



Election Information & Education Toolkit Training

Webinar Training – For Local Election Leaders

September 2020

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Today's Presenters



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Today's Goals

1. Introduce the Education & Information Toolkit
2. Share examples deliverables found in Toolkit
3. Share content publishing recommendations



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Today's Agenda

1. Topics:
 - Introducing the Toolkit
 - What's in the Toolkit?
 - How to use the Toolkit
 - Publishing Recommendations & Examples



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Webinar Housekeeping

- Ask questions any time via Zoom chat, we will hold a Q&A at the end of the webinar
- You will be receiving these materials from WEC
- More questions or specific concern? Contact Reid Magney



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Toolkit Overview



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Using the Toolkit

- What's in it
 - Communication assets, such as:
 - Social media posts
 - Website banners
 - Factsheets
 - Educational videos
 - Earned media resources
- How to use it
 - Timing strategies for posting materials and sharing with the public



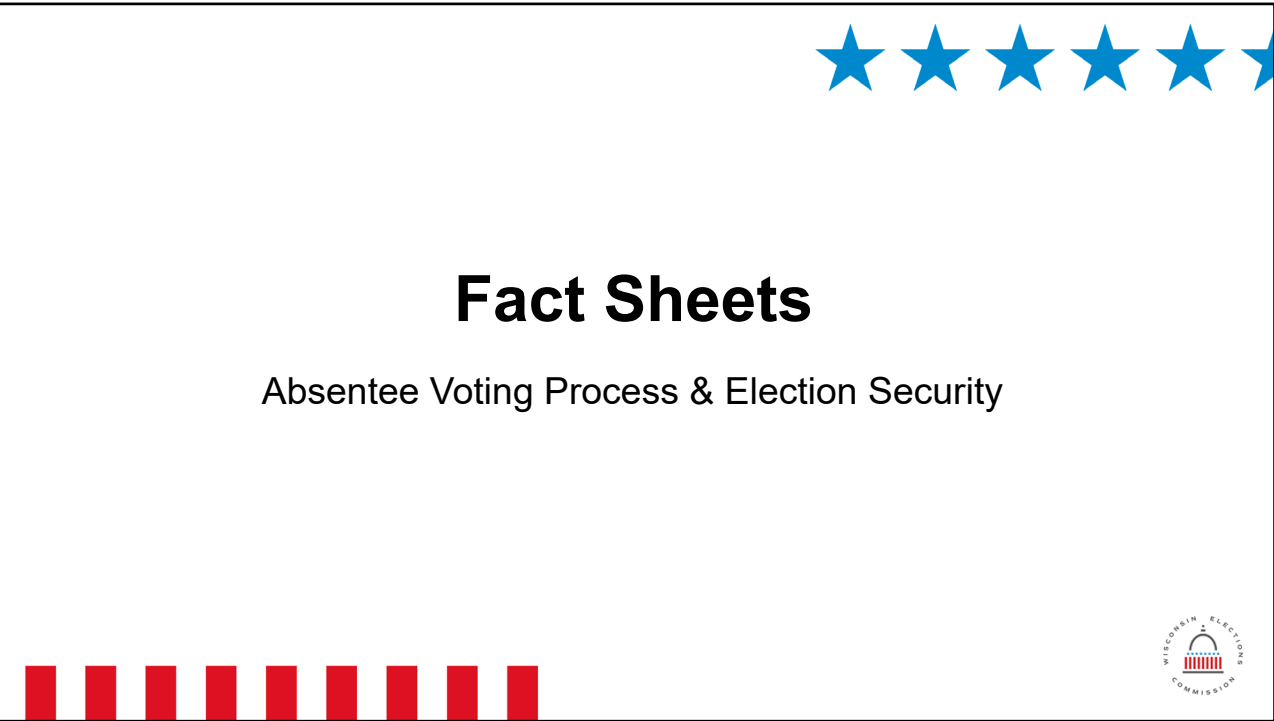
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Toolkit Deliverables




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Fact Sheets

Absentee Voting Process & Election Security



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Voter Information: Fact Sheets

ABSENTEE VOTING FACT SHEET

How to Vote by Absentee Ballot This Election

Interested in voting absentee in person?

There are several safe and secure ways to cast a vote in Wisconsin, including voting by absentee ballot. Voters can cast an absentee ballot in person at their municipal clerk's office before Election Day. They can also request an absentee ballot by mail and either mail in their completed ballot or drop it off in person before the election or on Election Day.

Wisconsin election officials protect every vote, however it's cast. By registering and verifying eligible voters. By handling absentee ballots securely, just like polling place ballots. And by making sure every valid absentee vote is counted on Election Day, one month from right the vote is. Voting by absentee ballot is simple, convenient and secure. Here's how to get started:

Requesting an Absentee Ballot by Mail

→ **Step 1: Make sure you're registered to vote**

You don't need a reason to vote by absentee ballot. Every registered Wisconsin voter has the right to request an absentee ballot, but before you can do that, you have to be registered to vote.

If you need to get registered

- Do it by mail, online or in person** - You can register by mail or online at myvotes.wis.gov up to 20 days before the election, or in person at your municipal clerk's office until the Friday before the election.
- Mail it and show proof of residence** - Voters need to provide a proof of residence document when they register in person or by mail. Registering online? Your residence will be verified with DMV records.

If you think you're registered

- Verify your voter info** - If your name or address has changed since the last election, you need to update your voter record before requesting an absentee ballot.
- Submit a valid photo ID** - Most voters still need to submit a valid photo ID to request an absentee ballot. It's easy, especially when you use a mobile device. Just upload a picture of your photo ID and you're done. Visit request.wis.gov to see all your photo ID options.

Get ready for the 2020 General Election. Register to vote online or by mail by October 14.

→ **Step 2: Request your absentee ballot**

You can request an absentee ballot in writing by mail to your municipal clerk's office. You can also request a ballot at myvotes.wis.gov in just a few steps.

Confirm your name and current address. Choose the election or elections you'd like to vote in by absentee ballot. You may need to upload a picture of your valid photo ID. Using a smartphone can help.

