



# Wisconsin Elections Commission

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**DATE:** September 25, 2020

**TO:** Wisconsin Municipal Clerks  
City of Milwaukee Election Commission  
Wisconsin County Clerks  
Milwaukee County Election Commission

**FROM:** Meagan Wolfe                      Richard Rydecki  
Administrator                      Assistant Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Absentee Voting at Care Facilities Informational Documents

The Wisconsin Elections Commission determined on June 24, 2020 and reaffirmed the decision on September 16, 2020 that Special Voting Deputies (SVDs) will not be dispatched to nursing homes and care facilities to administer voting for the remaining elections in 2020. Residents of facilities normally served by SVDs will instead be mailed absentee ballots for each remaining 2020 election.

Many nursing home and care facility residents rely on assistance from others to vote. Because most nursing homes and care facilities are not allowing guests at this time, some voters may require assistance from care facility staff to vote. Facility administrators and staff are able to assist residents in filling out their ballots or certificate envelopes and assist in completing voter registration forms and absentee requests, witness ballots, or sign a special certificate envelope (EL-122sp) if necessary. WEC staff created two documents, a letter for facility administrators and a training overview document, for you to distribute to care facilities to make absentee voting and registering to vote as smooth as possible for their facility and residents.

There are two documents which are optional for you to send to nursing homes and care facilities in your municipality:

- 1. Sample Nursing Home and Care Facility Letter:** This document can be updated for your use and updated with your letterhead to send to care facilities. It covers important deadlines and basic information regarding assisting and witnessing ballots.
- 2. Absentee Voting at Nursing Homes and Care Facilities:** This document includes training resources regarding assisting voters, witnessing ballots, the EL-122sp Special Certificate Envelope, registering to vote, and requesting an absentee ballot. It also includes template certificate forms (EL-122sp & EL-122), a registration form (EL-131), and an absentee request form (EL-121) with required fields highlighted.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission has distributed this letter and training document to various agencies that work with nursing homes and care facilities. However, it is recommended to distribute this to any of your facilities that would normally be served by SVDs.

If you have any questions, please email [elections@wi.gov](mailto:elections@wi.gov) or call (608)266-8005.

*Wisconsin Elections Commissioners*

Ann S. Jacobs, chair | Marge Bostelmann | Julie M. Glancey | Dean Knudson | Robert Spindell | Mark L. Thomsen

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Administrator  
Meagan Wolfe