



1-844-DIS-VOTE
www.disabilityvote.org

New Bills Could Make It Harder for People with Disabilities, Older Adults and People of Color to Vote (rev 6/1/21)

Wisconsin legislators are voting on bills that may make it harder for you vote by:

- Limiting who can assist you with returning an absentee ballot.
- Restricting workers in nursing homes and group homes from offering residents assistance with voting.
- Putting volunteers, clerks, and others at risk for prosecution for voting violations.

4 WAYS YOU CAN TAKE ACTION

1. Call or email your legislators about your concerns.
To find your legislators, call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-362-9472 or click "Who Are My Legislators?" on [Wisconsin State Legislature Home Page](#)
2. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper with your concerns.
3. Be a Voting Rights Champion! We need your lived experience on voting barriers and how these changes will make it harder.
4. Take our short survey to tell us how your ability to vote could be impacted by the bills. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DisVote2021>

QUESTIONS, TO SHARE YOUR STORY, OR GET HELP WITH AN OP-ED

Contact the DRW Voter Hotline at 844-347-8683 or email info@disabilityvote.org.

TALKING POINTS

- If you are a non-driver, you must rely on friends, neighbors, extended family, or others to deliver your absentee ballot. Limiting those options makes it harder to vote.
- You should have the freedom to choose the person you trust to return your absentee ballot, including people who are not family members.
- It's hard to get photo ID if you are a non-driver; DMV hours and locations are extremely limited.

- Some bills make it a crime to ask nursing home residents about absentee voting or for helping return an absentee ballot on another voter's behalf.
- Many people don't have access to the internet or computer to request an absentee ballot.
- You want legislators to work with the disability and aging community to address barriers to voting and make elections more accessible, not less.

SAMPLE EMAIL TO A LEGISLATOR

Email Subject Line: Include the bill numbers

Dear Sen./Rep. ***[Name of Elected Official]***,

I am writing to share my concerns about the following bills because they will make it harder to vote (add the number of the bills you are concerned about). **[Briefly introduce yourself – if you live in the district, where you volunteer, work, etc]**

As an American, few things are more important to me than my right to vote and ensuring all people, regardless of their disability, age, race, or where they live, have that same opportunity.

[Tell your story: explain about how these bills will personally make it harder for you or someone you know to vote.]

For these reasons and more, I ask you to vote against these bills and to support accessible and inclusive elections. Thank you for taking my voice into consideration.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Email]
[Your Address]

SUMMARY OF VOTING BILLS

SB 203 / AB 192: Secure Delivery of Absentee Ballots

- Limits who can return a voter's absentee ballot to the voter's immediate family or legal guardian and prohibits any individual from helping more than two non-family members to return their absentee ballot.
- Anyone else returning a ballot for another voter would be guilty of a Class 1 felony.

SB 204 / AB 201: Absentee Ballot Applications

- Eliminates the option for indefinitely confined voters to receive absentee ballots automatically for every election and would require all indefinitely confined voters to provide a photo ID with their absentee ballot request.
- Prohibits the WI Election Commission, clerks, and other groups from sending absentee ballot applications to all eligible voters; makes it a felony to mail absentee ballot applications to anyone who has not requested one.

SB 205 / AB 179: Absentee Voting in Residential Care Facilities

- Any action by staff that influences an eligible resident voter to request an absentee ballot or refrain from doing so would be a Class I felony.
- Would require the facility to notify residents' relatives as to when the special voting deputies will be coming to the facility to assist in the casting of absentee ballots.

SB 206 / AB 180: Returning Absentee Indefinitely Confined Voter

- Voters would be required to provide statements under oath and renew their status every two years. A false statement would be a felony.

SB 207 / AB 173: private resources used for an election/appointment of poll workers

- Would restrict who can serve as a poll worker. Prohibits employees of an issue advocacy group from serving as poll workers.
- Would prohibit municipalities from applying for or accepting donations or grant moneys for purposes of election administration.

SB 209 / AB 177: Returning Absentee Ballots/ Ballot Drop Boxes

- Limits absentee drop boxes to a single location attached to the clerk's permanent office.
- Sets standards for drop boxes to be tamper resistant, moisture-proof, and satisfy the accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

SB 212 / AB 198: Defects on Absentee Ballot Certificates

- Prohibits a municipal clerk from correcting a defect on the completed absentee ballot certificate envelope. "Curing" a ballot would be a misdemeanor crime.