Vote absentee by mail in the 2020 General Election. Request an absentee ballot now.

elections.wis.gov
1-866-868-3947

ABSENTEE VOTING FACT SHEET

Submitting a Valid Absentee Ballot

→ **Step 3: Filling out your absentee ballot**

Your absentee ballot is the same as the paper ballots voters use in Wisconsin polling places. The differences? The way casting your vote is observed and delivered to election officials.

Before you begin

Check your envelope - Make sure the following items are inside:

- An absentee ballot for the 2020 General Election on November 3
- A voting instructions sheet
- A postage paid ballot certificate envelope

Choose a witness - Your vote must be witnessed by an adult U.S. citizen who isn't an election candidate. Witnesses don't see how you vote. In fact, they may observe through a window or over votes that, as long as they can sign your certificate envelope once it's complete.

Read the instructions - Be sure you understand Wisconsin guidelines for voting absentee by mail before you begin.

As you vote by absentee ballot

Take it slow - Fill your ballot out carefully, step by step. Write firmly and use a pen to make clear marks.

Get help with mistakes - If you change your mind about a selection or think you've made a mistake, don't try to white out or erase it. Contact your municipal clerk's office. They'll answer your questions or send you a replacement ballot, if necessary.

Review your choices - Think your absentee ballot is complete? Review your choices, then recheck and place it inside your certificate envelope.

Seal and fill out the envelope - Complete the voter certification section of your certificate envelope, then sign your name. Make sure your witness signs, too. They'll need to add their current address to the envelope as well.

→ **Step 4: Delivering your completed ballot**

Absentee ballots must arrive by 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted, so act early. That way you can be sure your vote reached the municipal clerk's office in time. But first you have to choose the right delivery method for you.

Mail it in. With your ballot's pre-addressed return certificate envelope, you don't even need stamps. The postage has already been paid.

Take your ballot to your municipal clerk's office through Election Day for the 2020 General Election, that's by 8 p.m. on Election Day, November 3.


Drop your completed absentee ballot off at your polling place or absentee ballot counting location by 8 p.m. on Election Day, October 27.

The U.S. Postal Service suggests mailing absentee ballots one week before Election Day. For the 2020 General Election, that's October 27.

Now that you know how to vote by absentee ballot, take the next step.

Find out how Wisconsin is working to make our elections accurate and secure, at home and at the polls. Visit elections.wis.gov/2020 to learn more about voting by absentee ballot today.

elections.wis.gov
1-866-868-3947




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Voter Information: Fact Sheets

ELECTION SECURITY 2020

How Wisconsin delivers accurate election results




From verifying each voter's eligibility to using a powerful statewide database that helps ensure there's only one ballot per voter, Wisconsin constantly works to protect the integrity of your local elections. Our highly trained election officials use a sophisticated mix of security measures and practical safeguards to make sure every legal vote is counted correctly—whether you cast your vote at the polls or by absentee ballot.

Visit elections.wi.gov or contact your municipal clerk's office to learn more about the security measures that protect election integrity in your community.

Here are just a few ways Wisconsin makes absentee voting in your community more accurate and secure:

- #1 Absentee voter info gets verified.**
Before they can request an absentee ballot, eligible voters must first register to vote. Their information and eligibility is double-checked before they receive a ballot.
- #2 There's just one ballot per voter.**
A powerful statewide database tracks every ballot and voter registration to help local clerks verify voter eligibility and ensure there's just one ballot per registered voter.
- #3 Absentee votes must be witnessed.**
For an absentee by mail ballot to be considered valid, absentee voters must have a witness—an adult U.S. citizen who can confirm the voter filled out their own ballot.
- #4 Ballots are securely stored and transported.**
Absentee ballots are carefully collected and securely stored until Election Day. There's a transparent chain of custody for every ballot and voting machine that Wisconsin uses.
- #5 Absentee ballots always get counted.**
Valid absentee ballots are always counted on Election Day, no matter if the race is tight or looks like a landslide.
- #6 We test and certify the voting equipment.**
Absentee ballots are usually counted on local voting machines that have been certified and then tested in public before every election, ensuring the equipment is accurate and in good working order.
- #7 Every vote has a paper trail.**
Wisconsin requires a paper record of every vote that's cast in our state, no matter what kind of ballot or voting equipment is used.
- #8 The public can observe the process.**
From voting machine testing to the counting of absentee ballots, members of the public are welcome to observe the election process alongside trained local election officials.
- #9 Election results are triple-checked.**
An election's vote total isn't official until it has been checked at the municipal level, double-checked by the county, and certified by the state.
- #10 Officials look for inaccuracies and illegal votes.**
Local election officials conduct two separate audits after Wisconsin elections to look for count inaccuracies and identify cases of vote irregularity or fraud.

elections.wi.gov
1-866-868-3947 | TTY 1-800-947-3529

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Social Media Posts


Awareness, Registration, How To, Sending, & Options for Voting




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Social Media Posts: Awareness

Why go to the polls to vote in the upcoming General Election? Learn how you can vote by absentee ballot in person or by mail.



You can vote absentee



Want to vote absentee by mail this General Election? You don't need a reason to request an absentee ballot. Learn more!



Vote absentee, no reason necessary



Every registered WI voter can request an absentee by mail ballot at myvote.wi.gov. Act now to vote at home in the General Election.



Registered? Vote by absentee ballot



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Social Media Posts: Register

Before you can vote by absentee ballot in the General Election, you must register to vote. Do it online at myvote.wi.gov by October 14.




Register to vote online



Want to vote by absentee ballot this election? Getting registered—even uploading a photo ID—is simple at myvote.wi.gov. Act by October 29.



Get registered to vote by absentee ballot



Are you sure you're registered to vote? Check your status at myvote.wi.gov. Online registration for the General Election ends October 14.



