

Absentee Voting Data 2016-2020

This reflects data in agency systems as of May 7, 2020. While most clerks have completed data entry for the April 2020 election, some jurisdictions continue to record or revise data. Older data used different reporting conventions and terminology; therefore, the contents of some data fields may differ when comparing information from different years.

April 7, 2020 - All Ballots

Ballot Status	Ballot Count	% of Ballots
Total Ballots Counted ¹	1,555,263	100.00%
Ballots Cast In Person	395,463	25.4%
Ballots Cast Absentee	1,159,800	74.6%

April 7, 2020 - Absentee Ballots

Ballot Status	Absentee Ballot Count	% of Ballots
Total Absentee Ballots Sent	1,303,985	100.00%
Absentee Ballots Returned and Counted	1,159,800	88.9%
Absentee Ballots Returned and Rejected – After 4/13	2,659	0.20%
Absentee Ballots Returned and Rejected - Other	20,537	1.57%
Absentee Ballots Not Returned	120,989	9.27%

April 2, 2019 - All Ballots

Ballot Status	Ballot Count	% of Ballots
Total Ballots Counted	1,207,569	100.00%
Ballots Cast In Person	1,061,465	87.90%
Ballots Cast Absentee	146,104	12.10%

April 2, 2019 - Absentee Ballots

Ballot Status	Absentee Ballot Count	% of Ballots
Total Absentee Ballots Sent	166,846	100.00%
Absentee Ballots Returned and Counted	146,104	87.57%
Absentee Ballots Returned and Rejected - Other	2,492	1.49%
Absentee Ballots Not Returned	18,250	10.94%

¹ An additional 21,301 absentee ballot records were created by clerks but deactivated for administrative reasons (e.g. clerk error, voter error, voter request, voter refused, etc.). This represents approximately 1.6% of the total absentee ballot records. Since 2016, the median rate of administrative cancellations is approximately 2.3% of the total absentee ballot records created, with a range of 1.1% (November 2018) to 4.0% (April 2016).

November 6, 2018 - All Ballots

Ballot Status	Ballot Count	% of Ballots
Total Ballots Counted	2,673,308	100.00%
Ballots Cast In Person	2,094,208	78.34%
Ballots Cast Absentee	579,100	21.66%

November 6, 2018 - Absentee Ballots

Ballot Status	Absentee Ballot Count	% of Ballots
Total Absentee Ballots Sent	595,914	100.00%
Absentee Ballots Returned and Counted	579,100	97.17%
Absentee Ballots Returned and Rejected - All Causes	1,379	0.23%
Absentee Ballots Not Returned	15,435	2.59%

April 3, 2018 - All Ballots

Ballot Status	Ballot Count	% of Ballots
Total Ballots Counted	997,485	100.00%
Ballots Cast In Person	888,715	89.09%
Ballots Cast Absentee	108,770	10.90%

April 3, 2018 - Absentee Ballots

Ballot Status	Absentee Ballot Count	% of Ballots
Total Absentee Ballots Sent	125,936	100.00%
Absentee Ballots Returned and Counted	108,770	86.37%
Absentee Ballots Returned and Rejected - All Causes	2,845	2.26%
Absentee Ballots Not Returned	14,321	11.37%

April 4, 2017- All Ballots

Ballot Status	Ballot Count	% of Ballots
Total Ballots Counted	708,711	100.00%
Ballots Cast In Person	629,649	88.84%
Ballots Cast Absentee	79,062	11.16%

April 4, 2017 - Absentee Ballots

Ballot Status	Absentee Ballot Count	% of Ballots
Total Absentee Ballots Sent	100,249	100.00%
Absentee Ballots Returned and Counted	79,062	77.88%
Absentee Ballots Returned and Rejected - All Causes	1,982	1.95%
Absentee Ballots Not Returned	19,205	18.91%

November 8, 2016 - All Ballots

Ballot Status	Ballot Count	% of Ballots
Total Ballots Counted	3,004,051	100.00%
Ballots Cast In Person	2,184,735	72.72%
Ballots Cast Absentee	819,316	27.27%

