Supporting Your Residents to Vote

DQA Nursing Home webinar
Barbara Beckert, Disability Rights Wisconsin
September 24, 2020
Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition

- 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 Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. Members include people with disabilities, and community agencies that serve people with disabilities and older adults.

- Follow us: disabilityvote.org/ www.facebook.com/wisconsindisabilityvote

- Our resources include voting fact sheets and videos as well as posters, and voting “swag.” You can print our factsheets or order copies and we will mail to you.

- DRW Voter Hotline: 844-DIS-VOTE or email info@disabilityvote.org
Voter Registration Deadlines

- By Mail or online: Wednesday: October 14
- Deadline to register in person at municipal clerk’s office: October 30
- In-Person: Tuesday, November 3
- *Note: Some dates may change, based on litigation*
Voter Eligibility

You are eligible to vote if:

• You are a U.S. Citizen
• You will be at least 18 years old on or before Election Day
• You have resided in WI for 28 days prior to the election
• You are not currently serving a sentence including incarceration, parole, probation, or extended supervision for a felony conviction
• You have not been determined by a court to be ineligible to vote (for example: through a guardianship decision)
Voter registration

Who Needs to Register?
- First time voters
- If you’ve moved
- If you’ve changed your name
- If you haven’t voted in over 4 years

How to register:
- Online (up to 20 days before the election)
- By mail to your municipal clerk (up to 20 days before the election)
- In person at your municipal clerk’s office (through the Friday before the election)
- At your polling place on Election Day
Am I Registered to Vote?

- Check at [www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov).
- Confirm the voting address and mailing address are current (can update online).
- Options if you are not registered to vote:
  - Online at [myvote.wi.gov/](http://myvote.wi.gov/) Requires Photo ID.
  - Mail. Up to 20 days before Election Day. Mail completed form to your municipal clerk.
  - In person, at the municipal clerk’s office. Must provide proof of residence.
  - At your polling place on Election Day. Must provide proof of residence and photo ID.
What do you need to register?

To register online at MyVote Wisconsin-
1. Requires WI Drivers License or WI ID Card

To register with paper form-
1. An acceptable proof of residence document
2. Your WI DL/ID # OR
   Last 4 digits of your social security # if you don’t have a WI ID

Tip: download paper registration form from WEC website:
https://elections.wi.gov/forms/el-131-fillable
Proof of Residence

You MUST provide a Proof of Resident document when registering to vote, with voter’s name and current address.

- If you register online at myvote.wi.gov/ your valid State of Wisconsin driver’s license or State of Wisconsin ID card issued by the 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, you must provide a Proof of Residence document such as current utility bill, lease, paycheck or paystub, university ID card or other official document showing voter’s name and current address.

  Tip: Use an intake document or contract from group home or nursing home for proof of residence; room number is not required.

- List of acceptable documents can be found at:
  myvote.wi.gov/en-us/ProofofResidence
The Paper Form - on WEC website

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**Wisconsin Voter Registration Application**

Please complete legibly. Additional instructions on reverse. Please return your completed form to your municipal clerk.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>If you cannot check every box, do <strong>NOT</strong> complete this form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Are a citizen of the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Have resided at the address provided below for at least 10 consecutive days prior to the election and do not currently intend to move</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Will be at least 18 years old on or before Election Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Are not currently serving a sentence including incarceration, parole, probation, or extended supervision for a felony conviction</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your Name</th>
<th>Last ___________________________ Suffix (Jr., II, etc.) ____________</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First _________________________ Middle ____________________________</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>About You</th>
<th>Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) / / Phone Number ( ) Email Address</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Address Where You Live</th>
<th>Street Address __________________ Apt/Room # ____________</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>City/Town/Village of ____________________ WI Zip ________</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your Mailing Address</th>
<th>Street Address (or P.O. Box) __________________</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>City/State/Country/Zip _________________________</td>
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Register online at MyVote.wi.gov
Wisconsin photo ID requirements

- Wisconsin voters must show an acceptable photo ID when voting at the polls on Election Day.

