

How to Vote by Absentee Ballot This Election

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, no matter how tight the race is. Voting by absentee ballot is simple, convenient and secure. Here's how to get started:

Interested in voting absentee in person?

Contact your municipal clerk's office to learn more about your community's in-person absentee voting options, locations, and hours of operation.

To find your clerk, visit myvote.wi.gov or call **1-866-868-3947** (TTY 1-800-947-3529).

Requesting an Absentee Ballot by Mail



Get ready for the 2020 General Election.

Register to vote online or by mail by October 14.

→ 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 myvote.wi.gov up to 20 days before the election, or in-person at your municipal clerk's office until the Friday before the election.
- **You'll need to 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 bringit.wi.gov to see all your photo ID options.

→ 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 myvote.wi.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.



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 video chat, as long as they can sign your certificate envelope once it's complete.

Read the instructions

Be sure you understand Wisconsin's 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 refold it 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 November 3.

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

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.wi.gov/2020 to learn more about voting by absentee ballot today.

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

