

# Voting in the Spring Election and Presidential Primary: What You Should Know

Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition

March 2024

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



# About the WI Disability Vote Coalition

- ▶ We are a non-partisan effort to help ensure full participation in the entire electoral process of voters with disabilities, including registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places.
- ▶ The Coalition is coordinated by Disability Rights Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. Members include people with disabilities, community agencies, and other partners.

# April 2<sup>nd</sup> Spring Election

## ▶ Offices to be elected

- Court of Appeals Judge
- Circuit Court Judge
- Many local offices
- Presidential Preference Primary

# Key Dates - April 2<sup>nd</sup> Election

## Registration

- ▶ **March 29<sup>th</sup>** - Register in Clerk's Office by 5 pm
- ▶ **April 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Register at your polling place by 8 pm
  - It's too late to register online or by mail.

## Absentee Ballot Request

- ▶ **March 28<sup>th</sup>** - regular voters request absentee ballot by 5 pm
- ▶ **March 29<sup>th</sup>** - indefinitely confined voters request absentee ballot by 5 pm

## Return Absentee Ballot

- ▶ Ballot must be received by Municipal Clerk no later than **8 pm on Election Day, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

# Court of Appeals Judges

- ▶ Intermediate appellate court: hears all cases appealed from the circuit courts and rules in favor of one party. Will only overrule trial court decisions if an important legal error is made.
- ▶ Does not decide on facts of a case, but rather makes decisions on whether the law was appropriately applied. The court corrects legal errors in rulings from circuit courts.
- ▶ Consists of 16 judges serving in four districts.
- ▶ 3-judge panels hear nearly all cases, except small claims actions, municipal ordinance violations, traffic violations, and mental health, juvenile, and misdemeanor cases. These exceptions may be heard by a single judge unless a panel is requested.
- ▶ Decisions made by the court of appeals may be appealed to higher courts.

[DVC Court of Appeals Fact Sheet](#)

# 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)

[DVC Circuit Court Judge Fact Sheet](#)

# Other Local Offices

- ▶ School boards
- ▶ Mayor
- ▶ City councils
- ▶ Alderpersons
- ▶ Referendums

Check out [myvote.wi.gov/en-us/PreviewMyBallot](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/PreviewMyBallot)

# Constitutional Amendments

## Question #1

### Ballot Question

Use of private funds in election administration. Shall section 7 (1) of Article III of the constitution be created to provide that private donations and grants may not be applied for, accepted, expended, or used in connection with the conduct of any primary, election, or referendum?

### Another way to think about it...

Funding of elections can not be done with money from private or non-profit groups. Right now, elections are done with tax money.

### Options to choose on your ballot...

A “YES” vote means you AGREE that Wisconsin should get money from businesses and agencies to run elections.

A “NO” vote means you DO NOT think that Wisconsin should get money from businesses and agencies to run elections.



# Constitutional Amendments

## Question #2

### Ballot Question #2

Election officials. Shall section 7 (2) of article III of the constitution be created to provide that only election officials designated by law may perform tasks in the conduct of primaries, elections, and referendums?

### Another way to think about it...

Election workers much be given legal permission to help with any elections. Right now, election workers do not need legal permission to help with elections.

### Options to choose on your ballot...

A “YES” vote means you AGREE that election workers must be given permission by law to help with any elections

A “NO” vote means you DO NOT AGREE that election workers must be given permission by law to help with elections

# Presidential Preference Primary

- Voters choose one candidate from their preferred political party's list of presidential candidates.
- The candidate from each party with the most votes wins the primary election.
- The results inform the party when they select their presidential nominee. This happens at their national convention.
- Voters choose between each party's nominee in the Presidential Election in November.

