

How to Vote by Absentee Ballot (I WILL VOTE)

The upcoming April 7th primary election in Wisconsin will be influenced by the current concern of exposure to the novel COVID-19 virus. Clearly, there is risk for health of the voting population as well as poll workers. These poll workers are often civic minded elderly individuals that are also the most vulnerable to serious illness and death from the infection. Further, a report has emerged in a recent publication stating that rapid spread of the virus in Wuhan, China was due to contagiousness of infected individuals with minimal symptoms. (Science: 16 March, 2020)

Voting by mail using an absentee ballot will be a critical tool for participation in this election. Frequent questions about absentee voting are answered in this article.

How do I get an absentee ballot?

First of all, you must be a registered voter before you can obtain an absentee ballot. Gratefully, it is a simple process at Wisconsin Election Commission website: myvote.wi.gov. At this website you can register to vote, check on whether you are already registered, change your address if you have moved, report a change in your name, learn where you would go to vote in person on election day, learn what is on the ballot, and have an absentee ballot mailed to your address. You can view a sample ballot which will be specific to local election issues at your address. The absentee ballot will cover all of the Federal, State, Local and referendum issues that are on the ballot for a given election.

This can all be done in only a couple of minutes.

You will need to upload a photograph of your Wisconsin Drivers License or legal Wisconsin photo ID. Also accepted are Military ID cards, Veteran ID cards, and U.S. Passports. You will need similar documents if you vote in person at your voting precinct.

Most student photo ID cards are not accepted for purpose of voter registration or voting.

How do I get a Wisconsin photo ID?

If you do not have a driver's license, you can get a Wisconsin photo ID at a Department of Motor Vehicle Office. The address of the DMV in Juneau County is 318 State Street, Mauston and is open only on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7AM to 5PM. You can call the DMV with questions at (608) 264-7447.

To get a Wisconsin photo ID, you will need a Social Security Card, original or certified copy of your birth certificate (this is obtained at www.yourvitalrecords.com/copy/birth and does require a fee), and a utility bill documenting your address. If you have a U.S. Passport, that would also be of use in this process. Also, take a copy of your most recently filed federal tax report.

You should not be asked for a fee for this photo ID. The ID can be issued on the day you complete this application process.

What do I need to register to vote, if I am not already registered?

You can register at my vote.wi.gov, or request a voter registration form from your municipal clerk. Contact information for your clerk is noted in the table below. This process will require a valid Wisconsin photo driver's license or a Wisconsin photo ID. (See the above paragraph) You will also need proof of residence, such as a recent utility bill with your name and address.

Can I get an absentee ballot, if I don't want to use a computer?

You can also contact by phone or letter your municipal clerk to request an absentee ballot. The contact information you may need is listed in the table below.

Municipality	Clerk	Address	Phone
TOWN OF ARMENIA	DEBORAH NELSON	W5310 COUNTY ROAD G, NECEDAH, WI 54646-7907	715-886-1952
TOWN OF CLEARFIELD	CINDY SUZDA	N8111 8TH AVE, NEW LISBON, WI 53950	608-547-3543
TOWN OF CUTLER	BOBBIE K GEORGESON	N10846 2ND AVE, CAMP DOUGLAS, WI 54618-9757	608-427-6539
TOWN OF FINLEY	ELLEN J CARTER	:N15990 9TH AVE, NECEDAH, WI 54646-7025	715-884-6837
TOWN OF FOUNTAIN	LORI LOWE	W9921 JACOBSON RD, CAMP DOUGLAS, WI 54618-9570	608-547-5335
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN	SUSAN GANTHER	N7560 17TH AVE, NEW LISBON, WI 53950-9327	608-562-5751
TOWN OF KILDARE	JENNIFER MASCH	N2592 26TH AVE, LYNDON STA, WI 53944-9561	608-350-0698
TOWN OF KINGSTON	ELLEN CARTER	N13844 CRANBERRY ROAD, MATHER, WI 54641	715-884-6837
TOWN OF LEMONWEIR	CARIN LEACH	N3935 19TH AVE, MAUSTON, WI 53948-9605	608-847-4786