Voting? Register online by October 14



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Social Media Posts: Request

The first post features a blue mailbox icon and the text: "Vote absentee by mail this General Election! Request your absentee ballot right away at myvote.wi.gov. The deadline is October 29." The second post features a yellow house icon with a checkmark and the text: "Requesting an absentee ballot at myvote.wi.gov? Just confirm your name and address, select one or more elections, even upload an ID." The third post features a blue calendar icon with a checkmark and the text: "Don't wait until the October 29 deadline to request your General Election absentee ballot. Earlier is easier! Visit myvote.wi.gov now." Each post includes the Wisconsin Election Commission logo and a decorative border with stars and stripes.

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Social Media Posts: How-To

The first post features an illustration of diverse hands raised and the text: "Line up a witness before you vote absentee by mail. You'll need their signature. Learn more at elections.wi.gov/2020." The second post features an illustration of a ballot and the text: "Voting absentee by mail? Read the instructions, go slowly, and use a pen to make clear marks. Learn more at elections.wi.gov/2020." The third post features an illustration of a building labeled "CLERK" and the text: "If you change your mind or make a mistake while voting absentee by mail, contact your municipal clerk's office. They can help." Each post includes the Wisconsin Election Commission logo and a decorative border with stars and stripes.

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Social Media Posts: Send

Mailing in your absentee ballot is easy. Just remember to do it early!
Your ballot must arrive by Election Day to be counted.

Absentee ballots must arrive by Election Day

This social media post features a white background with a red and white striped banner at the top. It includes the Wisconsin State Seal logo, five blue stars, and a blue mailbox illustration.

Mailing in your absentee ballot? Don't wait! To arrive in time, USPS suggests mailing your General Election ballot by October 20.

Mail your absentee ballot by Oct. 27

This social media post features a white background with a red and white striped banner at the top. It includes the Wisconsin State Seal logo, five blue stars, and a blue calendar illustration with a red checkmark on the 27th.

You don't have to mail back your absentee ballot. Drop it off at your municipal clerk's office through Election Day instead.

Drop off your absentee ballot

This social media post features a white background with a red and white striped banner at the top. It includes the Wisconsin State Seal logo, five blue stars, and an orange door illustration labeled 'CLERK' with a ballot box icon.



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Social Media Posts: Options

Voting in the General Election? Choose the option that's right for you: at the polls or by absentee ballot, in person or by mail.

Voting? You have options

This social media post features a white background with a red and white striped banner at the top. It includes the Wisconsin State Seal logo, five blue stars, and illustrations of a blue mailbox, an orange door labeled 'CLERK', and a yellow 'VOTE HERE' sign.

Vote one of 3 ways on November 3: At the polls, with an absentee ballot by mail, or in person by absentee ballot at your clerk's office.

There are three ways to vote

This social media post features a white background with a red and white striped banner at the top. It includes the Wisconsin State Seal logo, five blue stars, and illustrations of a grey clerk's office building, a blue mailbox, and a yellow 'VOTE HERE' sign.

Want to vote at the polls for the General Election? Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Find your polling place at myvote.wi.gov today.

You can vote at the polls on November 3


This social media post features a white background with a red and white striped banner at the top. It includes the Wisconsin State Seal logo, five blue stars, and a yellow 'VOTE HERE' sign.




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Social Media Posts: Options

Cast your ballot before Election Day. Vote by absentee ballot in person at your municipal clerk's office. Visit myvote.wi.gov to find your clerk now.



Vote absentee at your clerk's office



No matter how you vote, vote safely. Learn more about your options, and our commitment to public health, at elections.wi.gov/covid-19.




Learn how to vote safely at the polls by visiting elections.wi.gov/covid-19



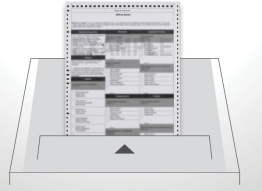
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Social Media Posts: Preparedness & Security

It doesn't matter whether the race is tight or looks like a landslide, valid absentee votes are always counted on Election Day. Find out how Wisconsin election security helps deliver results you can count on at elections.wi.gov/2020.



Absentee votes always count.



In Wisconsin, only registered voters can request an absentee ballot. To make sure only eligible voters receive absentee ballots, local clerks get alerted when voters pass away or become ineligible. Learn more at elections.wi.gov/2020.



Absentee voters get verified.



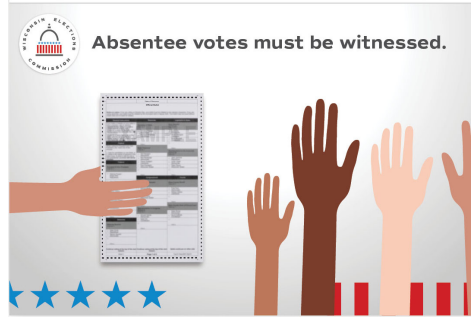

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Social Media Posts: Preparedness & Security

A powerful statewide voter database helps local clerks ensure there's just one ballot per voter, so people don't vote by absentee ballot and at the polls in the same election. Get the facts on Wisconsin election security at elections.wi.gov/2020.



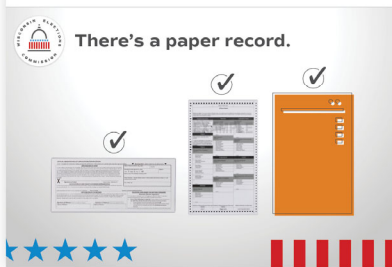
One safeguard against election fraud? Absentee voters must choose a witness—an adult U.S. citizen who can confirm the voter filled out their own ballot. Get the facts on Wisconsin election security at elections.wi.gov/2020.



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Social Media Posts: Preparedness & Security

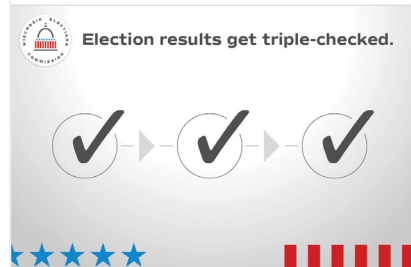
No matter how your vote is cast, Wisconsin requires a paper record that can be verified by hand. Find out how Wisconsin makes your local elections more secure at elections.wi.gov/2020.