- When requesting an absentee ballot, the voter must provide photo ID unless they provided it with a previous request, or are exempt by law. We will explain the exemptions.

- 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
Information about Photo ID

• State of WI drivers license may be revoked or suspended. DL or WI ID card can be unexpired, or expired after 11/6/2018.

• Information about photo ID is available on the website: bringit.wi.gov.

• If you do not have a photo ID, you can get a free Photo ID for voting from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

• Contact the DMV Voter ID Hotline at 844-588-1069.
What is the difference between Proof of Residence and Photo ID?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROOF OF RESIDENCE</th>
<th>PHOTO ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proof of Residence is used to Register to Vote</strong>&lt;br&gt;Can use documents like...</td>
<td><strong>Photo ID is used after you're registered to get your ballot</strong>&lt;br&gt;Can use documents like...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UTILITY BILL</strong>&lt;br&gt;Issued within 90 days of the Election</td>
<td><strong>U.S. PASSPORT</strong>&lt;br&gt;Can be expired since Nov. 8, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DRIVER LICENSE OR ID</strong>&lt;br&gt;Must be valid and show the voter's current name and address</td>
<td><strong>WISCONSIN DRIVER LICENSE OR ID</strong>&lt;br&gt;Can be expired since Nov. 8, 2016&lt;br&gt;Can be used if revoked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PAY STUB, BANK STATEMENT...</strong>&lt;br&gt;There are many other documents like a pay stub that can be used</td>
<td><strong>VETERAN'S &amp; MILITARY ID...</strong>&lt;br&gt;ID's like a Veteran's ID can also be used</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SHOWS VOTER'S CURRENT NAME AND CURRENT ADDRESS**<br>Can show a copy or show it on your electronic device

**DOES NOT NEED A CURRENT ADDRESS**<br>Shows voter's name as they are registered to vote

**MORE INFORMATION ON PROOF OF RESIDENCE:**<br>https://myvote.wi.gov/ProofofResidence

**MORE INFORMATION ON PHOTO ID:**<br>https://myvote.wi.gov/PhotoIDRequired
Voting Absentee? Do Not Delay!

- Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot:
  - For Regular voters: October 29, 2020 @ 5 PM
  - For Indefinitely Confined voters: October 30, 2020 @ 5 PM
  - These are the “legal” deadlines.
    - If you make a request in late October, you won’t have enough time to request, receive and return your absentee ballot.
    - Request your ballot ASAP. October 20 might be an “unofficial” cutoff date.
How to Request an Absentee Ballot

- Voters who do not have an absentee ballot request on file need to make a request to their municipal clerk ASAP.

- A voter must be registered before requesting a ballot.

- The request must be made in writing and may be made online, or submitted to the clerk by mail, email or fax.

- The absentee ballot will be mailed to the mailing address specified by the voter.

- Tip: If a voter needs an accommodation, such as a large print ballot, include that information on the absentee request or contact the clerk ASAP.
Indefinitely Confined Voters

- A voter may consider themselves indefinitely confined if they need to vote absentee due to disability, age, illness, or infirmity.

- According to the WEC, “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.”

- An “indefinitely confined” voter will have their ballot mailed to them for each election until they don’t return a ballot. If this occurs, the municipal clerk will contact the voter to see if they want to remain on the “indefinitely confined” voter list.

- Indefinitely confined voters do not need to provide a Photo ID.

- How to apply to be an “indefinitely confined” voter: Complete the absentee ballot application. Choose the “indefinitely confined” option in section 6 of the form, certifying that you are indefinitely confined, or send a request in writing to your municipal clerk.
Voters in care facilities have these options for photo ID compliance:

- On the absentee ballot request, the resident may self-certify they are an “indefinitely confined” voter, which exempts the voter from providing a photo ID. The photo ID requirement is met through the witness providing their signature and address, and verifying the voter’s identity.

- If the voter is not considered ‘indefinitely confined” and has a valid photo ID, they can provide a copy to the clerk.

