



# Voting by Mail in Wisconsin (Fall 2020 Election)

## Registering to Vote

You must be a registered voter to apply for an absentee ballot. If you have moved or changed your name since you last voted, you must reregister. Go to [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) to register or reregister online. The address associated with your Wisconsin driver license or Wisconsin ID is your proof of residence. If you have moved, first visit [wisconsin.gov](https://wisconsin.gov) to update your address. Click on “DMV Online Services” and then “Change Address.” Then go to [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) to update your voter registration.

You can also call or email your municipal clerk to receive a paper application or download one on the Wisconsin Elections Commission website [elections.wi.gov](https://elections.wi.gov). Under “Voters” select “Voter Registration.” When entering the date of your birth, enter the four digits for the year. You must show or mail your clerk a copy of a proof of residency document when registering on paper.

The deadline to register by mail or online is **July 22** for the August 11 primary. The deadline is **October 14** for the November 3 general election. After that, you may still register to vote at your clerk’s office or at the polls if you vote in person.

## Applying for an Absentee Ballot

### Option 1: Paper Form

Download and print a paper form on the Wisconsin Elections Commission site, <https://elections.wi.gov/forms/el-121-english>, or call or email your municipal clerk and ask that a ballot request be mailed to you. The form is available in Spanish and Hmong. Complete the form and mail it to your municipal clerk along with a copy of an acceptable photo ID.

Apply by **August 6** for the August 11 primary. You may apply for the November 3 election at the same time.

*Note: If you have applied previously for an absentee ballot and submitted your ID, you do not have to submit the ID again unless you have moved or changed your name.*

## Option 2: Online Application

It is easier to use a smartphone to apply online. If you use a computer or tablet, you must have a copy of your ID that you first saved on your device.

### Using Your Smartphone

- a. Go to [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov). Scroll down and select "Vote Absentee." Enter your first name, last name and date of birth including the four digits for your birth year. Select "Search."
- b. Your voter information will appear confirming you are a registered voter. Near the top select the blue box "Request Absentee Ballot."
- c. Check the appropriate box, typically "The above address and name are mine and are correct." Then select black box "Validate Address" and "Continue."
- d. Choose the elections for which you want an absentee ballot. Scroll down and choose "Add file." Select "Take a photo." Use the camera on your phone to take a picture of your ID. The picture pops up on the screen. Then select "Use photo" and "Continue." If you have applied for an absentee ballot previously, your ID is on file and you will not be asked to add it again. You will then read "Thank you for using My Vote to apply for a ballot."

## Completing Your Absentee Ballot

1. Use a ballpoint pen to fill in your choices on the ballot **in the presence of a witness**.
2. **Complete the envelope "certificate."** Your witness will sign the envelope and fill in their complete address (number, street, city) in the space provided. You must also sign the envelope in the space provided.
3. **Get the ballot to your municipal clerk (city or village hall).** If by mail, please allow 7 days for delivery. You may also drop off your ballot at your clerk's office, at special drop-off locations if provided, or at your polling place on Election Day. If your city uses a Central Count location, bring your ballot to that location rather than your polling place if you are delivering it on Election Day. This includes Milwaukee. All ballots must be received by 8:00 pm on Election Day.

**Need more help?** Wisconsin Election Commission (608) 266-8005  
Milwaukee Election Commission (414) 286-3491

Find candidate information at [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org).