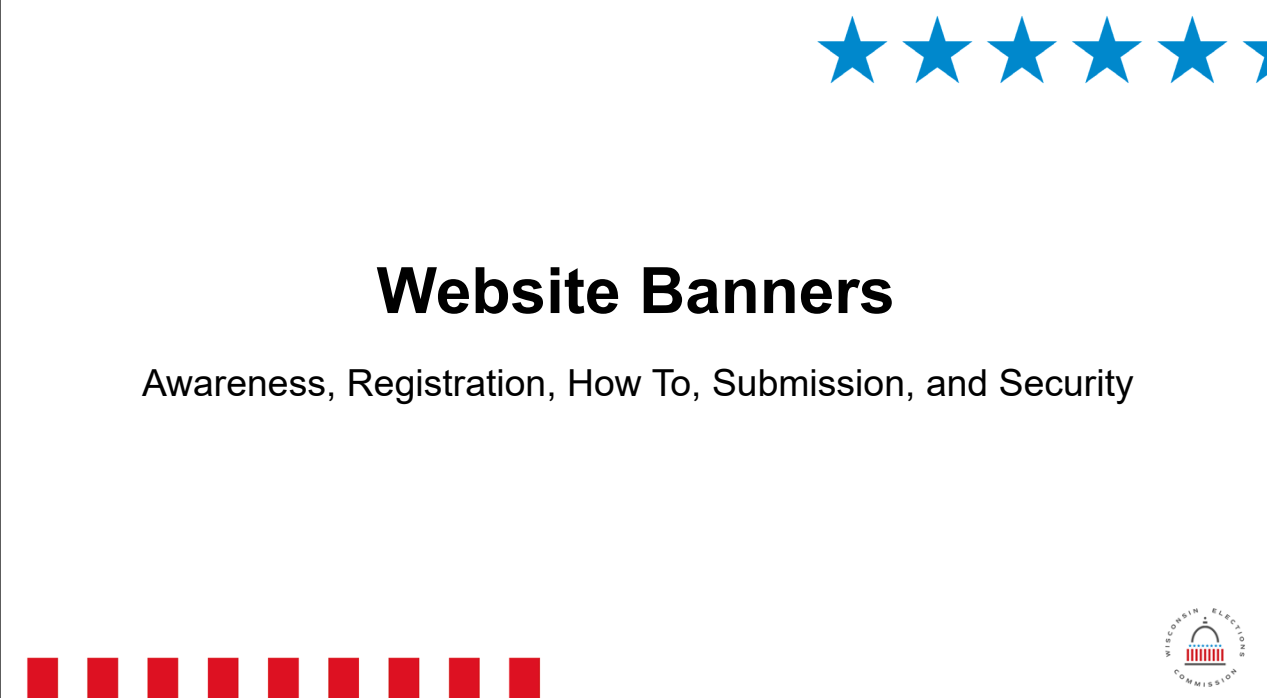
Wisconsin's election security efforts don't stop once the votes are counted. Election officials conduct two audits after every election to look for inaccuracies and identify cases of vote ineligibility or fraud. Learn more at elections.wi.gov/2020.



In Wisconsin, election results aren't official until they've been reviewed at the local level, double-checked by county officials, and certified by the state. Find out how Wisconsin delivers election results you can count on at elections.wi.gov/2020.




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Website Banners

Awareness, Registration, How To, Submission, and Security



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Banner Ads: Election Preparedness



IS WISCONSIN PREPARED FOR THE 2020 ELECTION?

Get the facts on Wisconsin election security

[Learn more](#)



IS WISCONSIN PREPARED FOR THE 2020 ELECTION?

Get the facts on Wisconsin election security [Learn more](#)



See how Wisconsin's prepared for the 2020 election. [Get the facts](#)



IS WISCONSIN PREPARED FOR THE 2020 ELECTION?

Get the facts on Wisconsin election security

[Learn more](#)



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Banner Ads: Voter Information

NEED HELP VOTING ABSENTEE BY MAIL?
Get absentee ballot info and tips.
[Don't wait](#)

NEED HELP VOTING ABSENTEE BY MAIL?
Get absentee ballot info and tips.
[Don't wait](#)

NEED HELP VOTING ABSENTEE BY MAIL?
Get absentee ballot info and tips. [Don't wait](#)

Get help voting absentee by mail. [Get tips](#)

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Banner Ads: Voter Eligibility

HOW DO THEY MAKE SURE EVERY VOTER'S ELIGIBLE?
Get the facts on Wisconsin election security [Learn more](#)

HOW DO THEY MAKE SURE EVERY VOTER'S ELIGIBLE?
Get the facts on Wisconsin election security [Learn more](#)

Voting by absentee ballot?
Register online! [Get the facts](#)

HOW DO THEY MAKE SURE EVERY VOTER'S ELIGIBLE?
Get the facts on Wisconsin election security [Learn more](#)

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Banner Ads: Register to Vote

The first banner features the MyVote Wisconsin logo on the left, followed by the text "VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT? REGISTER FIRST!" and "Register to vote online by Oct. 14" with a "Register online" button. The Wisconsin Election Commission logo is on the right.

The second banner has a vertical sidebar on the left with the text "VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT? REGISTER FIRST!" and "Register to vote online by Oct. 14" with a "Register online" button. The main area contains "VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT? REGISTER FIRST!" and "Register to vote online by Oct. 14" with a "Register online" button. Logos for MyVote Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Election Commission are also present.

The third banner features the text "Voting by absentee ballot? Register online! Act by Oct. 14" with a "Register online" button. It includes the Wisconsin Election Commission logo and the MyVote Wisconsin logo.

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Banner Ads: Requesting Absentee Ballot

The first banner features the MyVote Wisconsin logo on the left, followed by the text "VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?" and "Request a ballot online now" with a "Request your ballot" button. The Wisconsin Election Commission logo is on the right.

The second banner has a vertical sidebar on the left with the text "VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?" and "Request a ballot online now" with a "Request your ballot" button. The main area contains "VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?" and "Request a ballot online now" with a "Request your ballot" button. Logos for MyVote Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Election Commission are also present.

