



## **2020 WISCONSIN ELECTIONS** **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (REV 5/4 2020)**

2020 is an important election year. COVID-19 has created some additional challenges for voters and has increased interest in absentee voting. This FAQ addresses voting questions we are hearing from voters with disabilities. Read the FAQ to make sure you are prepared to vote!

For additional information, check our website at [disabilityvote.org/](https://disabilityvote.org/)

### **1. What other elections are scheduled for 2020?**

**August 11, 2020 Partisan Primary:** Primary election for all US Congressional Representatives; all State Assembly Representatives, State Senators from even numbered districts, and county District Attorneys.

**November 3, 2020 General and Presidential Election:** General Election for President and Vice President, for all US Congressional Representatives; all State Assembly Representatives, State Senators from even numbered districts, and county District Attorneys.

### **2. What can I do to be prepared to vote?**

- **Voter Registration:** Check to be sure you are registered to vote and that your voter registration name and address are current. If you are not registered, don't delay – register to vote now.
- **Absentee:** Request an absentee ballot now for the August and November elections. Because it is likely there will still be restrictions related to COVID-19, we encourage voters to submit their requests for an absentee ballot NOW.
- **Be Informed:** Learn about the candidates.

*See additional detail in this document for each of these actions.*

### **3. Am I registered to vote? If not, how do I register?**

- To determine if you are registered to vote, check [myvote.wi.gov/](https://myvote.wi.gov/)
- Confirm that your voting address and name are current. If not, you may update them online.

- If you are not registered to vote, you have these options:
  - **Online** at [myvote.wi.gov/](https://myvote.wi.gov/). Up to 20 days before Election Day. Requires a valid State of Wisconsin Driver License or State of Wisconsin ID card issued by the DMV.
  - **Mail**. Up to 20 days before Election Day. Mail completed form to your municipal clerk.
  - **In person** at your municipal clerk's office during the clerk's business hours. You must provide proof of residence. This option ends 5 PM on Friday before election. [Find your Municipal Clerk's Contact Information here.](#)
  - **At your polling place** on Election Day. Must provide proof of residence and a Photo ID.

#### 4. What documents do I need to register to vote?

All voters MUST provide a Proof of Resident Document when registering to vote.

- If you register online at [myvote.wi.gov/](https://myvote.wi.gov/) your valid State of Wisconsin driver's license or State of Wisconsin ID card issued by the Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) qualify as a valid Proof of Residence document.
- If you register to vote by mail, in-person in your clerk's office, or at your polling place on Election Day, you need to provide a Proof of Residence document. In addition to a valid State of Wisconsin driver license or state ID card with the voter's current address, other documents may be used as proof of residence for registering. Some examples are a current utility bill, lease, a paycheck or paystub, a university ID card or other official document showing the voter's name and current address. See a list of acceptable documents at: [myvote.wi.gov/en-us/ProofofResidence](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/ProofofResidence)

#### 5. I want to vote absentee. Am I eligible to vote absentee?

- Any **registered Wisconsin voter** is eligible to request an absentee ballot for any reason. If a voter is not registered, they must **register to vote** before an absentee ballot can be sent to them.
- **We encourage all voters to act now to request absentee ballots for both the August and November elections.**

## 6. How do I request an absentee ballot?

- A voter can apply for their absentee ballot in-person in the clerk's office or the request can be made in writing by mail, e-mail, fax or online at [myvote.wi.gov/en-us/VoteAbsentee](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/VoteAbsentee).
- You must provide a photo ID with your absentee ballot request if you have not submitted a copy of your photo ID for a previous request at your current address. If you are applying online at the MyVote website, you will need to upload a picture of your photo ID. Mobile phone users can take a picture and upload it to MyVote.
- If you are "indefinitely confined" due to age, illness, infirmity, or disability, you may certify this on your request and you will not need to submit a copy of your photo ID.
- If you email or mail your request, the request should state the election you are requesting an absentee ballot for, include the voter's name, voting address, mailing address (if different than voting address). Include or attach a copy of your photo ID (if not previously provided) or indicate you are indefinitely confined. State if the ballot should be sent to you through the mail or via email or fax. *Note: Not every clerk does email ballots. They are not required to do so unless the voter is overseas or in the military.*
- Ballots **cannot** be returned through email. You can drop off your ballot at your polling place or at the clerk's office. Check with your clerk for additional information. Some communities have drop boxes for absentee ballots.

## 7. 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 city, village and town in Wisconsin is responsible for setting the dates and hours of in-person absentee voting for their municipality. Some municipalities may only offer in-person absentee voting by appointment. Contact your clerk for absentee voting hours and locations: [elections.wi.gov/clerks/directory](https://elections.wi.gov/clerks/directory)

## **8. I have a disability and I am not sure if I am an “indefinitely Confined” voter.**

Wisconsin law provides an option for a voter who is indefinitely confined because of age, physical illness or infirmity or is disabled for an indefinite period to sign a statement to that effect when requesting an absentee ballot. This requests that an absentee ballot be sent to the elector automatically for every election. Indefinitely confined voters are **not** required to provide a copy of their photo ID.

According to the Wisconsin Elections Commission, “Designation of indefinitely confined status is for each individual 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.”

## **9. I live alone. Who can I get to sign as my witness on my absentee ballot envelope?**

Absentee voters must have someone witness their absentee ballot by signing and providing their address on the certificate envelope. The witness signature confirms the voter voted the ballot and placed it in the envelope for return. The witness must also be a U.S. citizen. This is a requirement for your vote to be counted.