- If the voter is not “indefinitely confined, and does not have an acceptable photo ID, the care facility administrator can sign a special certificate (EL-122sp) to verify the voter’s identity if they do not have a photo ID. This certificate is available for download on the WEC website at [elections.wi.gov/forms/el-122](http://elections.wi.gov/forms/el-122).
Online: At myvote.wi.gov
REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

My Voter Registration Information:

Name: [Redacted]
Wisconsin Address: 462 N 3rd St
5650

Choose all that apply

- The above address and name are mine and are correct.
- I want my ballot mailed to a different address
- I am an active military voter
- I am indefinitely confined due to age, illness, infirmity, or disability and request ballots be sent to me for every election until I am no longer confined or fail to return a ballot

Update

Continue
Absentee Ballot Request By Mail

- If a voter can’t request a ballot online, they may complete a paper absentee ballot request form.
- Voters may receive this form in the mail – the Wisconsin Election Commission recently mailed absentee ballot request forms to all registered voters who did not have an absentee request on file.
- Download a copy of the form from the Wisconsin Election Commission website. Their website is elections.wi.gov.
- Mail the completed absentee ballot request to your clerk with a copy of the voter’s photo ID, unless exempt by law. Mail it ASAP to allow time to receive and return the ballot.
Absentee Ballot Request By Email

- Email the clerk to request an absentee ballot.
- State the voter’s full name, Wisconsin voting address, the election you want a ballot for and mailing address if different than voting address. Include a copy of voter’s photo ID with the email unless it is already on file or if exempt by law.
- If you are an Indefinitely confined voter, state that in your email.
- The ballot will be mailed to the voter: it will not be emailed.
Completing an Absente Ballot

- Carefully follow the instructions included with the absentee ballot to make sure your vote is counted.
- Use black pen to complete your ballot.
- Vote the ballot in the presence of an adult witness.
  - The witness can be any U.S. citizen who is at least 18 years old. A witness can be a friend, spouse, family member, care worker, etc.
  - A candidate on the ballot for this election cannot be a witness.
  - The witness must verify that the voter completed the absentee ballot. Because voting is a private activity, the witness cannot tell the voter who or what to vote for and should not see the choices the voter makes on your ballot.
Absentee Ballot Return Envelope

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

Address of Witness—REQUIRED

(street number or floor, apartment, room, or box number, municipality, state and zip code.)

Note: Assistants, in addition to the witness signature, also required. This section is to be completed even if an attorney or notary certified the ballot.
Absentee Ballot Envelope (cont.)

- Seal the envelope in the presence of the witness
- Fill out the required section of the form on the absentee ballot envelope:
  - Voter Signature: The voter (or their assistant) must sign in the Certification of Voter section.
  - Have the witness sign the certificate envelope on the line marked “Signature of Witness” and write their full address (street number, street name, city) underneath the witness signature.
  - Doublecheck the voter information section to be sure it is accurate.
- If any of the required information above is missing, the ballot will not be counted.
Getting Assistance

- If a voter needs help reading or filling out their ballot or absentee return envelope, they may ask for assistance from anyone who is not their employer or a representative of their labor union.
- The assistant may also serve as a witness for the voter.
- Explaining how to fill out the voter’s ballot or return envelope is not considered “assistance”.
- The assistant must sign in the Certification of Voter Assistance section on the voter’s ballot.
- The assistant can read the ballot to the voter or fill out the ballot under their direction, but cannot tell them how to vote.
Getting Assistance (cont.)

- On the absentee return envelope
  - If someone signs a voter’s absentee return envelope on their behalf, make sure they also sign in the Certification of Assistant section.
  - The assistant may also serve as the voter’s witness.
Correcting Ballot Mistakes

- If a voter makes a mistake while marking their ballot or otherwise require a replacement ballot, contact their municipal clerk ASAP.
- If there is not enough time to request a replacement ballot and the voter has not returned their ballot, they may still vote in-person at the polls on Election Day.
Returning an Absentee Ballot

- Completed ballots must be received in time to be delivered to your polling place **no later than 8 PM on Election Day.**
- **We encourage voters to return their absentee ballot ASAP. DO NOT DELAY.**
- There are a few options for returning your ballot.
Mailing your Absentee Ballot

- If you mail your absentee ballot, allow plenty of time.