The third banner features the text "Request your absentee ballot online. Act now" with a "Request your ballot" button. It includes the Wisconsin Election Commission logo and the MyVote Wisconsin logo.

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Banner Ads: Submitting an Absentee Ballot

SEND IN YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT EARLY.
It must arrive by Nov. 3 to be counted. [See your options](#)

SEND IN YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT EARLY.
It must arrive by Nov. 3 to be counted. [See your options](#)

Send in your absentee ballot early. [See your options](#)

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Banner Ads: Election Security

HOW DOES WISCONSIN DELIVER ACCURATE ELECTIONS?
Get the facts on Wisconsin election security. [Learn more](#)

HOW DOES WISCONSIN DELIVER ACCURATE ELECTIONS?
Get the facts on Wisconsin election security. [Learn more](#)

See how Wisconsin delivers accurate elections. [Get the facts](#)

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Banner Ads: Election Security - Continued

HOW DO ABSENTEE VOTES GET COUNTED?
Get the facts on Wisconsin election security [Learn more](#)

HOW DO ABSENTEE VOTES GET COUNTED?
Get the facts on Wisconsin election security [Learn more](#)

HOW DO ABSENTEE VOTES GET COUNTED?
Get the facts on Wisconsin election security [Learn more](#)

See how Wisconsin's absentee votes get counted. [Get the facts](#)

Wisconsin Election Commission logo and MyVote Wisconsin logo are present throughout the ad.

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Banner Ads: Election Security - Continued

HOW DO THEY ENSURE JUST ONE BALLOT PER VOTER?
Get the facts on Wisconsin election security [Learn more](#)

HOW DO THEY ENSURE JUST ONE BALLOT PER VOTER?
Get the facts on Wisconsin election security [Learn more](#)

HOW DO THEY ENSURE JUST ONE BALLOT PER VOTER?
Get the facts on Wisconsin election security [Learn more](#)

See how Wisconsin ensures just one ballot per voter. [Get the facts](#)

Wisconsin Election Commission logo and MyVote Wisconsin logo are present throughout the ad.

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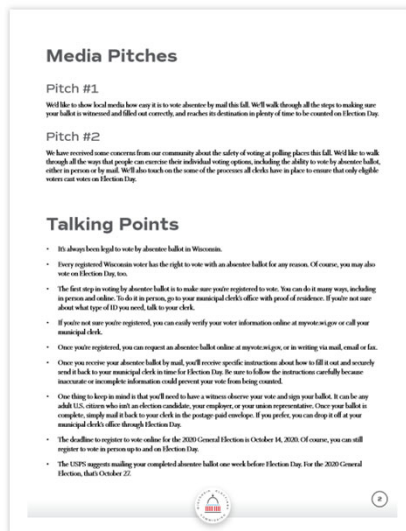
Earned Media Materials

Media Pitches, Talking Points, Media FAQs, Press Release,
& Article for Local Distribution



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Earned Media – Pitches & Talking Points



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Earned Media – Media FAQs

Media FAQs

Is the WEC requiring all Wisconsin voters to vote by absentee ballot this fall?

No, Wisconsin voters still have three options to vote under current law: voting at the polls on Election Day, voting absentee in person at the clerk's office or voting absentee by mail. Given the current public health threat due to COVID-19, we wanted to make sure that all eligible voters know about their options.

What are the rules about voting by absentee ballot?

By state law, absentee ballots cannot be sent automatically; each voter must request a ballot from their municipal clerk, either in person or by mail. State law also requires eligible voters to register to vote in Wisconsin before requesting an absentee ballot. Voters who request an absentee ballot by mail receive information about voting along with their absentee request form. All voters must submit a copy of their state-issued acceptable photo ID with their first by-mail request, with the exception of military and overseas voters, and the information is confidential.

How do I know my vote by absentee ballot will count?

To be counted, absentee ballots must be received by Election Day. The USPS suggests mailing your completed ballot at least one week before Election Day. For the November 3, 2020 General Election, that date would be October 27, 2020. After the election, voters can see how their vote was counted at vote.wis.gov, once Wisconsin voter participation records have been published.

Do absentee voters have to provide a photo ID just like voters at the polls?

Yes, with limited exceptions. Registered voters requesting an absentee ballot online can upload a picture or scan of their photo ID or signature page. Those making the request by mail must provide a physical copy of their photo ID – like a paper photocopy or photograph.

Wisconsin's photo ID law contains an exception for absentee voters who are indefinitely confined to their homes due to age, disability, illness or infirmity. This exception was designed for voters with disabilities, seniors and others who do not have access to an acceptable photo ID or whose photo ID may have expired, but it can also apply in other cases. For more information about limited exceptions to Wisconsin's photo ID law, visit legis.wis.gov.

Will absentee ballots have tracking barcodes on them?

No. The WEC will soon start using USPS Intelligent Mail Barcodes (IMB) for absentee ballot envelopes, not the ballots. IMBs will let voters and clerks track where a ballot is in the postal system as it travels from the clerk's office to the voter's home, just like they track packages from other senders.

Will people who are dead or who have moved get absentee ballots?

Absentee ballots are mailed to the address each registered voter provides when they make their request. If a person leaves their home or a different address during an upcoming election, it's important that they keep that in mind when making the request.

Every month the WEC gets death records from the State and helps local clerks remove those voters from the registration list. Additionally, the WEC's voters mailing list ensures that those who have not responded at a new address are notified that they have not moved and will not be eligible to vote. The same is true for other ineligible voters. Local election officials regularly review list maintenance updates and deactivate voters who are on felon status, have moved out of state, or are otherwise ineligible.

Will it cost more to have more people voting by absentee ballot?

If more people vote by absentee ballot, it's likely things like postage, extra help supplies and printing would be more expensive than if everyone used the polls on Election Day. At a time when we're still learning about COVID-19, more people voting by absentee ballot this spring, and we anticipate that will be the case this fall. We want to make sure everyone knows their voting options for the upcoming election.

The Wisconsin Election Commission received a \$71 million federal CARES Act grant designed to help cover unbudgeted election expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All 1,600 Wisconsin municipal clerks were able to apply for that grant to cover unbudgeted expenses due to the pandemic.