Municipality	Clerk	Address	Phone
TOWN OF LINDINA	SHARIE MILES	N3485 COUNTY ROAD G, MAUSTON, WI 53948-9318	608-847-4861
TOWN OF LISBON	ANDREA L HAWKINS	N5807 US HIGHWAY 12 AND 16, NEW LISBON, WI 53950- 9707	608-847-5432
TOWN OF LYNDON	DENISE GIEBEL	W3080 MITCHELL RD, LYNDON STATION, WI 53944-9736	608-666-2626
TOWN OF MARION	CORINNE KAISER	N4895 COUNTY ROAD HH, MAUSTON, WI 53948-9518	608-847-7494
TOWN OF NECEDAH	SUSAN KOSINSKI	101 CENTER ST, NECEDAH, WI 54646- 8282	608-565-3140
TOWN OF ORANGE	LANA WAGENSON	N8242 6TH AVE, NEW LISBON, WI 53950- 9767	608-542-0053
TOWN OF PLYMOUTH	BETTY MANSON	W9902 STATE ROAD 82, ELROY, WI 53929- 9453	608-462-5034
TOWN OF SEVEN MILE CREEK	ANNA VOLK	N1232 SAINT CLAIR RD, MAUSTON, WI 53948-9212	608-547-2369
TOWN OF SUMMIT	TAMMY MILLER	N1025 HIGHWAY 58, MAUSTON, WI 53948	608-985-7106
TOWN OF WONEWOC	KATHY RETZLAFF	762 BRIDGE ST, WONEWOC, WI 53968-9042	608-462-8523
VILLAGE OF CAMP DOUGLAS	TAMMI LANDOWSKI	:304 CENTER ST, CAMP DOUGLAS, WI 54618-2800	608-427-3355
VILLAGE OF HUSTLER	JOYCE DUESCHER	113 W MAIN ST, HUSTLER, WI 54637- 1311	08-427-6575
VILLAGE OF LYNDON STATION	LORI J SCULLY	116 LEMONWEIR ST, LYNDON STA, WI 53944-9660	608-666-2500

Municipality	Clerk	Address	Phone
VILLAGE OF NECEDAH	ROGER HERRIED	101 CENTER ST, NECEDAH, WI 54646-8282	608-565-2261
VILLAGE OF UNION CENTER	ROBIN LAUBSCHER	339 HIGH ST, UNION CENTER, WI 53962	608-462-8810
VILLAGE OF WONEWOC	LEE C KUCHER	200 WEST ST, WONEWOC, WI 53968	608-464-3114
CITY OF ELROY	LYNN THORSON	1717 OMAHA ST, ELROY, WI 53929-9776	608-462-2400
CITY OF MAUSTON	RANDALL REEG	303 MANSION ST, MAUSTON, WI 53948-1329	608-847-6676
CITY OF NEW LISBON	LISA J VINZ	232 PLEASANT ST, NEW LISBON, WI 53950-1139	608-562-5213

Do I need to explain why I am requesting an absentee ballot?

You do not need to answer any questions about why you are requesting an absentee ballot. It is your right as an adult citizen to vote. Indeed, it is your responsibility.

Is there any fee for the absentee ballot?

There is no fee for requesting or casting an absentee ballot. You will need to apply postage to the ballot when mailed.

Can I vote in other future elections by absentee ballot?

You can vote in any and all future elections by absentee ballot. You can request that absentee ballots are sent for the current calendar year. After one year you will need to repeat the request.

Can I still vote at the polls once I have cast an absentee ballot?

Of course not. This is voter fraud and would be considered a felony act.

By when do I need to cast my absentee ballot?

You may cast your ballot at any time prior to the election. It will not be counted until election day. All absentee ballots will be counted so long as they received by your municipal clerk on or before the day of the election. Please note, the ballot will not be counted unless the clerk has the ballot in hand on election day. Being post marked on election day will not result in your vote being counted. Another adult will need to witness by their signature on the envelope that the ballot is yours. This signature is explained on the envelope that comes with the absentee ballot.

Elections, of course, have consequences and you as a citizen will live with these consequence whether you vote or not. Your ballot is your voice. We cannot expect our representative form of government to function without a citizenry that is informed and voting. Being cynical will not serve us. Our history is far from perfect and our politicians do make mistakes. You should expect the highest standard from those who are our public servants. If you are disappointed, you can write or otherwise contact these representatives. Go to their public meetings. And, most importantly, use your voice to vote. It is the most valued of our democratic gifts and responsibilities.

Leon Radant, MD
member of Juneau County Democrats