Wisconsin voters easily can cast their ballot via an absentee ballot, in-person early voting before Election Day, and of course at their election poll on Election Day. Wisconsin voters do not need a reason or excuse to vote early. Here is information on how Wisconsin voters can cast their vote via absentee ballot or via in-person early voting.

**FIRST STEP: REGISTER TO VOTE!**

Before a Wisconsin can request an absentee ballot or vote early in-person, we must be registered to vote.

Checking to see whether we are registered is easiest through the Wisconsin Elections Commission’s website: [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov), by clicking on the “Register” to vote tab at the top. You need your full legal name, last name, and date of birth. You can also check your registration status by calling your local clerk’s office. If you are registered to vote and can access the myvote.wi.gov website, you will be able to see your polling place, preview what is on your ballot, and request an absentee ballot.

**WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO REGISTER TO VOTE**

When you complete the Voter Registration form online or in person, you must provide your proof of residence.

If you register online at [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov), you will need your State ID or driver’s license information as your proof of residence. The Wisconsin Elections Commission will match that information with the Wisconsin DMV after you submit your Voter Registration form. If the information matches, then you will be registered to vote. If the information doesn’t match, then you will have to register in person.

When you register by mail or in person you must provide a Proof of Residence document. A Proof of Residence document is a document that includes your current and complete name, current and complete address, and a mobile account of document number (if applicable). Here are some examples of valid proof of residence documents you could use to prove your residence: your valid State of Wisconsin Driver’s License, an ID issued by the Wisconsin DMV, a U.S. Social Security Card, a utility bill, a bank or credit card statement, a paycheck or pay stub, a check or other document issued by a unit of government. Here is a more complete list of permissible proof of residence documents for registering to vote.

Once you are registered to vote, you easily can request an absentee ballot or vote in-person.

**VOTING VIA AN ABSENTEE BALLOT**

Voting via an absentee ballot is easy and allows registered voters the flexibility to cast their absentee ballots before Election Day. It also allows Wisconsin voters the assurance that on Election Day they can make the decision to vote absentee or in-person (but not both).

Once properly requested, absentee ballots will be mailed to voters. Only military and permanent overseas electors may request their ballot by sent fax or email.

Even if Wisconsin voters request and receive an absentee ballot, they do not have to use it. If the voter ultimately prefers to vote in-person, they can do so provided that they have not already mailed (and will not mail) their absentee ballot.

**HOW TO VOTE ABSENTEE**

First, a voter needs to request an absentee ballot. For the November 3, 2020 presidential election Wisconsin voters have until Thursday, October 29, to request an absentee ballot. All absentee ballot applications must be received by 5 p.m. on October 29 – the Thursday before the election.

A voter can request an absentee ballot one of two ways: online or through their local clerk’s office.

All first-time absentee ballot requests must include a copy of their ID. Once the voter provides a copy of their ID, they will be registered to vote in one election, the voter no longer has to provide a photo ID with subsequent absentee ballot requests, unless they need to re-register due to a name or address change.

The easiest way to request an absentee ballot for those with internet access or smart phones is to log on to [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) and click “Vote absentee” at the top. The voter will then insert their name and date of birth (and provided that the listed address is correct) click “Request Absentee Ballot.” If this is the first time that the voter has requested an absentee ballot, then you will need to take a picture of your valid photo ID (Wisconsin driver’s license or State ID issued by the DMV) and upload it. If the website makes this very easy.

To request an absentee ballot via other means than the [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) website, a voter can send a request to your municipal clerk. Military and overseas voters can also request their absentee ballot by fax or email. Don’t forget to include a copy of your photo ID with the request!

Along with the absentee ballot will be instructions for completing it. When you cast your ballot via the absentee ballot, your vote must be cast in front of an adult witness who is not a candidate for office. If you make a mistake while marking your ballot, contact your municipal clerk immediately for a replacement ballot.

Wisconsin voters who choose to vote via absentee ballot must ensure their ballots are received by their registered election office on Election Day by 8:00 p.m. You can return your ballot by mail or in-person to your municipal election office, or your clerk’s designated box or box by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. You can contact your municipal clerk to learn the location of your clerk’s office or designated site or box where you can deliver your absentee ballot in person. Once you mail-in or return your absentee ballot, you cannot vote in-person at the polling place on Election Day.

**EARLY VOTING IN-PERSON**

Wisconsin voters can also vote in-person at their local municipal clerk’s office two weeks before Election Day. If you choose to vote early in-person, you will cast your ballot immediately in the clerk’s office, seal your ballot in the proper envelope, and return it to the cashier of the clerk’s staff. The ballots will be taken out of the clerk’s office.

You will need to show an acceptable photo ID when voting early in-person. More information on acceptable photo IDs can be found at [voting.wi.gov](http://voting.wi.gov).

Each city, village and town in Wisconsin is responsible for setting the hours of in-person absentee voting for their municipality. To find the hours for in-person absentee voting when you live, contact your municipal clerk.

**LET’S BE PREPARED TO VOTE**

Wisconsin voters can vote early by voting absentee or in-person before Election Day, and of course at their election poll on Election Day. Wisconsin voters do not need a reason or excuse to vote early. Here is information on how Wisconsin voters can cast their vote via absentee ballot or via in-person early voting.