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Earned Media – Press Release

Press Release

Wisconsin Election Commission
State of Wisconsin
212 E. Washington Ave., Third Floor
Madison, WI 53703
election.wis.gov (608) 266-8005 <http://election.wis.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 20, 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Reid.Magnuson@wis.gov or 608.267.7887

Wisconsin Voting Deadlines and Facts for November 2020

MADISON, WI Wisconsin voters and election officials have plans in place for the Presidential Election on November 3, 2020.

"We want to make sure every voter who is eligible to vote this fall can do so safely and securely," said Megan Wolfe, administrator for the Wisconsin Election Commission. "We earned a great deal from our elections in April, May and August and believe we have solid plans in place for November."

Due to continuing concerns about COVID-19, the WEC is providing citizens with information about the various options for registered voters throughout the state to exercise their right to vote.

"We want citizens to choose the option for voting that works best for them. For voters who choose to vote absentee by mail, we want to be sure they have the information they need to navigate that process," said Wolfe. "Of course, every voter who is eligible to vote in the state can also vote only in person on Election Day."

Here are some key dates and facts to remember for the upcoming Presidential Election on November 3, 2020 – whether you're voting by absentee ballot or in person.

Now: You don't have to wait to register to vote or request an absentee ballot. Everything you need to know is online at election.wis.gov or by calling or visiting your local municipal clerk.

"If you're not registered, you can get registered online if you have a Wisconsin driver license or state ID card – just fill in a few pieces of information," said Wolfe. "If you are registered, you can request an absentee ballot and it will be mailed to your preferred address. Once it arrives, simply follow the instructions to make sure the ballot is filled out correctly and have an adult U.S. citizen witness your ballot. Then mail it back to the clerk in the postage-paid envelope."

For voters who are not comfortable with or do not have access to technology, an absentee request paper form will be their option. But for most voters, the MyVote website is the preferred way to make their absentee ballot request. It's also where voters can register to vote, find their polling place, view a sample ballot, or contact their municipal clerk to learn more about voting by absentee ballot in person and by mail.

Voters also have the option to drop their absentee ballots off in person on or before Election Day. "We recommend that if you'd prefer to vote from home this fall, you get your requests in as soon as possible to which will ensure you have enough time to receive and return your ballot and that local clerks have enough time to process your request," said Wolfe.

Early September 2020: On September 1, the WEC will be mailing information about voting in November to approximately 2.6 million registered Wisconsin voters who have not already requested an absentee ballot. The information packet will include an absentee request form and a postage-paid reply envelope. Wolfe encouraged voters who choose to vote absentee to request their ballot as soon as possible, whether online or by mail.

September 17, 2020: This is the deadline for Wisconsin's city, village and town clerks to mail absentee ballots for November 3 to registered voters with requests on file. At 47 days before the election, Wisconsin gives its voters significantly more time to receive and return their ballots than most other states.

October 14, 2020: Your last chance to register by mail or online. Visit election.wis.gov to complete the registration process in minutes or find your municipal clerk's mailing address.

October 15 to November 1, 2020: During this closed registration period, you must register to vote in your municipal clerk's office or at a satellite voting location run by your municipal clerk.

October 20, 2020: The first day that municipal clerks may offer in-person absentee voting in their office or a satellite location. Start dates and office hours vary by municipality. Please visit election.wis.gov to find your municipal clerk office's contact information and learn more about absentee voting in person for the upcoming election.

October 22, 2020: Practical deadline for voters to return their mail absentee ballots to their municipal clerk's office. The US Postal Service recommends allowing one week for your completed absentee ballot to be delivered to your municipal clerk's office. After this date, voters should find other options for returning their absentee ballot, which include delivering it to their municipal clerk's office or a secure drop box if one is provided by their clerk. Most voters can also deliver their ballot to their polling place by 8 p.m. on Election Day, but there are some exceptions. (See below.)

October 29, 2020: The legal deadline for most voters to request an absentee ballot by mail. Wolfe said it is unrealistic for any voter to wait this late to request an absentee ballot and expect to receive it in time to return it by Election Day to be counted.

October 30, 2020: Final day to register to vote at your municipal clerk's office. Visit election.wis.gov to find your local clerk's contact information and hours of operation.

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November 3, 2020: Election Day. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and voters who are returning an absentee ballot to their polling place must get it there by 8 p.m. However, there are 15 municipalities including Milwaukee and Green Bay that count absentee ballots at a central location. Voters in these cities, villages and towns should check with their municipal clerk about where to return their ballots on Election Day. A list of central count municipalities is available here: <http://election.wis.gov> and <http://election.wis.gov>.

The Wisconsin Election Commission is responsible for administration and enforcement of election laws in Wisconsin. The Commission is made up of a Commissioner – last appointed directly by the State Senate Majority Leader, Speaker of the Assembly and the Minority Leaders in the State Senate and Assembly. The remaining five Commissioners are by the Governor with confirmation by the State Senate from lists of former municipal and county clerks submitted by the legislative leadership in each party.



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Earned Media – Article for Local Distribution

Article for Local Distribution

One Vote Per Person. That's the Wisconsin Way.

As Wisconsin plans for the fall elections, the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) and clerks around the state are getting questions about ballot security and election accuracy. With more and more people considering voting by absentee ballot, it's important to make sure everyone is confident that their vote will count—and that no one who is not supposed to vote in Wisconsin will be allowed to cast a vote.

"When we did research last winter, we discovered that a few areas of the state were concerned about potential fraud or other security issues," said Meagan Wolfe, WEC Administrator. "We are proud of Wisconsin's clean record on voter fraud. It's the result of dedicated, state-of-the-art election security efforts, and it's verified by statewide fraud audits that take place after each election."

Wisconsin has many processes in place to verify each ballot that is issued and that each vote is legitimate. And with every single vote, whether someone votes absentee in person or by mail, there is a paper trail for additional review and verification. Wolfe went through some of the processes that are in place at WEC and in municipalities around the state to guarantee a safe and secure voting process.

