



Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

P.O. Box 7222, Madison, Wisconsin 53707

June 17, 2020

Beth Swedeon, beth.swedeon@wisconsin.gov; (608) 266-1166;
Kristin M. Kerschensteiner, kitk@drwi.org; (608) 267-0214;
Lisa Pugh, pugh@thearc.org; (608) 422-4250

Survival Coalition Commends WEC Plan to Mail Absentee Ballot Applications

Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations supports the Wisconsin Election Commission's plan to send absentee ballot applications to every registered voter without an absentee ballot request on file.

Access to absentee voting is very important to voters with disabilities and older adults. Many have mobility challenges related to their health or disability that make it difficult for them to vote in person. In addition, many voters with disabilities are non-drivers and transportation to the polling place is often a barrier.

Survival Coalition supports Wisconsin Election Commission plan to send information about absentee voting, including an absentee ballot application, before each election to every registered voter without an absentee ballot request on file. Because of the current pandemic, access to absentee voting is a public health issue for many voters with disabilities and older adults, so this mailing is urgently needed. Many voters with disabilities and older adults do not have computer or internet access so receiving an absentee ballot application in the mail is especially important.

Our municipal clerks are very committed to ensure the accessibility of our elections for people with disabilities and older adults which this mailing would advance. Given the public health need to promote absentee voting for voters with disabilities and older adults, the WEC mailing of absentee ballot applications should go forward.

Survival Coalition is comprised of more than 30 statewide disability organizations that advocate and support policies and practices that lead to the full inclusion, participation, and contribution of people living with disability.

Survival Coalition Issue Teams: education, employment, housing, long term care for adults, long term care for children, mental health, transportation, workforce, voting, Medicaid and health care.
