-ABSENTEE VOTING IN WISCONSIN-

Information provided by the State of Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

WHAT IS NEW WITH ABSENTEE VOTING AND PHOTO ID?

A valid photo ID must be provided when voting by absentee ballot unless you are a type of voter that is either exempt by statute or may have an alternative process to verify your identity.

WHO DOES NOT HAVE TO SHOW PHOTO ID WHEN VOTING ABSENTEE?

Voters who are exempt from providing photo ID:

- **Military voters.** This includes any member of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard, the Commissioned Corps of the Federal Public Health Service or the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, member of the merchant marine, peace corps volunteers, civilian employees of the U.S. serving outside the U.S., and their spouses and dependents.
- **Permanent Overseas voters.** Overseas voters are persons who resided in your municipality and have left the United States permanently with no intent to return. This may include dependents over the age of 18 whose parents' last residence was in Wisconsin. Note that if you are temporarily overseas and you have intent to return, you are not considered an overseas voter, and you must provide Photo ID with your absentee application or ballot.
- **Confidential Electors.** Confidential electors have presented a court order, a letter from law enforcement, a letter from the staff of a domestic abuse shelter, or a letter from the staff of an agency assisting victims of domestic abuse, to their municipal clerk.

WHO MAY HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE TO PROVIDING A COPY OF THEIR PHOTO ID?

Types of voters who may have their witness verify their identity rather than provide a copy of their photo ID:

- **Indefinitely confined voters** may provide a copy of their photo ID, but may also choose to have their absentee ballot witness verify their identity by signing the absentee ballot certificate envelope. These electors must indicate on their application form that they are indefinitely confined because of age, illness, infirmity, or disability.

- **Voters residing in care facilities visited by Special Voting Deputies** (usually **nursing homes**) may provide a copy of their photo ID, but may also have the Special Voting Deputies verify their identity by signing as witnesses on the voter's absentee ballot certificate envelope.

- **Voters residing in other care facilities** that are eligible for Special Voting Deputy procedures, but are **not visited by Special Voting Deputies**, may provide a copy of their photo ID or ask an authorized representative of the facility to verify their identity by signing the absentee ballot certificate envelope. If the voter is indefinitely confined, the signature of an authorized representative is not required, but a witness must still sign the certificate envelope (see above).

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DO I NEED TO PROVIDE PHOTO ID WHEN VOTING ABSENTEE?

Types of voters who MUST provide photo ID with their absentee ballot applications:

- **In-person voters in the clerk's office** must show their photo ID to the clerk or staff. The staff member will record on the absentee certificate envelope that the voter provided photo ID.

- **Regular absentee voters requesting a ballot be sent to them by mail** must provide a copy of their photo ID with their absentee ballot request. Once photo ID is provided, the voter no longer has to provide photo ID with subsequent absentee ballot requests, until they re-register (their name or address changes).

- **Regular absentee voters requesting a ballot by email or fax** must provide a copy of their photo ID with their absentee ballot request. Once photo ID is provided, the voter no longer has to provide photo ID with any subsequent absentee ballot requests, until they re-register (their name or address changes).

- Voters may request absentee ballots by fax or e-mail but **clerks may not transmit ballots to regular voters by fax or e-mail.**

- **Electors that have moved within Wisconsin less than 28 days before the election** must vote from their previous address. They may vote at the polling place for their previous address, or by absentee ballot in the municipality of their previous address.

- **Presidential-only electors, hospitalized electors, and sequestered jurors** have special absentee voting requirements. They will need to show a photo ID, but should also contact their municipal clerk for assistance.

WHAT IF I DON'T SUBMIT ID WITH MY ABSENTEE APPLICATION?

- Voters who are required to submit photo ID with their absentee application, and do not, will not be sent an absentee ballot.

- Some voters have alternatives to providing a copy of the photo ID will be sent a ballot, but must either return a copy of photo ID with their ballot or meet any alternative requirements. Failure to do so may result in the ballot being rejected or treated as a provisional ballot. Provisional voters have until 4:00 p.m. on the Friday after the election to submit the required photo ID to their municipal clerk. If the photo ID is received by the deadline, their ballot will be counted. If photo ID is not received by the deadline, the ballot will not count. Voters can check the status of their provisional ballots by contacting their municipal clerk, or checking the MyVote Wisconsin website at http://myvote.wi.gov.

