

# Partisan Primary Election Updates

Circuit Court Ruling & COVID-19  
Q&A Session

August 4, 2020

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## Introductions

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Agenda

- OWI Case
- Quick Re-cap on COVID-19
- Resources Available
- Updates & Recommendations

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# The *One Wisconsin Institute* Court Case and Appeal:

The 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals has issued their ruling in this case and filed the mandate, so most changes ordered by the court are effective immediately

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## *One Wisconsin Institute:* 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Decision Background

June 29, 2020 – 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals issued its ruling in *OWI* that has been on appeal since 2016

July 2, 2020 – WEC provided further guidance that the WI DOJ determined decision was not in effect until mandate was issued

July 29, 2020 – Mandate Issued and most aspects of ruling are now in effect and should be applied to deadlines and procedures for August 11, 2020 Partisan Primary and all future elections

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**OWI Case –  
Effective  
Immediately!**

### **In-person Absentee Voting:**

No earlier than 14 days prior to election day, ending no later than Sunday prior

No maximum or minimum hours

Clerks must still offer in-person absentee hours, even if by appointment only

There is no limit on in-person absentee voting sites

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**OWI Case –  
Effective  
Immediately!**

**Voter Residency:**

Voter must reside at current address for 28 consecutive days prior to election day

If a voter does not meet this requirement, they can participate at their former address

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**OWI Case –  
Effective  
Immediately!**

**Electronic Ballot Delivery:**

Only military and overseas voters (temporary and permanent) may receive ballots by fax or email

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## OWI Case – Effective Immediately!

### Student ID as Photo ID:

The Court ruled that a voter with an unexpired ID card did not also have to provide proof of enrollment in order to meet the photo ID requirement

If the voter has an expired student ID, they can provide a proof of enrollment document and that combination will satisfy the photo ID requirement

Student ID Expired?	Proof of Enrollment?	Does this work as photo ID?
No	Not necessary	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	No	No

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## OWI Case – Effective Immediately!

### College or University Housing List as Proof of Residence:

Certified housing lists do not need to contain citizenship status and may be used as proof of residence without that information

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## OWI Case – Effective Immediately!

### ID Petition Process (IDPP):

Receipt issued by DMV to voter as part of the ID Petition Process may still be used as acceptable photo ID

This issue was referred back to the lower court for further review, so there may be changes at some point in the future

The IDPP receipt will look similar to the state ID card and driver license receipts

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## WEC Responsibilities

Working to post updated forms, training materials, reference documents and process flows and instructions

Prioritizing high frequency and most relevant documents

The voter registration form (EL-131), absentee request form (EL-121) and the absentee certificate envelope (EL-122) have all been updated and reposted

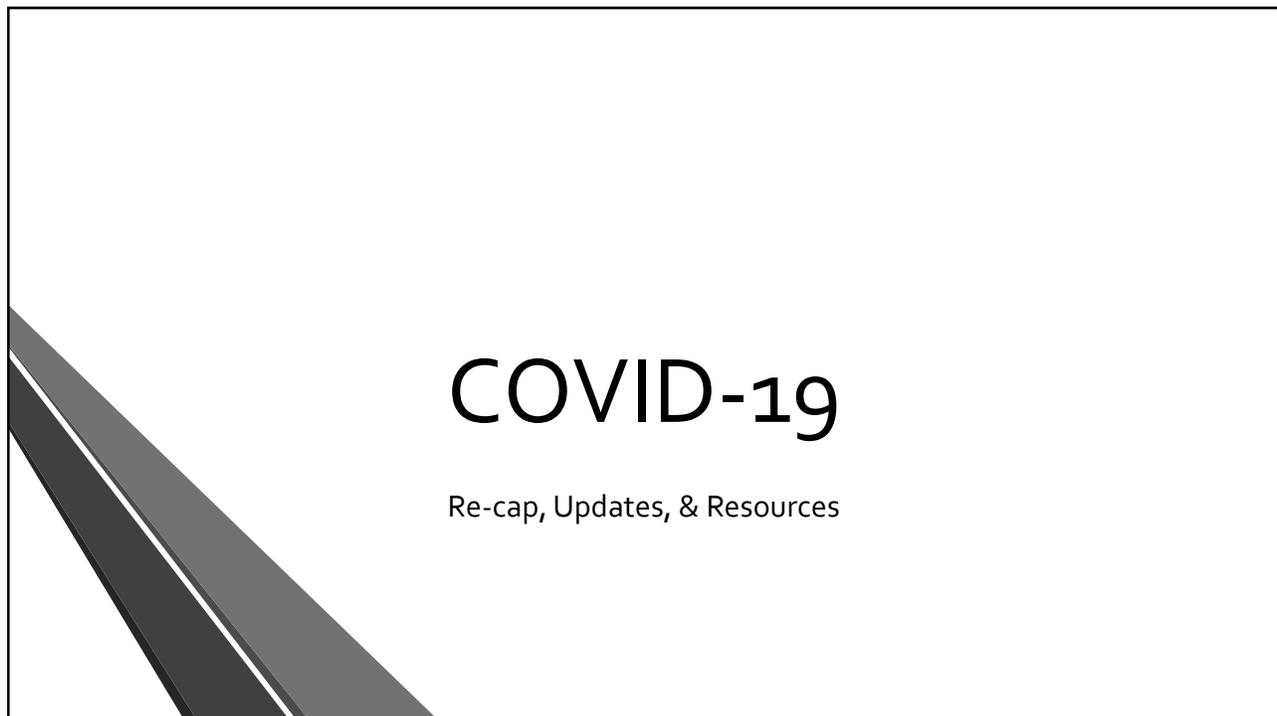
Voter information guides, MyVote voter registration screens and other forms have been updated to reflect these changes as well