# What will the Presidential Preference Primary Look Like on my Ballot?

President Of The United States - Democratic	
<b>Vote For One</b>	<p><input type="radio"/> Joe Biden (Democratic) (Democratic)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Dean Phillips (Democratic) (Democratic)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Uninstructed Delegate (Democratic) (Democratic)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write In</p> <input type="text"/>

President Of The United States - Republican	
<b>Vote For One</b>	<p><input type="radio"/> Chris Christie (Republican) (Republican)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Vivek Ramaswamy (Republican) (Republican)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ron DeSantis (Republican) (Republican)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Nikki Haley (Republican) (Republican)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Donald Trump (Republican) (Republican)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Uninstructed Delegate (Republican) (Republican)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write In</p> <input type="text"/>

# How can I be an informed voter?

- ▶ Review your elected officials and your ballot in advance of the election.
  - [MyVote.wi.gov](https://www.MyVote.wi.gov)
- ▶ Learn about the candidates
  - [Vote411.org](https://www.Vote411.org), [Ballotpedia.org](https://www.Ballotpedia.org), [wisconsinvote.org](https://www.wisconsinvote.org).
- ▶ Follow the Disability Vote Coalition
  - E-newsletter, resources, website, Facebook page

# Voting Absentee

- ▶ Follow directions carefully!
- ▶ You can request assistance
- ▶ You will need a witness
- ▶ Return ASAP!
  - Must be delivered to your clerk, drop box, or polling place no later than 8 pm on Election Day

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, street route and box number, municipality, state and zip code.)

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

**▲ Address of Witness – REQUIRED ▲**  
(street number or first name, last name, street name, street route and box number, municipality, state and zip code.)

**4 Mail back**  
**is received by Election Day**

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

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

# 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.)

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1. \_\_\_\_\_  
▲ Signature of ONE Witness – an adult, U.S. citizen ▲  
(If witnesses are Special Voting Deputies, both must sign.)

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
▲ Address of Witness – REQUIRED ▲  
(street number or P.O. box, street name, city, county, state and zip code.)

4 Mail back \_\_\_\_\_  
is received by Election Commission \_\_\_\_\_

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

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# The Right to Assistance for Voters with a Disability

- ▶ Voters with a disability have the right to assistance with any part of the voting process. That right is protected by federal law.
- ▶ An August 31, 2023 court order in the Carey v. WEC case clarified that **voters with a disability, may request assistance with mailing or delivering their ballot from anyone who is not their employer or a representative of their labor union.**
- ▶ Voters who do not have a disability can not have assistance delivering their ballot.

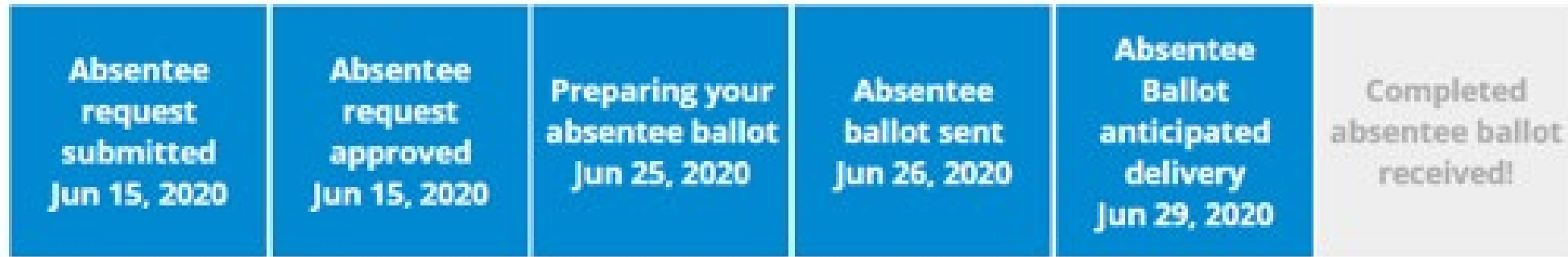
# Information for your assistor

- ▶ If you ask someone to return your ballot, let your assistor know they may be asked a few questions by the election official.
  1. *Are you the voter? If not, then:*
  2. *Are you delivering the voter's ballot because the voter has determined that they require assistance returning their ballot due to their disability? If yes, then:*
  3. *Are you someone other than the voter's employer, an agent of that employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union? If yes, then the ballot can be accepted.*
- ▶ The voter and assistor should **not** have to fill out any forms or provide proof of disability.