- The US Postal Service recommends mailing your ballot at least one week before Election Day. Returning a ballot from overseas may take longer.

- There have been concerns about the timeliness of deliveries from the US Postal Service. After October 20, you may want to play it safe and look at other options for returning your ballot.
Other Options for Returning Your Ballot

- Drop it off at your municipal clerk’s office.
- Drop it off at your polling place or central count location. Note: Check with your clerk to ask if your community accepts absentee ballots at the polling place.
  - The City of Milwaukee, Green Bay, Kenosha and some other communities that use “central count”, accept ballots at central count locations rather than at the polling place.
- Drop it off in an absentee ballot drop box (if available). These locations will be added soon to the myvote.wi.gov website.
Tips for Absentee Ballot Return

- Absentee ballots may not be returned by email or fax.
- A voter may ask someone else to deliver their completed sealed ballot for them.
- If you run out of time to return your absentee ballot, you still have the option to vote in person at your polling place on election day or to early vote. Remember you may only vote once.
- You may check the status of your absentee ballot on myvote.wi.gov.
- Remember the deadline to Return Absentee Ballot: November 3, 2020 @ 8:00 PM
**Voter Rights**

- 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.
- You have the right to use an accessible voting machine at your polling place.
- All polling places are required by law to have an accessible voting machine.

*Note: The law does not require this for early in-person absentee voting,*

- You have the right to assistance marking your ballot. You may bring someone to assist you or ask a poll worker for assistance. Poll workers are required to assist a voter if they request it.

*Note: You cannot receive assistance from your employer or from your union representative.*
Voter Rights (cont.)

• You have the right to ask for reasonable accommodations at the polling place.
  
  ▶ Some common accommodations might be: a chair to sit on, a signature guide, a magnifying glass, assistance with stating a person’s name and address, tools to help poll workers interact with deaf and hard of hearing voters such as pen and paper or an easel for announcements.

• If a voter cannot enter the absentee voting location or polling place due to disability, Wis. Stat. § 6.82(1) requires that curbside voting must be available.
  
  Tip: contact your clerk in advance to discuss how to access curbside voting. (number to call, bell to ring, honk horn etc.)

• Tip: For more information about voting rights, watch the Disability Vote Coalition video “Know Your Rights” before you vote in person: disabilityvote.org/2019/know-your-rights/
For Help with Voting Concerns

- Your municipal clerk: myvote.wi.gov/en-US/MyMunicipalClerk
- DRW Voter Hotline: 844-DIS-VOTE/ 844-347-8683 email: info@disabilityvote.org
- Wisconsin Elections Commission: 866-VOTE-WIS/868-3944 (staffed Mon - Fri from 7:45 AM - 4:30 PM/ longer hours on Election Day)
  - Email: elections@wi.gov Website: https://elections.wi.gov/
- Wisconsin Election Protection Call 866-687-8683 or text “Our Vote” to 97779. Non-partisan assistance from volunteer attorneys
- DMV Voter ID Hotline: (844) 588-1069. Apply for a free Photo ID for voting at the Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV).
- Vote411.org: nonpartisan information about the candidates
- Disability Vote Coalition: disabilityvote.org/
  Like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/wisconsindisabilityvote/
Resources for Care Facilities

- Wisconsin Election Commission materials on voting in care facilities: [elections.wi.gov/node/6957](elections.wi.gov/node/6957)
- Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition Videos, Fact Sheets, e-newsletter [disabilityvote.org/](disabilityvote.org/)
How to Be an Informed Voter

- Review a list of your elected officials and what’s on your ballot on MyVote Wisconsin.

- **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.

- Nonpartisan information about the candidates: Vote411.org, ballotpedia.org/, and www.wisconsinvote.org/

- Help to educate the candidates and the community about disability issues. Use the Disability Vote Coalition [Key Questions for Congressional Candidates](#) and [Key Questions for State Candidates](#) to educate candidates. Post questions to a candidate’s social media accounts, or ask a question at a candidate forum or town hall.

- **Follow the Disability Vote Coalition** and sign up for our e-newsletter.