LET'S BE PREPARED TO VOTE ABSENTEE OR EARLY PERSON FOR THE AUGUST 2020 PARTISAN PRIMARY

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 voter can request an absentee ballot or vote early in-person, they must be registered to vote. To register to vote, go to myvote.wi.gov, by clicking on the "Register to Vote" tab at the top.

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!).

HOW TO VOTE ABSENTEE

First, a voter needs to request an absentee ballot. For the August 11, 2020, Primary Primary Election Wisconsin voters have until Thursday, August 6, to request their absentee ballot. All absentee ballot applications must be received by 5 p.m. on August 6 – 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 they are voting absentee in one election, the voter no longer has to provide a 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 "Vote Absentee." 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 local clerk by mail, fax, or email. Don't forget to include a copy of your photo ID with your request!

Along with the absentee ballot, Wisconsin voters are required to provide their proof of residence. Wisconsin voters who choose to vote via absentee ballot must ensure their ballots are received before or on Election Day so that the municipal clerk can deliver your ballot to your polling place before 8 p.m. on Election Day. If you mail or return your absentee ballot, you cannot vote in-person at the polling place on Election Day.

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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 22 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, where you can download the form in Spanish and English on the Wisconsin Elections Commission’s website, then bringing the completed Voter Registration form to 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, 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 Residency document. A Proof of Residency document is a document that includes your current complete name, current and complete address, and a visible account of document number (if applicable). Here are some examples of valid proof of residency 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, a utility bill, mortgage payment of real estate, apartment leasing contract, or insurance policy on a front or back of Wisconsin 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 complete list of permissible proof of residence documents for registering to vote.

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. The 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 bsimpal.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.