November 8, 2016 - Absentee Ballots

Ballot Status	Absentee Ballot Count	% of Ballots
Total Absentee Ballots Sent	845,243	100.00%
Absentee Ballots Returned and Counted	819,316	96.93%
Absentee Ballots Returned and Rejected - All Causes	11,447	1.35%
Absentee Ballots Not Returned	14,480	1.71%

April 5, 2016 - All Ballots

Ballot Status	Ballot Count	% of Ballots
Total Ballots Counted	2,113,544	100.00%
Ballots Cast In Person	1,898,891	89.84%
Ballots Cast Absentee	214,653	10.15%

April 5, 2016 - Absentee Ballots

Ballot Status	Absentee Ballot Count	% of Ballots
Total Absentee Ballots Sent	233,073	100.00%
Absentee Ballots Returned and Counted	214,653	92.10%
Absentee Ballots Returned and Rejected - All Causes	5,860	2.51%
Absentee Ballots Not Returned	12,560	5.39%

Absentee Voting by Method 2016-2020 (Amended 9/23/2020)

	4/5/2016	11/8/2016	4/4/2017	4/3/2018	11/6/2018	4/2/2019	4/7/2020
Total Ballots	2113544	3004051	708711	997485	2673308	1207569	1555263
Absentee Ballots	214653	819316	79062	108770	579100	146104	1159800
Absentee In Person	43911	674514	30380	55457	413882	80577	195367
Absentee By Mail	170742	144802	48682	53313	165218	65527	964433

2020 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote Absentee Ballot Status

The data below is entirely dependent upon manual data entry by 1,850 jurisdictions throughout the State of Wisconsin. Most clerks have completed recording participation and are now performing reconciliation tasks to correct errors. After initially recording data, the system also runs a reconciliation audit where it compares related numbers and flags anomalies; therefore, the numbers below will change as clerks enter data and as they complete the reconciliation process.

In addition, clerks have the option to choose from a variety of predefined ballot status types and sometimes interpret ballot status definitions differently. This was particularly relevant to the April 7, 2020 election, since the normal statutory deadlines associated with absentee ballot return did not apply. For example, the status “Ballot Not Returned by Deadline” is sometimes used by clerks to mean different things. In this case, some clerks interpreted the status to mean ballots not postmarked by April 7th, while others interpreted it as ballots not returned by April 13th. Still others thought it meant any ballots that have not been returned to the clerk. The reconciliation process allows clerks the opportunity to revise figures using uniform definitions, thus we can expect the figures to continue changing slightly in the future.

Type	Ballot Status Reason	Absentee Ballot Count	% of Ballots
Returned Ballots	Ballot Returned and Counted	1,159,800	88.94%
	Rejected - Certification Insufficient	14,042	1.08%
	Rejected - Postmarked After Election Day	5,526	0.42%
	Rejected - Ballot Not Returned by 4:00 pm April 13 th Deadline ¹	2,659	0.20%
	Rejected - Superseding Ballot Returned	795	0.06%
	Rejected - Certificate Envelope Compromised ²	98	0.01%
	Rejected - Voter Deceased Before Election Day	25	0.00%
	Rejected - Voter Ineligible	31	0.00%
	Rejected – Other	20	0.00%
Unreturned Ballots	Ballot Not Returned	120,989	9.28%
Admin Action	Request Cancelled by Clerk	10,563	n/a
	Request Cancelled by Voter	10,185	n/a
	Ballot Returned Undeliverable	4,960	n/a
	Voter Refused Ballot from SVD ³	301	n/a
	Voter Ineligible to Receive Ballot	252	n/a

Since the April 17, 2020 report, most figures increased as clerks continued entering data. Three fields declined:

1. *Rejected – Ballot Not Returned by 4:00 p.m. April 13th Deadline.* (Previous figure 4,678) This field previously included some ballots that were not returned at all and should have been documented as “Ballot Not Returned.” The new figure more accurately reflects ballots that were returned to clerks but arrived late.
2. *Rejected – Certificate Envelope Compromised.* (Previous figure 229) This field previously included ballots listed as pending rejection by the Board of Canvassers. The lower number indicates that Boards of Canvassers decided to accept some ballots after assessing the reported damage to the certificate envelope.
3. *Voter Refused Ballot from SVD.* (Previous figure 304) This figure appears to have been revised to correct a data entry error.