

CONSTITUENTS FIRST: Safe Voting FAQs

WISCONSIN

The global pandemic is changing voting behavior, creating opportunities for confusion and misinformation. As a state legislator, you are uniquely positioned to help inform and keep your constituents up-to-date. We hope you find this FAQ for safe elections in Wisconsin helpful. MAP is continuously adding resources for legislators. For more information, please contact us at policy@millennialaction.org.

VOTER FAQs

- **What do I need to do before voting?**
 - **Wisconsin allows voters to register to vote on Election Day at their polling location. Find everything you need to register and your polling location on the WI Election Commission website [here](#).**
 - **October 14th is the deadline to register to vote online for the upcoming election. Register online [here](#).** This is also the deadline to postmark a mailed voter registration form to your local clerk.
 - October 30th is the deadline to register to vote in-person at your local election clerk's office. Find your local clerk [here](#).

- **Can I vote in person?**
 - Early Voting: Yes, *early voting* in Wisconsin is known as "absentee in-person voting", a different voting method from receiving your absentee ballot in the mail. Absentee in-person voting takes place between October 20th and November 1st, 2020. Check [MyVoteWI](#) for locations.
 - Election Day: Yes, check [MyVoteWI](#) for locations.
 - **What do I need to bring with me?**
 - ID requirements: Multiple state issued and other IDs will be accepted at in-person voting locations. Please see [this webpage](#) for a detailed list of acceptable IDs, **you do not need a special Voter ID card.**
 - **Will polls be staffed?**
 - Legitimate concerns exist around staffing polling places, and consolidating voting locations—as many states did during primaries—only adds confusion to the process and increases crowding at the polls. If you are concerned about your state's ability to staff the polls, here are some solutions that have broad support amongst the public:
 - 76% support recruiting young people to serve as poll workers
 - 71% support encouraging businesses to provide employees with paid time off on Election Day to serve as poll workers
 - 70% support giving state employees time off to serve as poll workers
 - 68% support flexibility in allowing people to serve as poll workers outside of their precinct of residence

- **Can I vote Absentee/Vote-by-mail?**
 - Yes, no "excuse" is required to request a ballot

- The WI Elections Commission will automatically mail registered voters absentee ballot request forms. Return this form as early as possible to receive your ballot
 - Election officials **recommend** voters planning to vote absentee request an absentee ballot through the MyVote WI website [here](#). **OCTOBER 29, 2020** is the final day you may request a mailed ballot for the November election. Your ballot must be returned by **NOVEMBER 3, 2020**
 - **ID and witness requirements?**
 - To vote absentee, voters must have a valid state issued ID, and you must include a photocopy of this ID with their returned ballot. Please refer to [this webpage](#) for detailed information on ID requirements
 - Voters must also include their signature, and the signature of one witness with their returned ballot
 - **How do I return my ballot?**
 - **Prepaid postage?**
 - All absentee ballots in Wisconsin include prepaid return postage
 - **Ballot drop-offs?**
 - Ballot drop boxes will be provided in many Wisconsin locations; please contact your county election administrator to find the nearest ballot drop box. Drop boxes are administered by your local election officials and are a safe method for returning ballots.
 - **Ballot tracking?**
 - Voters can track their mailed absentee ballots through the [My Voter Info page](#) on MyVote.wi.gov
- **What deadlines do I need to be aware of?**
 - 11:59 PM, October 14th: Deadline to register to vote for the November election, voters can register or check their registration status [here](#)
 - 5:00 PM, October 29th: Deadline for absentee ballot request to be received by municipal clerk.
 - November 3rd: Completed absentee ballots must be postmarked by this day
 - November 9th: Absentee ballots postmarked on or before Election Day must be received by this date. This deadline is currently the subject of litigation and could possibly change before November 3rd.
- **When will we know election results?**
 - Voters should be encouraged to exercise patience awaiting election results come November. Increased use of absentee ballots will undoubtedly slow election tallies in some places.
 - If you are highly concerned about delayed election results, and your state does not allow early canvassing, election officials can make changes to expand the ballot processing timeframe without compromising security, as [Maryland recently did](#).
- **All information above is current as of 9/23/20.** Check the Wisconsin Election Commission's [November voting guide](#) for more details.