Changes to the manuals are in progress

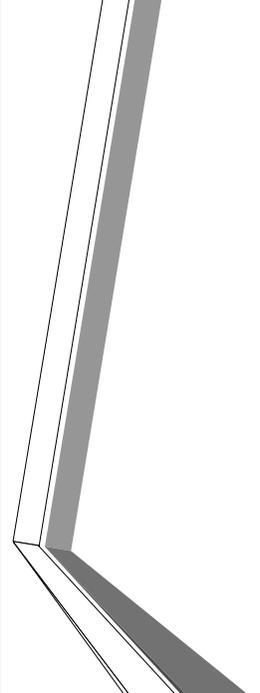
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**First-**

- We are not Public Health Officials.
- We are Election Officials.
- We are following the lead of federal and state health officials.

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**Re-Cap**

- Novel Coronavirus, or COVID-19, is a respiratory illness that's highly contagious
- WHO Officially declared a global Pandemic in March 2020
- The COVID-19 Global Pandemic has created a constantly changing environment for elections, stay updated whenever possible

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## Symptoms

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- Sore throat
- Congestion
- **Nausea or vomiting**
- **Diarrhea**

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## Effects on Elections

April's absentee by mail percentage was over 60% statewide

In-person voting still occurs and needs to be planned for throughout the state

Overall media presence with how elections are being handled

Election day procedures should be reviewed and updated so they conform to updated public health guidance

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## Public Health Guidance

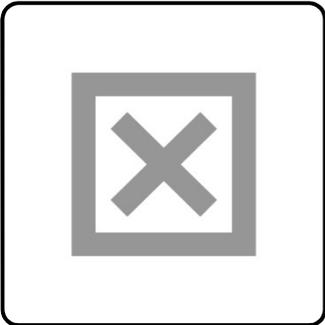
Social distance guidance of 6 feet remains in effect

Facial Coverings are required for poll workers and recommended for voters

Hand hygiene is still a top priority in preventing spread

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## Special Voting Deputies



Just not happening....

August or November

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## Adequate Spacing

- Consider your polling place size, move to a larger room, if possible
- Markings on the floor to help guide foot traffic
- Election Helpers or Greeters assist with line management
- Create one-way voter flow in voting area
- Utilize every other voting booth to create space



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## Face Coverings

- Facial Coverings now recommended to prevent spread per CDC guidance
- Poll workers and observers must wear facial coverings in the polling place
- Voters are encouraged to wear facial coverings, but not required
- Disposable face coverings can be provided for voters who do not bring their own, but voters cannot be turned away for lack of a face cover



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## Plexiglass shields & other barriers

Plexiglass shields may be purchased or built

\*\*CARES funds can cover these costs, including hours that staff may put in building these barriers



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## Election Helpers/Greeters

Sanitization efforts

Cleaning polling place

Opening doors

Line management

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## Supply Delivery

### These items will be delivered to counties and then provided to municipalities

What is being delivered now?

1. Surface disinfectant (one or a combination of these)
  - o Yahara Distillery
  - o Twin Oxide (**Not for use on hands**)
  - o State Line Distillery
2. Hand Sanitizer
  - o Liquid sanitizer
  - o Gel sanitizer (limited supply – hopefully more coming soon)
3. Face Coverings for Clerks and Poll Workers
  - o Procedural masks

What supplies were ordered but have yet to be delivered?

