

## 3.1 Types of Absentee Applications

This section details the proof of identification, duration of request, application requirements and definitions for the following seven types of absentee applications:

- Regular
- Indefinitely Confined
- Permanent Overseas
- Military
- Presidential Only
- Hospitalized
- Sequestered Juror

### Regular Absentee Applications

**Definition:** Any otherwise qualified voter who for any reason is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place.

**Proof of Identification:**

- By mail applications must include proof of identification with the application in order for an voter to receive a ballot
- Proof of identification may be provided only once (unless the voter re-registers with a new name or address)
- If proof of identification has previously been provided by a regular voter, the clerk must initial the absentee ballot certificate envelope prior to sending the absentee ballot to indicate the voter has met the proof of identification requirement

**In WisVote:**

- Provider clerks track the voters who provide proof of identification
- Prior to issuing absentee ballots, provider clerks send a list of the regular absentee voters who have previously provided proof of identification to their relier clerks
- Relier clerks send their current list of regular absentee voters who have provided proof of identification to their provider clerks

**Duration of Request:**

- A specific election
- All elections within a calendar year
  - If a regular voter does not return their absentee ballot, the request is canceled
  - Send notice of cancellation by mail within 5 days
  - Voter can reactivate the request

**Application Requirements:**

- Absentee applications for regular voters must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the election

### Indefinitely Confined Absentee Applications

<p><b>Definition:</b> Voters indefinitely confined due to age, infirmity, disability or illness. The voter must have applied for an absentee ballot as an indefinitely confined voter.</p>
<p><b>Proof of Identification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exempt from proof of identification requirement</li> <li>▪ The witness signature on the absentee ballot certificate envelope satisfies the proof of identification requirement for indefinitely confined voters</li> <li>▪ The clerk must initial the absentee ballot certificate envelope prior to sending the absentee ballot to indicate the voter has met the proof of identification requirement</li> </ul>
<p><b>Duration of Request:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indefinitely confined voters receive ballots for all elections</li> <li>▪ If a ballot is not returned after a spring or general election, a letter informing the voter that the absentee request will be canceled unless the voter applies for renewal within 30 days is mailed to the voter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If the voter responds to the letter, the indefinitely confined application stays active</li> <li>○ If the voter does not respond to letter, the indefinitely confined application is cancelled</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Application Requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Absentee applications for indefinitely confined voters must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the election</li> <li>▪ Voters must indicate on the application they are indefinitely confined</li> </ul>

### Overseas Absentee Applications

<p><b>Definition:</b> A voter who is permanently outside of the U.S. with no intent to return to their residence; may only vote for federal offices: President, U.S. Senate and U.S. Congress. May receive their ballot online through MyVote or by fax, email or mail.</p>
<p><b>Proof of Identification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exempt from proof of identification requirement</li> <li>▪ The clerk must initial the absentee ballot certificate envelope prior to sending the absentee ballot to indicate the voter has met the proof of identification requirement</li> </ul>
<p><b>Duration of Request:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A specific election</li> <li>▪ All elections within a calendar year</li> </ul>
<p><b>Application Requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Absentee applications for overseas voters must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the election</li> <li>▪ Voter registrations must be postmarked no later than the 20th day prior to the election</li> <li>▪ Exempt from Proof of Residency requirement</li> <li>▪ Voter must have lived in the district immediately before moving overseas</li> <li>▪ Voting-age children of overseas voters are eligible even if they have never lived in the district</li> <li>▪ Vote from the last address in the district</li> </ul>

## Military Absentee Applications

**Definition:** Members of a uniformed service (at home or away), members of the merchant marine, civilian employees of the United States serving abroad, peace corps volunteers, and their spouses and voting-age dependents. Military voters are eligible to receive ballots for all offices and may receive their ballot online through MyVote or by fax, email or mail.

**Proof of Identification:**

- Exempt from proof of identification requirement
- The clerk must initial the absentee ballot certificate envelope prior to sending the absentee ballot to indicate the voter has met the proof of identification requirement

**Duration of Request:**

- A specific election
- All elections within a calendar year

**Application Requirements:**

- A voter registration form is not required
- Must have resided in the municipality immediately before entering the military
- Absentee applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the election
- For federal elections, military voters away from their residence due to active duty have until 5:00 p.m. on Election Day to request an absentee ballot
- The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is a common form used by military voters; it serves as both a voter registration form and absentee ballot application

## Presidential Only Absentee Applications

**Definition:** Any new residents of Wisconsin, who are eligible to vote but do not meet the 10-day residency requirement; or former qualified electors of Wisconsin, who have moved to another state within 24 months but are not eligible to vote in their new state, may apply for a Presidential Only Ballot.

**Proof of Identification:**

- Proof of identification is required for both former and new Wisconsin residents

**Application Requirements for Former Wisconsin Residents:**

- Applications for Absentee Presidential Ballot is requested from, and submitted to the municipal clerk of the voter's prior Wisconsin residence
- No deadline to submit the application, but must be received, "in sufficient time for a ballot be mailed and returned prior to the election"

**Application Requirements for New Wisconsin Residents:**

- A voter registration form is not required
- Proof of residence is required
- Application for Absentee Presidential Ballot requests can be made in-person at clerk's office where they voter resides, or at the polling place on Election Day
- In-person requests at the municipal clerk's office can be made no sooner than 27 days prior to the election, and no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election

### Hospitalized Absentee Applications

**Definition:** Any qualified voter may register and request an absentee ballot by agent if hospitalized.

**Proof of Identification:**

- Proof of identification is required with the application unless otherwise exempt

**Application Requirements:**

- Absentee applications can be made no sooner than 7 days prior to the election, and no later than 5:00 p.m. on Election Day
- Absentee applications must indicate the voter is hospitalized
- The hospitalized voter may register to vote by agent up to 5:00 p.m. on Election Day
- Proof of residence is required

### Sequestered Juror Absentee Applications

**Definition:** Any eligible registered voter may request an absentee ballot if a sequestered juror.

**Proof of Identification:**

- Proof of identification is required with the application unless otherwise exempt

**Application Requirements:**

- Absentee applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Election Day