"Whether you vote at the polls or submit an absentee ballot by mail or in person, all voters must prove they're eligible to vote," continues Wolfe. "Wisconsin officials rigorously check each voter's eligibility. There are five different comparison points that are used to verify a person's identity, comparing them to records at the Department of Transportation. No matter how our citizens cast their votes, the process is secure and accurate."

Absentee ballots aren't counted until election day. They are securely transported to polling places or, in some communities, a central counting location, on Election Day. Officials keep a record of the chain of custody from Point A to Point B to reduce chances of interference.

To ensure consistent count results, absentee ballots processed at polling places are counted with the same tested, certified and tamper-evident voting equipment used to count ballots cast on Election Day. These machines must be publicly tested in advance of each election. At central counting locations, certified and tested high-speed tabulators are often used.

Another protection that Wisconsin has in place? Election observers can be on-hand to watch the entire process, including documenting the official vote totals before they're transmitted to the county clerk's office. "Plus, Wisconsin's election results are triple-checked. An election's vote total isn't official until it has been checked at the municipal level, double-checked by the county and certified by the state," said Wolfe.

Voting by absentee ballot in Wisconsin is secure and accurate. The election security measures that are in place to verify identities for in-person voting are followed to the letter for absentee voting by mail, too. And with a global health emergency, it's reassuring to know that Wisconsin citizens will have voting options this fall that can help keep them safe.

Visit elections.wi.gov/2020 to learn more.



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Educational Videos

Absentee Voting Process



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Educational Videos

Video 1: What Is Voting by Absentee?



Video 2: How to Obtain an Absentee Ballot



Video 3: How to Fill out Your Absentee Ballot



Video 4: Options for Turning In Your Absentee Ballot



Video 5: Counting Absentee Ballots



Video 6: Ensuring Ballots are Counted Accurately



Website Updates

WEC & MyVote



Website Updates elections.wi.gov/2020 (live)



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- Public Records
- Publications
- Statistics
- Training

Upcoming Elections

2020 General Election November 3, 2020 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Upcoming Events

Special Candidates Meeting

Wisconsin Election Commission December 2020 Meeting

10/14/2020

Voting By Absentee Ballot

You don't have to leave your polling place on election day to vote. In Wisconsin, voters have many ways and means to participate in elections – including voting by absentee ballot. With absentee voting, you can vote early at your municipal clerk's office before Election Day, or receive your ballot by mail and either return it to your municipal clerk's office or drop it off at your clerk's office or polling place on election morning.

Voting by absentee ballot is a convenient way to take part in the voting process. Find your municipal clerk's office to learn about the in-person absentee voting hours and locations in your community. Download a voting absentee by mail? To get started, you'll need information about how to fill out your ballot, and especially, not an absentee vote.

COMING SOON - VIDEO: WHAT IS ABSENTEE VOTING

How To Request an Absentee Ballot

You don't need a reason to be an absentee voter. Every registered Wisconsin voter has the ability to request an absentee ballot. But before you can do that, you have to be registered to vote.

COMING SOON - VIDEO PLAYER: HOW TO GET AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

Download the Requesting an Absentee Ballot Fact Sheet

Step 1: Make sure you're registered to vote

You can register by mail or in person at your municipal clerk's office. You can also register online at myvote.wi.gov. Depending on how you register, you may need to show a proof of residence document.

Step 2: Fill out your ballot

Once you're registered, it's a good idea to check your status and make sure your name and address are up to date. Most registered voters will need to provide an acceptable photo ID when they request an absentee ballot. You request your ballot early online, especially if you can locate your

Don't miss out. There are different deadlines for registering to vote in person, by mail, or online in Wisconsin. Make sure you know the different registration deadlines for your General Election. You can always register at your polling place on Election Day.



Visit MyVote.wi.gov for more information about this



Visit [Bring It to the Ballot](http://BringIttotheBallot.com) for information about Wisconsin

Step 2: Request your absentee ballot

Interested in voting absentee by mail? Request your absentee ballot in minutes at myvote.wi.gov. You can also request a ballot by sending an absentee ballot request form to your municipal clerk's office. Most voters will need to provide an acceptable photo ID when they request an absentee ballot. It's easy to do online, especially if you use a mobile device.

Act early: It takes Wisconsin time to process voter requests and mail out ballots. Don't wait until the General Election deadlines to request your absentee ballot.

Request an Absentee Ballot

How To Submit Your Absentee Ballot

Deciding to vote absentee by mail doesn't mean you're on your own. Through Election Day, local municipal clerk's office staff are available to help you securely fill out and submit your absentee ballot in time to be counted in Wisconsin's upcoming election.

COMING SOON - VIDEO PLAYER: FILLING OUT AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

COMING SOON - VIDEO PLAYER: TURNING IN AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

Download the Submitting a Valid Absentee Ballot Fact Sheet

Step 3: Filling out your absentee ballot

Before you begin voting absentee by mail, line up a witness who can verify that you filled out your own ballot. Choose an adult U.S. citizen who is not a candidate in the upcoming election. A witness shouldn't see how you vote that person. They can observe at a distance – from across the room, through a window, or even over video chat – as long as they can sign your ballot certificate themselves once it's complete.

Fill out your ballot carefully. If you make a mistake or change your mind about a selection, contact your municipal clerk's office for help. Once your ballot is complete, place it in the certified envelope. Then seal and sign the certificate envelope, and make sure your witness adds their address and signature, too.

Step 4: Delivering your completed ballot

If you vote absentee by mail, there are three different ways you can return your completed absentee ballot. You can mail it back using the addressed, postage-paid envelope included with your ballot packet. You can drop it off at your municipal clerk's office. Voters can even take their completed absentee ballot to their polling place or absentee counting location by 8 p.m. on Election Day. Voters should follow the specific return instructions included with their absentee ballot.

Visit myvote.wi.gov to find your polling place or contact your municipal clerk's office to learn more about their hours of operation and other secure drop-off locations in your community.



