

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Voters Encouraged to Vote Absentee for April 7 Election Online and Mail Registration Extended until **March 30th**

POLK COUNTY, WI – Due to the COVID-19, voters in Polk County are strongly urged to act now to vote absentee for the April 7 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary. Wisconsin has extended the online and mailing registration to Monday, March 30th. Voters can continue to request an absentee ballot until Thursday, April 2nd.

Polls will be open in Polk County for those who need them on Election Day, but most voters should vote absentee for this election. For that to happen, you should request an absentee ballot as soon as possible. Requests for absentee ballots can be requested online, by mail, or by email until Thursday, April 2nd.

Acting by Monday, March 30th especially important for anyone who needs to register to vote by mail. If your name or address has changed since the last election, you need to register with your current information. You can check your registration status at <https://myvote.wi.gov>, click on “My Voter Info.”

If you know you are registered but cannot find yourself on the website, you should contact your local clerk or Wisconsin Elections Commission. Voters who cannot find themselves on MyVote should call their municipal clerk's office or call the Wisconsin Elections Commission at 866-VOTE-WIS (866-868-3947) or 608-261-8005.

How to Register to Vote by the Deadline

Monday, March 30th is the extended deadline for electors to register to vote by mail or online for the Presidential Preference Primary and Spring Election. After this date, electors must register in person in the municipal clerk's office or at the polling place on Election Day.

According to state law, mailed voter registration forms must be postmarked no later than the third Wednesday before the election. Online registration closes at 11:59 p.m. the same day.

Online voter registration is available at <https://myvote.wi.gov>. There are two ways you can register using the website:

- People with a Wisconsin driver license or state ID card whose address is current with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation can complete their online registration immediately. People who need to update their address with DOT can accomplish that online and complete their online registration.
- People without a Wisconsin driver license or state ID card can fill out the voter registration form online, then print it, sign it and mail it to their municipal clerk's office

along with a proof-of residence document. The website has detailed instructions. If you do not have a printer where you are, you can save the completed form as a PDF and make arrangements to have a family member or a friend with a printer, or a copy center, to print it for you.

Voter registration forms that can be printed and filled out by hand are also available here in English: <https://elections.wi.gov/forms/el-131-fillable>

Voter registration forms that can be printed and filled out by hand are also available here in Spanish: <https://elections.wi.gov/forms/el-131-spanish>

Remember, the deadline to register online or by mail is **Monday, March 30th 2020**.

Voters who miss the deadline may also register in their municipal clerk's office, until the Friday before the election, April 3 or at the polls on Election Day.

How to Request an Absentee Ballot

There are several ways registered voters can request absentee ballots. If they have internet access, the easiest way is to sign up at MyVote Wisconsin, <https://myvote.wi.gov>.

Just look for the "Vote Absentee" button near the top of the page. On a mobile phone, use the menu button in the upper right corner of the website. There is a three-step process that starts with putting in your name and date of birth, followed by requesting your ballot. If you don't already have a photo ID on file with your clerk's office, you can upload a copy. Mobile phone users can take a picture and upload it to MyVote. Absentee ballot requests submitted this way go directly to your clerk's office, and you can track your ballot by returning to the website.

Voters can also request absentee ballots by mailing, emailing or faxing their municipal clerk's office. You can find your local clerk's contact information on MyVote Wisconsin. These requests must be accompanied by a copy of your photo ID. If you already have a photo ID on file from previous absentee requests under your current registration, you will not need to provide it again.

Voters who are indefinitely confined, meaning they may have difficulty getting to the polls for reason of age, illness, infirmity, or disability are not required to provide a photo ID. Voters in care facilities can have a representative of the facility confirm the resident's identity instead of providing a photo ID. More information on photo ID and exemptions can be found at bringit.wi.gov.

The deadline for registered voters to request an absentee ballot be mailed to you is the Thursday before the election, April 2. Voters should not to wait, due to possible delays in mail delivery. If you get an absentee ballot mailed to you, you can still decide to vote at the polls on Election Day if you haven't returned it. Your absentee ballot must be received in your clerk's office or at your polling place by 8 p.m. on Election Day. It is encouraged voters request and return ballots as soon as possible.