## **10. What is the deadline for returning my absentee ballot?**

- You must return your absentee ballot by mail or delivery to your [municipal clerk](#), your polling place, or a local dropbox established by your clerk (if available). Your ballot must be received by your municipal clerk no later than 8:00 p.m. on election day.
- You may have someone else deliver your ballot for you.
- Return your ballot as soon as possible to ensure your vote is counted. If it is within a week of the election, the US mail may not get your ballot there in time. If at all possible, drop off your ballot to your clerk or to a drop box if available.

## 11. How do I know if my absentee ballot request was received or if they received my completed ballot?

- Check the status of your absentee ballot at [myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyVoterInfo](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyVoterInfo). You can check the status of your absentee ballot from the initial request through when they received your completed ballot. See example below.

You have an absentee ballot on file for this election:

Request an absentee ballot	Ballot request sent to clerk Mar 12, 2020	Ballot request received Mar 12, 2020	Absentee ballot mailed to me Mar 19, 2020	My completed ballot was received Mar 27, 2020
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## 12. How can I be an informed voter?

- Review a list of your elected officials: [myvote.wi.gov/en-us/](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/). Your US Congressional Representative, and Wisconsin Assembly Representative are up for re-election, as are State Senators from even numbered districts.
- **Learn about the candidates.** Visit their websites, watch candidate forums and interviews, follow the candidates on social media, and review the past votes of incumbents. If there is a candidate you support, you may want to sign their nomination papers or help in other ways. As the election gets closer, [Vote411.org](https://Vote411.org) is a helpful site to find nonpartisan information about the candidates.
- **Ask questions.** The Disability Vote Coalition, NAMI Wisconsin, and other groups may share sample questions that you can ask the candidates. You may also want to share background on issues that are important to you.
- **Review your ballot in advance of the election.** You may view your ballot online at [myvote.wi.gov/](https://myvote.wi.gov/). Ballots are typically available 47 days before an election with federal contests and 21 days before state and local contests.
- **Follow the Disability Vote Coalition** and sign up for our e-newsletter. Check out the resources on our website ([disabilityvote.org/](https://disabilityvote.org/)) and Facebook page [www.facebook.com/wisconsin Disability Vote/](https://www.facebook.com/wisconsin Disability Vote/)

### **13. What should I do if I run into a problem at the polling place or if my request for an accommodation is not honored?**

- If you run into problems on election day, contact the Chief Election Inspector at your polling place or ask for the municipal clerk.
- If you aren't satisfied with how the issue was resolved, you can report the issues to the Wisconsin Elections Commission at [elections.wi.gov/complaints](https://elections.wi.gov/complaints) or call toll free 1-866-VOTE-WIS (866-868-3947) for assistance.
- You may call the *Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline* at 1-844-DIS-VOTE (844-347-8683) to receive assistance with your concern.
- **File a Complaint:** If you experience a problem voting, we encourage you to file a complaint with the Wisconsin Elections Commission, so this concern can be addressed.
  - Complaints may be entered online at [elections.wi.gov/complaints](https://elections.wi.gov/complaints) or call the Commission
  - 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](mailto:elections@wi.gov) or call 1-866-VOTE-WIS.
  - For assistance with reporting a complaint, contact the DRW Voter Hotline: 1-844-DIS-VOTE / email [info@disabilityvote.org](mailto:info@disabilityvote.org).

### **14. What are some other voting related resources?**

- ***Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition***
  - **Email:** [info@disabilityvote.org](mailto:info@disabilityvote.org)
  - **Website:** [www.disabilityvote.org](http://www.disabilityvote.org) (check out the numerous resources and videos!)
  - **Email List/Newsletter** – call or email us your name and email address to be added to our email list. Get the latest on voting issues and receive our monthly newsletter.
  - **Like us on Facebook!**  
[www.facebook.com/wisconsindisabilityvote/](https://www.facebook.com/wisconsindisabilityvote/)
- ***Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW)***
  - **DRW Voter Hotline:** 1-844-DIS-VOTE/844-347-8683  
email: [info@disabilityvote.org](mailto:info@disabilityvote.org)

- **Wisconsin Elections Commission**
  - **Phone:** 1-866-VOTE-WIS/868-3944 (staffed Mon – Fri from 7:45 AM – 4:30 PM/ longer hours on Election Day)
  - **Email:** [elections@wi.gov](mailto:elections@wi.gov).
  - **Website:** <https://elections.wi.gov/>
- **Wisconsin Municipal Clerks** are responsible for administering elections for their municipality. Your Clerk is a resource for your voting questions, including about absentee voting. You should also contact your clerk if you have concerns regarding accessibility, accommodations, or other issues.
  - Contact information for clerks: [elections.wi.gov/clerks/directory](https://elections.wi.gov/clerks/directory)
- **MyVote Wisconsin** <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>  
Resource for voters to check if they are registered to vote, what is their polling place, view what's on the ballot, online registration, and online request for an absentee ballot.
- **Wisconsin Election Protection** Call 866-687-8683 or text "Our Vote" to 97779. Non-partisan assistance from volunteer attorneys.
- **VOTE 411** [www.vote411.org/](http://www.vote411.org/)  
Election information: what's on your ballot, upcoming debates in your area, and more