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CAN I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

Any eligible, registered, Wisconsin elector can vote by absentee ballot. You do not need a reason. Whether you have a hard time getting to the polls due to a disability or if it is just more convenient for you to vote by mail, all qualified Wisconsin electors are eligible to vote by absentee ballot.

WHEN CAN I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

- Absentee ballots are available by mail 47 days before the partisan primary, Presidential Preference, and General elections and 21 days before state, local, and other elections.

- Wisconsin law restricts absentee voting *in the clerk's office* to a two-week period, beginning the third Monday before the election and ending the Friday before the election-not including weekends or holidays.

HOW DO I REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

- You can apply for and vote your absentee ballot in-person in the clerk's office or you can request an absentee ballot be sent to you by mail.
- In-person absentee voting only occurs during a two week period, beginning the third Monday before the election and ending the Friday before the election, not including weekends or holidays.

HOW DO I VOTE IN-PERSON IN MY MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE?

When absentee voting in-person in your municipal clerk's office, you will complete your ballot and then insert the ballot into an absentee ballot certificate envelope. You will need to complete all the required fields and sign the certification on the envelope in order for your ballot to be counted. To view a sample absentee ballot envelope visit: **http://gab.wi.gov/forms/gab-122**. You must show photo ID when absentee voting in-person.

HOW DO I GET AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL?

- To request an absentee ballot be sent to you by mail, you may send a request to your municipal clerk by mail, fax, or e-mail. The absentee ballot request form is available at: **http://gab.wi.gov/forms/gab-121-english.** Don't forget to include a copy of your photo ID with the request.
- Absentee ballot requests must be received by your municipal clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. the Thursday before an election to receive a ballot for that election.

CAN I REQUEST A BALLOT FOR MORE THAN ONE ELECTION?

- On your absentee ballot application, you can select to receive your ballots for one specific election, or for all elections in a calendar year.
- If you are indefinitely confined (meaning it is difficult for you to get to the polls) due to age, illness, infirmity, or disability you may request that an absentee ballot be sent to you automatically for every election.
  - When you choose this option, an absentee ballot will be sent to you for every election and will only discontinue if you fail to return a ballot.

Find more information on the Photo ID law at www.BringIt.wi.gov
Register to vote or check your registration status at: www.MyVote.wi.gov
Contact the Government Accountability Board at 1-866-Vote-Wis or at GAB@wi.gov

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HOW DO I RETURN MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

You must return your absentee ballot in the COMPLETED absentee ballot certificate envelope that was provided to you with your ballot by your municipal clerk. If your absentee ballot certificate envelope is not complete, your ballot will not be counted.

You may return your ballot either by mail or by personal delivery to your municipal clerk's office.

- If you are returning your absentee ballot to your municipal clerk by mail, it must be postmarked no later than Election Day and received by the clerk no later than 4:00 p.m. on the Friday after the election.

- If you are delivering your completed absentee ballot to your municipal clerk's office, it must be received no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

WHAT IF I VOTED BY ABSENTEE BALLOT, THEN CHANGE MY MIND AND WISH TO VOTE AT THE POLLS INSTEAD?

In most cases, a voter who has voted and returned an absentee ballot is prohibited from voting at the polling place on Election Day. Ask your municipal clerk if you are unsure.

HOW DO I FIND MY MUNICIPAL CLERK'S CONTACT INFORMATION?

Visit the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board's MyVote Wisconsin website: **http://myvote.wi.gov**

ARE THERE SPECIAL ABSENTEE RULES FOR MILITARY AND PERMANENT OVERSEAS VOTERS?

- Yes. Military and permanently overseas voters can receive their absentee ballot by e-mail, fax, or mail.

- Some deadlines are different for military and permanent overseas voters. Visit **http://myvote.wi.gov** and click on the "military voter" or "permanent overseas voter" icon for more information.