# How do I know if my ballot was received?

## 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.**

# Voting in person

## Be Prepared

- ▶ Check your polling place
- ▶ Preview your ballot
- ▶ Check your voter registration
- ▶ Know your rights
- ▶ Curbside voting- call ahead
- ▶ Transportation - plan ahead

## On Election Day

- ▶ Bring your photo ID
- ▶ Questions or complaints? Call DRW Voter Hotline at 844-347-8683

# 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.
- ▶ An 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



## VETERAN AFFAIRS ID CARD



## CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION



## WI STATE ID



## TRIBAL ID



## UNIVERSITY / COLLEGE + ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION



\*Some ID variations are not shown.

# 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](https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/online-srvcs/find-dmv/default.aspx)
- ▶ Bring It to the Ballot: [bringit.wi.gov/](https://bringit.wi.gov/)
- ▶ Wisconsin Voter ID Coalition will help with questions about photo ID and may assist with transportation to DMV:  
608-285-2141

# 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:  
[Rides to the Polls 2024 - Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition](#)

# 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/elections/election-security-integrity/election-complaints-concerns](https://elections.wi.gov/elections/election-security-integrity/election-complaints-concerns) or call toll-free 1-866-VOTE-WIS (866-868-3947) for assistance.
- ▶ Contact the *Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline* at 844-DIS-VOTE (844-347-8683) or [info@disabilityvote.org](mailto:info@disabilityvote.org)
- ▶ Wisconsin Election Protection Hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE/866-687-8633.

# What do I do if I run into a problem?

## ▶ File a complaint

- Online at [elections.wi.gov/elections/election-security-integrity/election-complaints-concerns](https://elections.wi.gov/elections/election-security-integrity/election-complaints-concerns)

You may use the option “Report an Accessibility Concern”.

- Call or email to request that a complaint form be mailed to you, or to share your concern. Email [elections@wi.gov](mailto:elections@wi.gov) or call 1-866-VOTE-WIS.
- For assistance with reporting a complaint, contact the DRW Voter Hotline.



# 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](http://www.disabilityvote.org).

# Key Rights as a voter with a disability

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**Right** to vote privately and independently.

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**Right** to access the polling place.

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**Right** to use the accessible voting machine at your polling place.

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**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.

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**Right** to assistance marking your ballot (just not your employer or your union representative)

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# Key Rights as a voter with a disability

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**Right**

to Curbside voting if you cannot go into your polling place as the result of a disability

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**Right**

to bring a “notes sheet” into the polling place

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**Right**

to request another ballot if you make a mistake

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**Right**

to file a complaint if you feel your rights have been violated

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**Right**

to vote as you wish.

**NO ONE SHOULD TELL YOU HOW TO VOTE!**

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# 2024 Elections Postcards and Posters

Order our FREE postcards and posters to increase awareness of the 2024 elections. They include the 2024 election dates, voter registration information, and where to call for help.

<https://disabilityvote.org/2023/2024-elections-postcards-and-posters-are-now-available/>

# The Disability Vote Coalition

- ▶ Join Us
- ▶ Find our Fact Sheets, Videos, and more
  - [www.disabilityvote.org](http://www.disabilityvote.org)
- ▶ Follow us on Facebook
  - [www.facebook.com/wisconsin disability vote](http://www.facebook.com/wisconsin disability vote)
- ▶ Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline
  - 844-DIS-VOTE (347-8683)
  - [info@disabilityvote.org](mailto:info@disabilityvote.org)

