

# ABSENTEE VOTING

Information provided by the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board.

## CAN I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

- Any eligible, registered, Wisconsin elector can vote by absentee ballot. You do not need a reason. Whether you have a hard time getting to the polls due to a disability or if it is just more convenient for you to vote by mail, all qualified Wisconsin elections are eligible to vote by absentee ballot.

## WHEN CAN I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

- Absentee ballots are available by mail 47 days before the partisan primary and Presidential elections and 21 days before state, local, and other elections.
- Wisconsin law restricts absentee voting *in the clerk's office* to a two week period, beginning the third Monday before the election and ending the Friday before the election. Voters may no longer register, or vote absentee, on the weekend or the Monday before the election.

## HOW DO I VOTE BY IN-PERSON ABSENTEE BALLOT?

- You can complete your absentee ballot in-person in the clerk's office or you can request an absentee ballot be sent to you by mail.
- In-person absentee voting only occurs during a two week period, beginning the third Monday before the election and ending the Friday before the election.

## HOW TO I VOTE IN-PERSON IN MY MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE?

- When absentee voting in-person in your municipal clerk's office, you will complete your ballot and then insert the ballot into an absentee ballot envelope/certificate. You will need to complete all the required fields and sign the certification on the envelope in order for your ballot to be counted. To view a sample absentee ballot envelope visit: <http://gab.wi.gov/forms/gab-122>.

## HOW DO I GET AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL?

- To request an absentee ballot be sent to you by mail, you may send a request to your municipal clerk by mail, fax, or e-mail. The absentee ballot request form is available at: <http://gab.wi.gov/forms/gab-121-english>.
- Regular absentee ballot requests by mail must be received by your municipal clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. the Thursday before an election to receive a ballot for that election.

## CAN I REQUEST A BALLOT FOR MORE THAN ONE ELECTION?

- On your absentee ballot application, you can select to receive your ballots for one specific election, or for all elections in a calendar year.
- If you are indefinitely confined (meaning it is difficult for you to get to the polls) due to age, illness, infirmity, or disability you may request that an absentee ballot be sent to you automatically for every election.
- When you choose this option, an absentee ballot will be sent to you for every election and will only discontinue if you fail to return a ballot.

For detailed information about voting in Wisconsin, visit [bringit.wi.gov](http://bringit.wi.gov).  
For other information on the Government Accountability Board, visit <http://gab.wi.gov>  
or call the G.A.B. Help Desk at 1-866-VOTE-WIS or 608-261-2028.

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## HOW DO I RETURN MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

You must return your absentee ballot in the COMPLETED absentee ballot envelope/certification that was provided to you with your ballot by your municipal clerk. If your absentee ballot envelope/certification is not complete, your ballot will not be counted.

You may return your ballot either by mail or through personal delivery to your municipal clerk's office.

- If you are returning your absentee ballot to your municipal clerk by mail, it must be postmarked no later than Election Day and received by the clerk no later than 4:00 p.m. on the Friday after the election.
- If you are delivering your completed absentee ballot to your municipal clerk's office, it must be received no later than Election Day.

## WHAT IF I VOTED BY ABSENTEE BALLOT, THEN CHANGE MY MIND AND WISH TO VOTE AT THE POLLS INSTEAD?

- Wisconsin Act 227 mostly prohibits a voter who has voted and returned an absentee ballot from voting at the polling place on Election Day, ask your municipal clerk or poll work if you are unsure.

## HOW DO I FIND MY MUNICIPAL CLERK'S CONTACT INFORMATION?

- Visit the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board's Voter Public Access website: <http://myvote.wi.gov>

## ARE THERE SPECIAL ABSENTEE RULES FOR MILITARY AND PERMANENT OVERSEAS VOTERS?

- Yes, military and permanently overseas voters can receive their absentee ballot by e-mail, fax, or mail.
- Some deadlines are different for military and permanent overseas voters. Visit <http://myvote.wi.gov> and click on the "military voter" or "permanent overseas voter" icon for more information.

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