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Website Updates myvote.wi.gov – Absentee Voting landing page (to come)



MyVote Wisconsin

Search by Name Search by Address

My Voter Info Find My Polling Place Update My Name or Address Register To Vote Vote Absentee

HOW TO VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL

How to Vote Absentee

Request a Ballot

Need Assistance?

Need Statistics, Election

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REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

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COMING SOON - VIDEO: WHAT IS ABSENTEE VOTING

Download the Requesting an Absentee Ballot Fact Sheet

Step 2: Track Your Request and Ballot

Once you're registered, it's a good idea to check your status and make sure your name and address are up to date. Most registered voters will need to provide an acceptable photo ID when they request an absentee ballot. You request your ballot early online, especially if you can locate your

Don't miss out. There are different deadlines for registering to vote in person, by mail, or online in Wisconsin. Make sure you know the different registration deadlines for your General Election. You can always register at your polling place on Election Day.

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Visit myvote.wi.gov to find your polling place or contact your municipal clerk's office to learn more about their hours of operation and other secure drop-off locations in your community.

Need Assistance?

For more information, call 1-800-868-7877 or 1-800-868-7877. For more information, call 1-800-868-7877.

2020 General Election Absentee Voting Deadlines

Request an Absentee Ballot (Regular and Permanent Overseas Voting)

By October 28, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Request an Absentee Ballot (Outstanding Certificate)

By October 30, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Vote In-Person Absentee

Beginning October 22, 2020 (through) through November 1, 2020

Request an Absentee Ballot (Hospitalized Voters and Military Voters)

By November 1, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Return Your Absentee Ballot

By November 3, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.

Step 4: Return Your Absentee Ballot

Mail it back using the pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope included with your ballot packet. UPI's recommendation: mailing your ballot back at least 4 days before Election Day. Once your ballot is in the mail, you may not vote in person at the polls. Note: your completed ballot may be returned by tracking your ballot.

Track Your Ballot

If you have not yet received or mailed your absentee ballot by October 22, complete these alternative return options:

Go to your clerk's office to drop off your ballot or vote in person absentee. Your vote might arrive at your polling place. Follow all appointment, or other voter in-person absentee voting protocols. See your local library.

Drop Your Ballot

Take to your assigned polling place or absentee counting location on Election Day.

Find My Polling Place

Watch "How to Request an Absentee Ballot"

Download Certificate - To Download

Watch "How to Fill Out Your Ballot"

Download Certificate - To Download

Watch "What is Absentee Voting?"

Download Certificate - To Download

MyVote is available in both English and Spanish. Please select your preferred language. MyVote will display in English if English. For more information, please contact us.



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Additional Resources

- Elections Security Communications Guide
- Bring It to the Ballot
 - Photo ID resources
 - bringit.wi.gov



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Publishing Recommendations



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2020 General Election Deadlines

Early September 2020	On September 1, the WEC will be mailing information about voting in November to approximately 2.6 million registered Wisconsin voters who have not already requested an absentee ballot. The information packet will include an absentee request form and a postage-paid reply envelope. Wolfe encouraged voters who choose to vote absentee to request their ballot as soon as possible, whether online or by mail.
September 17, 2020	This is the deadline for Wisconsin's city, village and town clerks to mail absentee ballots for November 3 to registered voters with requests on file. At 47 days before the election, Wisconsin gives its voters significantly more time to receive and return their ballots than most other states.
October 14, 2020	Your last chance to register by mail or online. Visit https://myvote.wi.gov to complete the registration process in minutes or find your municipal clerk's mailing address.
October 15 to November 1, 2020	During this closed registration period, you must register to vote in your municipal clerk's office or at a satellite voting location run by your municipal clerk.
October 20, 2020	The first day that municipal clerks may offer in-person absentee voting in their office or a satellite location. Start dates and office hours vary by municipality. Please visit https://myvote.wi.gov to find your municipal clerk office's contact information and learn more about absentee voting in-person for the upcoming election.
October 27, 2020	Practical deadline for voters to return their mail absentee ballots to their municipal clerk's office. The US Postal Service recommends allowing one week for your completed absentee ballot to be delivered to your municipal clerk's office. After this date, voters should find other options for returning their absentee ballot, which include delivering it to their municipal clerk's office or a secure drop box if one is provided by their clerk. Most voters can also deliver their ballot to their polling place by 8 p.m. on Election Day, but there are some exceptions. (See below.)
October 29, 2020	The legal deadline for most voters to request an absentee ballot by mail. Wolfe said it is unrealistic for any voter to wait this late to request an absentee ballot and expect to receive it in time to return it by Election Day to be counted.
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Publishing Calendar

- WEC will be providing a content publishing calendar that provides direction on when to post each week leading up to the General Election, along with recommended options from the toolkit materials to choose from.
 - Tip: Studies have shown that the best time to post on Facebook are weekdays from late morning through the early afternoon (11am-2pm). For Twitter, weekday mornings tend to earn the most reach.
- Try to publish materials as they correspond with upcoming deadlines, while mixing in content about overall election preparedness and security to balance out what you're publishing.



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Social Media Interaction – Best Practices

- Positive Comments
 - If a user leaves a positive comment on your post, feel free to “like” their comment. In some circumstances, you might want to respond with something simple like “Thank you!”
- Inappropriate Comments
 - If a user leaves an inappropriate or offensive comment delete the comment from your post, if possible. You can also report the comment if it’s in violation of any security regulations.
 - Facebook: you can hide or delete comments from other users on your posts
 - Twitter: you cannot delete comments from other users
- Negative Comments
 - If a user leaves a comment that isn’t inappropriate but is negative in tone, do not engage unless you are able to help assist the user (i.e. if they are frustrated or confused about something in the voting process that you can help them with).
- Questions/Help
 - If a user comments with a question about an upcoming election or needs assistance in the voting process, respond to their comment and direct them to the appropriate information/resource (website, phone number, etc.). Be clear and concise in your response to help alleviate any confusion or frustration.
 - If the question/problem is complex or difficult to answer, consider privately messaging the user to provide further assistance.



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Where to find these resources

<https://elections.wi.gov/clerks/voter-outreach>



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