



# Wisconsin Elections Commission

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## Information for Judicial Officers Seeking § 757.07 Privacy Protection

You are receiving this information because you have submitted a written request to the Wisconsin Elections Commission (“the Commission”), pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 757.07(4), to remove your personal information from publicly available content. Please read this entire information sheet as it contains important information about how the Commission will take steps to protect your personal data.

### How the Commission will remove and protect your personal data

Voter Record. Your voter record will be classified as a protected voter within the statewide voter registration system. This means that your address will no longer be publicly available as a voter record online through any of the Commission’s websites or systems.

Poll Book. A protected voter designation also means your name and address will appear in a separate, confidential portion of the poll book that is not open to public inspection and observation.

Candidate Records. If you filed nomination papers or a declaration of candidacy as a judicial candidate with the Commission after April 15, 2020, those records are currently publicly available online through Badger Voters. Badger Voters is a website maintained by the Commission that allows the public to access certain voter data and public records electronically. We will remove any copies of your previously-filed nomination papers or declarations of candidacy so they can no longer be accessed on demand by the public. Older nomination papers and declarations of candidacy are not publicly available online, and if we receive a public records request for them, we will redact your personal information.

### You can no longer use the MyVote Wisconsin website (MyVote.wi.gov) to register to vote, update your voter record, or request an absentee ballot

Your voter record will be protected in MyVote in the same manner as voter records for confidential voters are protected. To fully protect your data, the Commission needs to ensure that your name or address cannot be returned as a search result when attempting to use MyVote to look up a voter record. Unfortunately, this means that you will not be able to use MyVote to register to vote or request an absentee ballot. You will need to contact your municipal clerk directly to update your voter record or request an absentee ballot.

The Commission strongly recommends that you do not attempt to register to vote online using MyVote. Doing so could inadvertently make your protected address a publicly available voter record. You should always contact your municipal clerk directly if you, or any protected immediate family members, need to register to vote.

You can still use MyVote to find your polling place or see your sample ballot, though you can also do this by contacting your municipal clerk.

*Wisconsin Elections Commissioners*

Ann S. Jacobs, chair | Marge Bostelmann | Don M. Millis | Carrie Riepl | Robert Spindell | Mark L. Thomsen

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Administrator  
Meagan Wolfe

## **Help us identify records which may contain your personal information**

The Commission will take every possible step to identify any publicly available records in its possession that contain your personal protected data, but you can greatly assist us with this process. If you know or suspect that any of the following types of records contain your personal information, please contact the Commission directly at 608-266-8005 and ask for a member of the legal team.

Signatory Records: If you've ever signed nomination papers as a signatory, or circulated them on behalf of a candidate, please let us know.

Complaints: If you have ever filed an administrative complaint with the Commission, or were named as a Respondent, including ballot access challenges, please let us know.

Emails: If you have ever emailed any Commissioner, the Commission Administrator, any member of the Commission staff, or our general inbox at [elections@wi.gov](mailto:elections@wi.gov), from your personal email address, please let us know.

## **If you're a candidate, you'll need to separately request certification of residence for election paperwork**

The new judicial officer privacy protection law also exempts you from needing to include your residence on certain election paperwork, **but you need to request separate certification of residence from the Commission to be exempt.** Wis. Stat. § 8.10(8). Requesting this exemption means you will not need to list your residential address on nomination papers or declarations of candidacy, but the Commission must certify your residence first. Once your residence has been certified, in lieu of including your residential address on your nomination papers and DOC, you may add "Residence Certified with WEC." You will still have to include the jurisdiction for the office you seek.

If you are, or plan to be, a judicial candidate, please contact the Commission directly to request a certification of residence prior to circulating nomination papers or submitting your declaration of candidacy. An application form and sample nomination papers and DOC follow this information sheet.

## **Absentee voting procedure**

You will not be able to request an absentee ballot online using MyVote.wi.gov. You will need to contact your municipal clerk directly to request an absentee ballot.

Nothing in Wis. Stat. § 757.07 exempts you from the requirement of Wis. Stat. § 6.87(2) to include your residential address on your absentee certificate envelope when voting absentee. Commission staff plan to provide training to municipal clerks to instruct that observers and the public should not be permitted to inspect or see your certificate envelope containing your residential address.

Election officials are not required to state the residential address of absent electors out loud when processing absentee ballots at the polling place on election day, just the absent elector's name. Wis. Stat. §§ 6.88(3)(a), 7.52(3)(a). Accordingly, if you vote by absentee ballot, your residential address should not be read aloud by election inspectors.

### **Polling place voting procedure**

If you choose to vote in person, nothing in Wis. Stat. § 757.07 exempts you from the requirement of Wis. Stat. § 6.79(2)(a) to state your full name and address to election officials before signing the poll book, nor are you exempt from the requirement of showing your photo identification.

### **All of the above also applies to any immediate family members included in your request**

If you included any immediate family members in your request, the Commission will protect their protected information in the same way as it will protect yours. All of the information in this info sheet will apply equally to any family members you include in your protection request. This means your protected immediate family members will also be unable to use MyVote to request an absentee ballot, and we would also strongly recommend that they register to vote directly with their municipal clerk.

### **Remember to Contact Your Municipal and County Clerks**

The Commission is the records custodian of a wide variety of public records that may contain your personal information. Your county clerk and municipal clerk likely also possess public records pertinent to elections, so you should also ensure that you have made a duplicate request under § 757.07(4) to both your municipal and county clerks.

### **Your request will expire automatically after 10 years unless you renew it with the Commission**

The judicial privacy protection statute ensures that your request to protect your personal information is valid for 10 years. Wis. Stat. § 757.07(4)(e)1. The Commission will protect your voter record for 10 years from the date of your application, but you must notify the Commission prior to the expiration of 10 years if you wish to continue your protected status. If you do not let us know that you wish to renew your request, it will automatically expire after 10 years, and your voter record will once again become public.