mail, at clerk's office, or at your polling place. Provide a **Proof of Residence document** with your name and current address such as:
 - ▶ current utility bill
 - ▶ lease
 - ▶ paycheck or paystub
 - ▶ university ID card or other official document w/voter name & current address.
 - ▶ Intake document from group home, nursing home, assisted living facility.
- ▶ List of acceptable documents at: myvote.wi.gov/en-us/ProofofResidence

What are Wisconsin's Photo ID requirements for voting?

- ▶ Most Wisconsin voters must show an acceptable photo ID when voting at the polls on Election Day or by absentee ballot. There are some exceptions for absentee voters.
- ▶ Acceptable Photo ID for voting does NOT have to include a current address. You only prove your address when registering.
- ▶ More information on the Photo ID law is available at <http://bringit.wi.gov>

Acceptable Photo IDs

WI DRIVER LICENSE



US UNIFORMED SERVICES



US PASSPORT BOOK OR CARD



WI DRIVER, STATE ID, OR IDPP RECEIPT



CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION



VETERAN AFFAIRS ID CARD



WI STATE ID



UNIVERSITY / COLLEGE TECH COLLEGE + ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION



TRIBAL ID



*Some ID variations are not shown.

Acceptable Photo IDs

The following photo IDs are acceptable for voting purposes, and can be unexpired or expired after the date of the most recent general election (currently, the November 6, 2018 election):

- ▶ A Wisconsin DOT-issued driver license, even if driving privileges are revoked or suspended
- ▶ A Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card
- ▶ A Military ID card issued by the U.S. Uniformed Services (including retired and dependent uniformed service IDs)
- ▶ A U.S. passport book or card

The following photo IDs are also acceptable for voting purposes:

- ▶ A certificate of naturalization (that was issued no earlier than two years before the date of the election)
- ▶ An identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin (can be expired or unexpired)
- ▶ A driver license receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT (valid for 45 days from date issued)
- ▶ An identification card receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT (valid for 45 days from date issued)
- ▶ A Wisconsin DMV ID Petition Process Photo Receipt (valid for 60 days from date issued)
- ▶ A Veteran Affairs ID card (must be unexpired or have no expiration date)
- ▶ A photo identification card issued by a Wisconsin accredited university or college, or technical college that contains the following:
 - ▶ Date the card was issued
 - ▶ Signature of student
 - ▶ Expiration date no later than two years after date of issuance (card may be expired)
 - ▶ The university or college ID must be accompanied by a separate document that proves enrollment, such as a tuition fee receipt, enrollment verification letter, or class schedule. Enrollment verification document can be shown electronically.

I do not have an acceptable Photo ID for voting. How can I get a State ID?

- ▶ Get a free Photo ID for voting from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).
- ▶ Contact the DMV Voter ID Hotline at 844-588-1069.
- ▶ DMV Customer Service Centers: wisconsindot.gov/Pages/online-srvcs/find-dmv/default.aspx
- ▶ Even if you don't have the requested documentation, you can still get an ID for voting.
- ▶ Bring It to the Ballot: bringit.wi.gov/
- ▶ Wisconsin Voter ID Coalition will help with photo ID questions. They may assist with transportation to DMV: 608-285-2141

How do I request an absentee ballot?

- ▶ **ONLINE:** myvote.wi.gov/en-us/VoteAbsentee
 - ▶ The first time you request an absentee ballot online, you must upload your photo ID.
- ▶ **BY MAIL:** Download the Application for Absentee Ballot from the Wisconsin Election Commission web site. Mail the completed form and a copy of your acceptable photo ID 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 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 In-person voting may begin on February 2 and may run through February 14.
- ▶ Early voting locations are listed on [MyVote.wi.gov](https://www.MyVote.wi.gov).

What are Key Dates for Absentee Voters?

- ▶ Deadline to Request Absentee Ballot:
 - ▶ Regular Voters: Feb 11 by 5 pm
 - ▶ Indefinitely Confined Voters: Feb 12 by 5 pm
 - ▶ Request it ASAP. We suggest no later than February 1 to allow time to receive and return your ballot
- ▶ Deadline to Return Absentee Ballot
 - ▶ Feb 16 by 8 pm
 - ▶ If returning by mail, mail ASAP and allow a week to ten days.

I have a hard time getting to the polls. How can I always receive an absentee ballot?

- ▶ If a voter has a hard time getting to the polls on Election Day due to age, illness, infirmity, or disability they can request an absentee ballot be mailed to them for every election. This is called an “Indefinitely Confined” voter.
- ▶ According to WEC, “Designation of indefinitely confined status is for each 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.”
- ▶ Indefinitely confined voters do not need to provide a Photo ID.
- ▶ How to apply to be an “indefinitely confined” voter:
Choose the “indefinitely confined” option in section 6 of the Absentee Ballot Application, certifying that you are indefinitely confined, or send a request in writing to your [municipal clerk](#).

May I receive 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.

What is the absentee ballot witness supposed to do?

- ▶ Verify that you completed the absentee ballot but cannot tell you who or what to vote for.
- ▶ The witness should see you complete your ballot, but should not 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”.

Today's date: month _____ day _____ year _____

X _____
▲ 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 ▲
(street number or first name, last name, street name, city, county, postal route and box number, municipality, state and zip code.)

2. _____
(If witnesses are Special Voting Deputies, both must sign.)

