



Defending Dignity.
Advancing Justice.

Voters and Voting in Residential Care Settings

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VISION

We envision a society that is universally accessible, inclusive, and just.

MISSION

Disability Rights Wisconsin strengthens the dignity and self-determination of people with disabilities by defending rights and advocating for systemic change.



Why is voting important?

- **It's a constitutionally protected right**
- **It's a chance to choose decision makers who determine policies that impact people with disabilities and older adults**
- **It's a civic responsibility**



Your role in supporting voter rights for residents

Federal regulations state that residents of long-term care facilities who are eligible voters have the right to vote; facilities must ensure the resident can exercise that right; and voting residents are supported by the facility in exercising that right.



Your role in supporting voter rights for residents

- Voting is an important resident rights issue
- Eligible voters retain the right to vote unless it has been removed by a judge
- All voters regardless of where they reside have the right to be free of interference, coercion, and discrimination in exercising their right to vote.
- LTC staff have a responsibility to assist residents in exercising the right to vote; any assistance provide must be directed by the voter.



Voter Eligibility

U.S. Citizen

At least 18 years
old on Election
Day

Resided at current
address for 28
days prior to
election

Not currently
serving a sentence
for a felony
conviction

Not been
determined by a
court to be
ineligible to vote



Who Needs to Register (or Re-register)

First time voters

If you have moved since you last registered (even if to a different apartment in the same building)

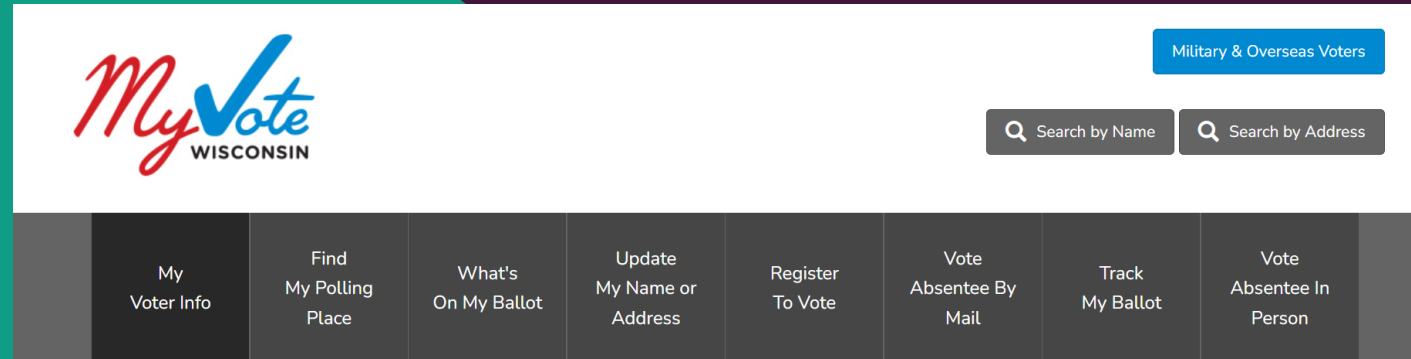
If you've changed your name

If you haven't voted in over 4 years

If your voting rights have been resorted



You can check
registration status,
register, and update
voter registration (and
more!) at
MyVote.WI.Gov





Tips for assisting residents with voter registration

- ★ Ask new residents if they are registered to vote and remind them they may need to update their registration or re-register
- ★ Do they want to register online, by mail, in person, or at the polls? Provide information on their preferred option.
- ★ If they want to register online, do they have an eligible photo ID? If not, provide information on how they can obtain one.
- ★ Do they have proof of residence? (pro tip: an intake document or contract could be used)
- ★ Encourage them to use myvote.wi.gov as a resource as they are able



How can residents vote?

With a Special
Voting Deputy
(in qualifying
facilities)

Absentee ballot

In-Person Absentee
Voting (IPAV, or
“early voting”)

In person on
Election Day



Special Voting Deputies for Care Facilities

At least 5 registered electors of the municipality who are occupants of the facility

At least one absentee ballot application from an occupant of the facility

At least 10 residents



Special Voting Deputies for Care Facilities

Family



- May be present during voting
- Can assist family member with voting IF requested by the resident
- May request SVD visit dates and times from facility

Observers



- Election observers are allowed to observe during SVD voting
- Must register with clerk in advance
- Cannot enter resident room without resident's permission

Role of Facility Staff



- Coordinate location in facility for voting
- Staff CANNOT assist resident with voting if SVDs are conducting voting.



