

LET'S BE PREPARED TO VOTE

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Wisconsin State AFL-CIO

ABSENTEE OR EARLY IN-PERSON

FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

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 Wisconsinite 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, by clicking on the "My Voter Info" tab on the top. All you need is your first 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.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

If you are not registered to vote, you can register online, by mail, or in-person. If you have a valid Wisconsin Driver's License or State of Wisconsin ID card issued by the Wisconsin DMV, the easiest way to register to vote up until 20 days before Election Day is through the Wisconsin Elections Commission's website: myvote.wi.gov, by clicking on the "Register to Vote" tab at the top.

You can also register to vote by printing out the **Voter Registration form**; you can download the **same form in Spanish** and **Hmong** on the Election Commission's website. You can register to vote by mailing your completed Voter Registration form to your local clerk up to 20 days before the election, bringing your Voter Registration form to your municipal clerk's office up until the Friday before Election Day at 5 p.m. or the close of business (whichever is later), or bringing the Voter Registration form to your polling place on Election Day.

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, you will enter 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 visible 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 or State ID card issued by the Wisconsin DMV; gas, electric, or telephone utility bill for the period commencing no earlier than 90 days before Election Day; a bank or credit card statement; a paycheck or paystub; 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 ballot 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 be sent via 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 their 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 photo ID. Once the voter provides a copy of their photo ID for voting absentee in one election, the voter no longer has to provide photo ID with subsequent absentee ballot requests, until 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 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 (WI driver's license or State ID issued by the DMV) and upload it. The website makes this very easy.

To request an absentee ballot via other means than the 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 and e-mail. 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 municipal clerk on Election Day by 8:00 p.m. You can return your ballot by mail or in-person to your municipal clerk's office, or your clerk's designated box or site 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 a member of the clerk's staff. No ballots may 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 bringit.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 where you live, contact your **municipal clerk**.