

Know Your Voting Rights

As a person with a disability, it is your right to have a full and equal opportunity to register to vote, cast a ballot, and access disability related accommodations.

Questions? Contact the Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline at **844-DIS-VOTE / 844-347-8683** or email info@disabilityvote.org.



Voting Rights and Voting in Person

- You have the right to vote privately and independently.
- You have the right to access the polling place, including an accessible route to enter the building. Under federal law, all polling places for federal elections must be fully accessible to older adults and voters with disabilities.
- You have the right to use an accessible voting machine that allows voters with disabilities to vote privately and independently. Usually this is a machine that can read the ballot to you and let you vote by pushing buttons. Each polling place is required to have an accessible voting machine.
- You have the right to receive assistance with marking your ballot. You may bring someone to assist you or ask a poll worker. Poll workers are required to assist you if you request it. You cannot receive assistance from your employer or union representative.
- You have the right to ask for reasonable accommodations at the polling place. Examples: a chair to sit, signature guide to sign your name, magnifying glass, assistance stating your name / address, tools to help poll workers communicate with you such as pen, paper, or easel for public announcements.
- If you are not able to state your name and address when requested to do so by the poll worker, Wisconsin law allows you to have poll workers or an assistor of your choosing state your name and address on your behalf prior to receiving a ballot. You can also provide your information in writing to poll workers or assistors.

- **Curbside voting:** If you can't enter your polling place due to disability, Wisconsin law requires that curbside voting must be available to you. Individuals who are immunocompromised or have symptoms of COVID-19 are also eligible to curbside vote.

Voter Tip: Contact your Municipal Clerk in advance of election day to discuss how to access curbside voting. There may be a special area for curbside voting, a bell to ring or you may need to honk your car horn, etc.

- A voter with a disability cannot be turned away from the polls because a poll worker thinks they are not 'qualified' to vote. Disability or medical diagnosis does not take away the right to vote. Only the courts can take away that right.

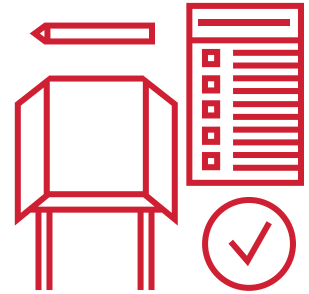
Voting Rights and Absentee Voting

- To request a large print or braille ballot, contact your Municipal Clerk as soon as possible. Contact information for clerks is posted on MyVote Wisconsin under **"My Voter Info"**.
- You have the right to request assistance completing your absentee ballot from anyone who is not your employer or a representative of your labor union.
- If you live in a nursing home or group home, you may ask staff to assist you to complete your ballot. Staff can read the ballot, candidate names, party affiliations, ballot instructions, and can mark the ballot as you direct. Staff cannot answer questions about the candidates or tell you who to vote for.
- 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.



Voting Rights for People Under Guardianship

- In Wisconsin, if you are under guardianship, you retain the right to vote unless the court has expressly removed it.
- If you are under guardianship and unsure of your right to vote, the court's decision regarding the right to vote is recorded on a court form called "A Determination and Order on Petition for Guardianship Due to Incompetency" (GN-3170). A box will be checked if your rights have been removed.
- If you are under guardianship and not sure if you have the right to vote, you should ask your guardian to look at the "Determination and Order form" to see if your right to vote was removed. A copy of this form may be requested from Probate Court in your county (costs about \$2.00 for a copy). OR Contact your Municipal Clerk. The Clerk can check the list sent by the state. It lists individuals judged incompetent and ineligible to vote. The Clerk can check to see if your name is listed.
- If you have a guardian and have lost your right to vote, you may petition the court to restore your right to vote (Wis. Stat 54.64(2)(a)). Contact the DRW Voter Hotline for more information about this process.



Voting Rights if You Have a Criminal Conviction

- If you have been convicted of a felony (or any treason or bribery crime), you can vote after you have finished your sentence and are "off paper" (off probation, parole or extended supervision). If you're not sure if you are "off paper," ask your parole or probation officer.
- If you have been convicted of a misdemeanor (except for misdemeanor treason or bribery), you do not lose your right to vote. This means you can vote even if you are in jail or prison, or "on paper" (on probation, parole or extended supervision) for a misdemeanor.

Reporting a Concern

If you have an accessibility or voting rights concern, take action. Reporting the concern can help you, and may also help other voters.

- **If you run into problems on election day**, contact the Chief Election Inspector at your polling place or ask for the municipal clerk immediately.
- Contact the Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline at **1-844-DIS-VOTE (844-347-8683)** or email info@disabilityvote.org to receive assistance with your concern or the process of filing a formal complaint.

- If you aren't satisfied with how the issue was resolved, report the issues to the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) at their website at elections.wi.gov/elections/election-security-integrity/concerns-comments-opinions or call the toll-free number, **1-866-VOTE-WIS (866-868-3947)**, for assistance.
 - ▶ The WEC Complaints page has an option to **"Report an Accessibility Concern"**.
 - ▶ You may also call or email to request that a complaint form be mailed to you, or to share your concern. Email elections@wi.gov.
- For more information about voting rights, watch the Disability Vote Coalition video, **"Know Your Rights,"** before you vote in person: disabilityvote.org/2021/know-your-rights/

“ Vote as if your life depends on it – Because it does! ”

– Justin Dart, Disability Activist