Absentee Voting

- Any eligible Wisconsin voter can request an absentee ballot.
- Voters must submit a written request to their municipal clerk for an absentee ballot; this can be done online.
- Voters must be registered BEFORE requesting an absentee ballot.
- If a voter needs an accommodation for their absentee ballot, such as a large print or braille ballot, that information should be included as a part of the request and submitted to the clerk as soon as possible.



Absentee Voting

- Voters can request an absentee ballot for a single or multiple elections in the current calendar year.
- Absentee ballot requests for 2026 elections can be made beginning January 1, 2026.
- Voters who are not indefinitely confined need to provide an eligible photo ID with their absentee ballot request.
- Voters who consider themselves indefinitely confined do not need to present a photo ID but do need to indicate they are indefinitely confined.



Tips for assisting residents with absentee ballots

- ★ If they are registered at another residence they maintain, ask if they'd like to vote from that address or the facility's address
- ★ Assist with requesting an absentee ballot.
- ★ Ensure residents are aware some accessible options are available for absentee ballots.
- ★ Make sure residents understand if their absentee ballot will be delivered by an SVD
- ★ If the resident is not being served by an SVD, staff can assist the voter with their absentee ballot at the voter's request



In Person Absentee Voting

- Also called “early voting” or “IPAV”
- Dates, times, and locations are determined by each municipality.
- Can occur between 14 days prior to the election through the Sunday before the election.
- Check with your municipal clerk about availability of IPAV in your community.
- Currently, curbside voting and accessible voting systems are encouraged but not required at IPAV locations. If a resident would like to utilize one of these options at an IPAV location, please be sure to check with the municipal clerk to make sure it will be an available option.



Election Day Voting

- Polls are open from 7:00AM to 8:00PM.
- Voters **MUST** vote at their polling location on Election Day.
- Polling locations can be found at [MyVote.WI.Gov](https://www.MyVote.WI.Gov) or by contacting your municipal clerk.
- Curbside voting is required to be offered at every polling location for voters with disabilities who have difficulty entering the polling place.
- Each polling place is required to have an accessible voting system.

Who can stop an otherwise eligible person from voting?



Only a judge!

Who and what CANNOT stop an eligible voter from voting:

- A guardian, family member, friend, care provider, or another person
 - An Activated Power of Attorney
 - A medical diagnosis



Tips for assisting residents who are under guardianship understand their eligibility

Help them locate their “Determination and Order on Petition for Guardianship Due to Incompetency” form (GN-3170)

If they do not have a copy of this form, help them obtain it through the Probate Court in their county of residence

Assist in locating in the form the checkbox which indicates if their right to vote has been removed.



2026 Wisconsin Elections

**Spring
Primary**

February 17

**Spring
Election**

April 7

**Fall (Partisan)
Primary**

August 11

**General
Election**

November 3



Resources for Care Facilities and Service Providers

✦ [MyVote Wisconsin](#)

✦ [Disability Vote Coalition](#)

✦ [Absentee Voting in Residential Care Facilities
and Retirement Homes \(WEC\)](#)

✦ [Voting Rights of Residents in Long-Term
Care Settings \(BOALTC\)](#)

✦ DRW Voter Hotline: 844-DIS-VOTE (347-8683)



For Help with Voting Questions or Concerns

Your Municipal Clerk

myvote.wi.gov/en-US/MyMunicipalClerk

Wisconsin Elections Commission

866-VOTE-WIS
elections@wi.gov
elections.wi.gov

DRW Voter Hotline

844-347-8683 or
info@disabilityvote.org

DMV Voter ID Hotline

844-588-1069

Wisconsin Election Protection

866-687-8683 or text
"Our Vote" to 97779



Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition

- A nonpartisan effort to ensure full participation in the entire electoral process of voters with disabilities, including registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places
- DVC is coordinated by DRW and the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. Members include people with disabilities and organizations.
- Follow DVC:
 - Website: disabilityvote.org (resources and signing up for email list)
 - Facebook: facebook.com/wisconsindisabilityvote