4 Mail back by _____
is received by Election Commission

How 4-5 days for delivery to be sure that your ballot is received after Election Day will NOT be counted.

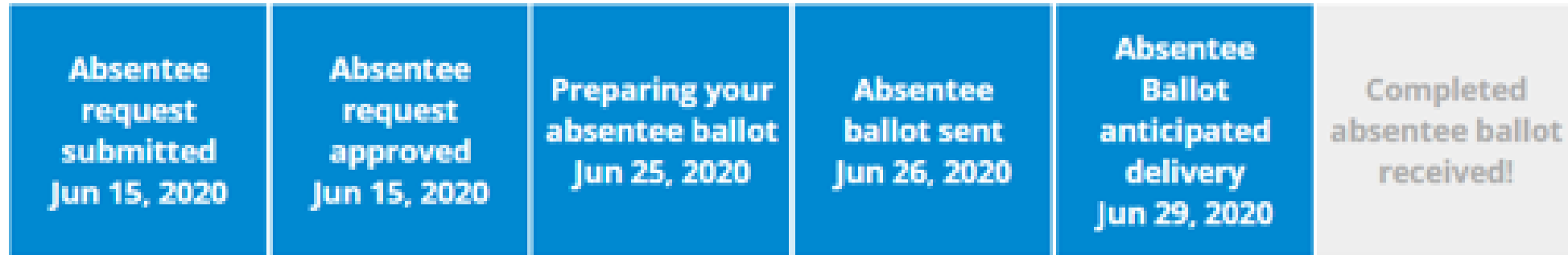
Wisconsin, WI 53202 | 414-286-3491 | www.milwaukee.gov

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

- ▶ Must be a US citizen, over age 18.
- ▶ Can be friend, spouse, neighbor, family member, care worker.
- ▶ Some communities offer drop off locations 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.
- ▶ Contact your clerk if you're have trouble finding a witness.

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.**

In Person Voting: How Will I Get There?

Best way is to visit Find a Ride to the Polls.

- ▶ Call your local Independent Living Center or Aging and Disability Resource Center at (608) 266-2536 (statewide) for ideas on specific transportation options in your community
- ▶ Is your schedule flexible? Ask a neighbor, friend or family member to share a ride

Check out this fact sheet for ideas:

<https://disabilityvote.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Transportation-2020-acc.pdf>

In Person Voting: Tips for Staying Safe

- ▶ Know who you want to vote for - get in, get out! (Check who is on the ballot at [My Vote WI](#)).
- ▶ Curbside voting - if you are not able to enter your polling place due to disability.
- ▶ Check your polling place before you go. It may have changed, or they may be offering drive through voting.
- ▶ If you must get out of your car to vote, practice social distancing, wash your hands before and after you vote, wear a mask.
- ▶ Be patient and courteous. Election workers are doing their best under difficult circumstances.
- ▶ Bring your own black pen.

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).

What is an accessible voting machine?

- ▶ Each polling place is required to have at least one accessible voting system.
- ▶ The accessible voting system must provide the opportunity for voters to vote privately and independently.
- ▶ Anyone can use the accessible voting system.
- ▶ Elections officials must make sure it's functioning properly in each election, and that election officials are trained to operate them.



Can I still vote if I have a guardian?

- ▶ In Wisconsin, a person under guardianship retains the right to vote unless the court expressly removes it.
- ▶ To find out if you have the right to vote, ask the guardian to look at the “Determination and Order on Petition for Guardianship Due to Incompetency” (GN-3170) form.
 - ▶ A copy can be requested from Probate Court in their county (costs about \$2.00/copy).
- ▶ Contact their Municipal Clerk. 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)).
- ▶ See resources on voting and guardianship at www.disabilityvote.org.

What are my key rights as a voter with a disability?

- ▶ Right to vote privately and independently.
- ▶ Right to access the polling place.
- ▶ Right to use the **accessible voting machine** at your polling place.
- ▶ Right to **ask for accommodations**, such as a chair to sit in rather than standing in line, signature guide, magnifying glass, assistance stating your name and address.
- ▶ Right to assistance marking your ballot (just not your employer or your union representative)

More rights

- ▶ Right to Curbside Voting if you can't get into your polling place as a result of a disability.
- ▶ You can **file a complaint** if you feel your rights have been violated.
- ▶ You may bring a **“cheat sheet”** into the polling place.
- ▶ If you make a mistake, you can **request another ballot** from the election officials.
- ▶ **No one should tell you how to vote.**

How can I be an informed voter?

- ▶ Review your elected officials and your ballot in advance of the election.
 - ▶ Myvote.wi.gov
- ▶ Learn about the candidates
 - ▶ Vote411.org, Ballotpedia.org, wisconsinvote.org.
- ▶ Follow the Disability Vote Coalition
 - ▶ E-newsletter, resources, website, Facebook page

What do I do if I run into a problem?

- ▶ Contact the Chief Election Inspector at your polling place or the municipal clerk.
- ▶ If you aren't satisfied, report the issues to the Wisconsin Elections Commission at elections.wi.gov/complaints or call toll free 1-866-VOTE-WIS (866- 868-3947). You can also report your complaint on their website.
- ▶ Contact the *Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline* at 844-DIS-VOTE (844-347-8683) or info@disabilityvote.org. DRW can help with your questions, and help you file a complaint.
- ▶ Wisconsin Election Protection Hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE/866-687-8633.

What voting resources can help me?

▶ 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 (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>