1. Empty spray bottles for use with disinfecting solution
2. Paper towels
3. Disinfecting wipes such as Clorox wipes
4. Hand sanitizer (normal gel based)
5. Isopropyl wipes (for use on voting equipment/electronic polling devices)
6. Gloves
7. Pens (for those that requested)

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## Poll Worker Recruitment

Do not rely on the National Guard to fill in as poll workers

Recruitment tactics:

“Be a Poll Worker” on MyVote website

WEC (with the help of EOC) has reached out to volunteer organizations: Colleges, public schools, United Way, Salvation Army, State of Wisconsin

Possible local options: press releases, message boards, newsletters, etc.

If possible, alert county clerk to critical poll worker shortages

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## WEC CARES Subgrant Program

One-time payment for pandemic related election expenses

Allocation is \$200+\$1.10/per registered voter

Can be used for all 2020 elections

To apply sign and return WEC CARES Agreement and Certification form

Return WEC CARES Expenditure Report

Check-in: September 1, 2020

Final: December 1, 2020

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## WEC CARES Subgrant Program

Allowable uses:

Additional ballot supplies, printing, & postage

Additional cleaning supplies, cleaning services & protective equipment

Additional staffing

Additional mailings for public communication

Additional absentee drop boxes

Additional leasing

Acquisition of additional equipment

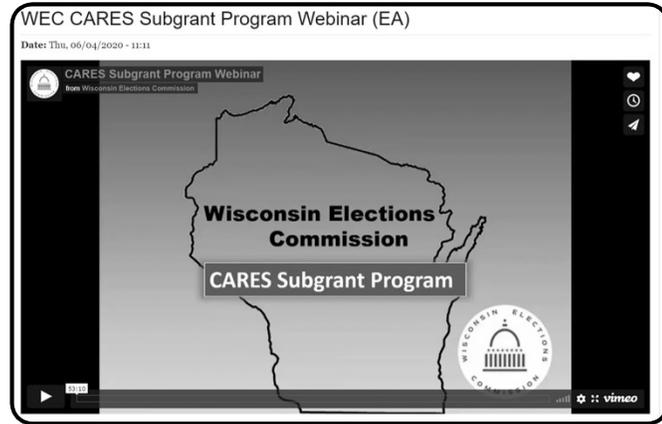
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## WEC CARES Subgrant Program

Additional Information:

WEC CARES Webinar on the WEC website's training page

Contact Financial Team at [elections.finance@wi.gov](mailto:elections.finance@wi.gov)



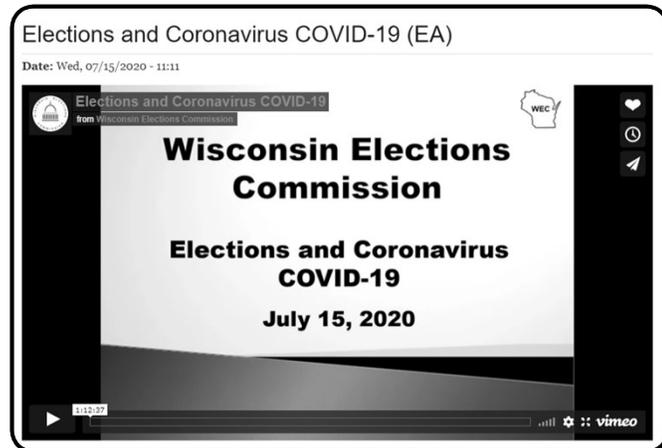
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## Other Training

Elections and Coronavirus COVID-19 Webinar

Recorded on July 15, 2020

Breakdown of procedures



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**Resources  
Provided by  
WEC**

- WEC CARES Subgrant
- Clerk Press Release Template
- Social Media Kit
- Establishing a New Polling Place Guide
- Voter Guides
- Dedicated COVID-19 page on WEC website

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**Resources  
From other  
Agencies**

- [Recommended Precautions for Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Polling Places \(CDC\)](#)
- [Election Officials Preparation Checklist for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(CDC\)](#)
- [How to Protect Yourself \(CDC\)](#)
- [What To Do If You Are Sick \(CDC\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of Homeland Security Coronavirus Information](#)
- [Mass Gatherings or Large Community Guidance \(CDC\)](#)

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## Staying Updated

Wisconsin Department of Health Services -

<https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19>

Official Wisconsin COVID-19 statistics =

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm>

U.S. Centers for Disease Control -

<https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV>

WEC COVID-19 Webpage-

<https://elections.wi.gov/covid-19>

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## Questions?

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