



1-844-DIS-VOTE
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Voting Bills Scheduled for Senate Vote on May 11 (5/8/2021)

On May 11th, Wisconsin state senators will be voting on SB 203 and SB 212. These bills could make it harder to absentee vote for many people with disabilities, older adults, and other voters.

How to Share Your Concerns

If these issues are important to you, email or call your state senator to share your concerns and ask them to oppose SB 203 and SB 212.

- See the sample letter on the last page of this document.

To find out who your state legislators are:

- Call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-362-9472 or
- Click on "Who Are My Legislators?" on the [Wisconsin State Legislature Home Page](#).

About Senate Bill 203 and Senate Bill 212

Check out our video for information on these bills: [View the video here](#).

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, with very limited exceptions (spouse, sibling, parent, child).
- Voters without immediate family in the state could select in writing one person who is a registered Wisconsin voter to deliver the ballot.
- Forbids anyone from helping more than one non-family member to return their absentee ballot.

Concerns about SB 203:

- Many absentee voters are non-drivers and rely on neighbors, extended family, or others to deliver their absentee ballot to the clerk or to a secure drop box.
- The bill creates new barriers.
 - If voters have immediate family in the state, they cannot have anyone else assist them, even if their family lives hours away or refuses to help.
 - Since you can only help one non-family member, a neighbor could not return the ballots for an elderly husband and wife or for two roommates.
- Severe penalties. Could be a Class 1 felony to return a ballot for another voter. People will be afraid to help others.
- Voters should have the freedom to choose the person they trust to return their absentee ballot – not have it dictated by government.

SB 212 / AB 198: Defects on Absentee Ballot Certificates

- Prohibits a municipal clerk from correcting a defect on the completed absentee ballot certificate envelope.
Example: *a witness for your absentee ballot forgets to fully complete their address. Currently the clerk may look up the address or contact the voter for information.*
- If there is a defect on the absentee ballot certificate envelope, the clerk must return the ballot to the voter and post a notification on the elector's voter information page on MyVote website. Then the voter must correct and return the envelope with their ballot.

Concerns about SB 212:

- Mail is slow. There may not be time to return the ballot to the voter and for the voter to send it back by the deadline.
- Many voters don't have internet or device to access MyVote; they would not know about the problem and would not be able to correct it.
- If clerks are not able to correct minor errors, many votes will not be counted.

Contacting State Legislators – Sample Email / Letter

Here is an example of an email/letter that you can put in your own words, and send to your legislators:

Email Subject Line: Concerns about SB 203 and SB 212.

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

I am writing to share my concerns about SB 203 and SB 212 because they will make it harder to absentee vote for voters with disabilities and other voters. Absentee voting is very important to me and to other voters who have difficulty getting to their polling place.

[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 to make sure 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 reading my email and taking my voice into consideration.

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

- Questions? Contact the DRW Voter Hotline at 844-347-8683 or email info@disabilityvote.org.
- For information on other voting bills, check our website: disabilityvote.org/2021/new-bills-could-make-it-harder-for-people-with-disabilities-and-more-to-vote/.