



Wisconsin Elections Commission

Elections and Coronavirus COVID-19

July 15, 2020

Elections and Coronavirus COVID-19

Agenda

- ▶ Supplies & Staffing
- ▶ Safety Procedures at the Polls
- ▶ Drive-Through, Outdoor & Curbside Voting
- ▶ Training Resources
- ▶ CARES Act Subgrant
- ▶ 7th Circuit Court of Appeals Decision

Agenda

Supplies & Staffing



▶ Supplies

- Supplies for both August and November elections will include disinfectant, isopropyl wipes (for equipment), procedural masks, gloves (if requested).
- Will be received by county clerks by July 31 for distribution to municipalities.

▶ Staffing

- Do not rely on National Guard as a resource
- “Be a Poll Worker” on MyVote website
- WEC (with the help of EOC) will reach out to volunteer organizations: Colleges, public schools, United Way, Salvation Army, State of Wisconsin
- Possible local options: press releases, message boards, newsletters, etc. (how do you reach your communities now?)
- If possible, alert county clerk to critical poll worker shortages – may also contact WEC

Supplies & Staffing

Safety Procedures at the Polls



- ▶ We are not public health officials – we are election officials
- ▶ The options outlined in this webinar are not universal and clerks should adapt these procedures so they will work with available polling places and resources.
- ▶ Have questions about safety procedures - reach out to WEC

Safety Procedures at the Polls

Safety Procedures at the Polls: Overall Precautions



- ▶ Wash hands frequently or use hand sanitizer
- ▶ Incorporate social distancing of at least 6 feet when possible
- ▶ If you are showing symptoms of COVID-19, do not report to your office or polling place if on Election Day
- ▶ COVID-19 is an ever-evolving situation. The WEC will provide public health guidance as it becomes available

Safety Procedures at the Polls: Overall Precautions

Safety Procedures at the Polls: Voters



- ▶ Voters should clean their hands using soap and water (or hand sanitizer) upon entering and leaving the voting area.
- ▶ Utilize poll workers or election helpers to assist voters with proper hand hygiene. Direct them to hand washing stations/assist with sanitizing spray.
- ▶ If possible, have open doors and windows to limit cross contamination in the voting area.

Safety Procedures at the Polls - Voting

Safety Procedures at the Polls: Line Management



- ▶ Direct voters to the correct lines
- ▶ Manage social distancing inside and outside the voting area
 - Voters should be kept at least 6 feet apart
 - Voters can be staggered to limit the number of the number of voters in a facility or voting area at the same time
- ▶ Utilize election inspectors or helpers to assist with line management and ensure the voting process is as efficient as possible

Safety Procedures at the Polls – Line Management

Safety Procedures at the Polls: Sanitizing



- ▶ Remember to sanitize frequently touched surfaces
 - Tables, door handles, voting booths, clipboards, etc.
- ▶ Voting Equipment
 - All vendors recommend the frequent cleanings of touched surfaces (every 15 minutes, if not after each use)
 - Isopropyl alcohol (70% or higher) can be used on non-screen areas
 - Contact the voting equipment vendor for specific guidelines on cleaning the voting equipment screens
- ▶ Offer one-use pens or have a plan to sanitize pens after each use

Safety Procedures at the Polls - Sanitizing

Drive-Through, Outdoor & Curbside Voting

Drive-Through/ Outdoor Voting

- Any voter can participate.
- Requires voter to sign poll book.
- Must still have accessible voting machine access for voters.

Curbside Voting

- Statutorily required to offer.
- Reserved for voters with disabilities or active COVID-19 symptoms.
- Curbside voters do not sign the poll book and instead a poll worker writes "Exempt" in the signature box.

Drive-Through, Outdoor and Curbside Voting

Drive-Through or Outdoor Voting

- ▶ Following the same procedures as you would with a “brick and mortar” polling location.
- ▶ All voters must still sign the poll book.
- ▶ As a best practice:
 - Have back-up plans for bad weather.
 - Publicize changes to the process.
 - Have a location for voter registration.
 - Consider security envelopes to maintain ballot privacy.
 - You must have a location(s) for observers.
 - If outdoors, choose a firm, stable ground, such as a parking lot or paved patio (not grass).
- ▶ An accessible voting machine is still required.

Drive-Through or Outdoor Voting

Curbside Voting Process



- ▶ Voters who are unable to enter the polling place because of a disability are entitled to curbside vote.
- ▶ There should be a procedure for voters to access curbside voting.
 - Signage – “Honk for Curbside Voting” or “Call Phone # for Assistance”
 - Having a greeter stationed in the parking lot outside looking for voters needing assistance
- ▶ Do **not** remove the poll book from the voting area.
- ▶ If having 2 inspectors leave the polling place results in less than 3 inspectors remaining in the polling place, voting must pause until the inspectors return.

Curbside Voting Process

Order Curbside Voting Supplies

- ▶ Visit: elections.wi.gov/clerks/guidance/accessibility/new-polling-place to order curbside voting signage, wireless doorbells, and other accessibility supplies.

Order Curbside Voting Supplies

Training Resources



- ▶ **New Chief Inspectors/Poll Workers**
 - The two-hour Baseline CIT class is available on the main website and the TLC.
 - Clerks can also use portions of the Baseline class to train poll workers on specific election tasks.

- ▶ **Continuing Education**
 - New EA webinar schedule
 - Training agendas

- ▶ **Public Health Guidance**
 - Poll Worker Training Video: recommended best practices

Training Resources

CARES Act Subgrant Overview



The purpose of this award is to “prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, for the 2020 Federal election cycle.”

- ▶ Grant program to municipalities was approved May 27 by the Commission
- ▶ Funds to help prepare for the August and November elections in 2020
- ▶ Requires a formal electronic agreement that must be returned no later than September 1, 2020
- ▶ Unused funds will need to be returned

CARES Act Subgrant - Overview

CARES Act Subgrant Allocation Formula



Allocated funds = \$200 + \$1.10/registered voter

Example:

Registered voters = 1,000

$\$200 + (\$1.10 \times 1,000) = \$1,300.00$

CARES Act Subgrant – Allocation Formula

CARES Act Subgrant

Allowable Expenditures



Pandemic-Related Covered Expenses:

- ▶ Ballots/Ballot Supplies/Printing/Postage
- ▶ Cleaning/PPE
- ▶ Staffing
- ▶ Public Communications
- ▶ Absentee Ballot Drop-Boxes
- ▶ Space Leasing/Polling Place Relocation
- ▶ Equipment

CARES Act Subgrant – Allowable Expenditures

CARES Act Subgrant Deadlines



- 1) **Application Deadline:** September 1, 2020
- 2) **Check-In Report:** Must be sent to WEC by September 15, 2020
 - Document election expenditures related to COVID-19 Pandemic from January 20, 2020 - September 1, 2020
 - Utilize the same form as final report
- 3) **Final Report:** Must be sent to WEC by December 1, 2020
 - Document election expenditures related to COVID-19 Pandemic from January 20, 2020 - November 30, 2020
 - Maintain documentation until December 31, 2024

CARES Act Subgrant - Deadlines

7th District Court of Appeals Decision



- ▶ 7th District Court Ruling in One Wisconsin Institute case - NOT YET IN EFFECT
 - WI DOJ issued guidance that the ruling is not in effect until the Court issues a written mandate. The mandate is expected on or around July 21, 2020, but there is no guarantee.
 - ▶ Impact:
 - In-Person Absentee Voting – clerks can continue to offer in-person absentee voting in their office and other designated locations
 - Voter Residency – residency is established 10 days before an election.
 - Email/Faxed Ballots – clerks can email and fax ballots to regular voters who request that delivery method.
- Student IDs – under review

7th District Appeals Court Decision



Questions?

Questions?



Thank You!

Questions?

Email: elections@wi.gov

Elections Helpdesk: 608-261-2028

Thank You!