

The #2020Census counts: **Be counted!**

1-844-DIS-VOTE www.disabilityvote.org

For immediate release – June 17, 2020 Contact: Barbara Beckert, <u>Barbara.Beckert@drwi.org</u>, 414-292-2724

Disability Vote Coalition Supports Absentee Ballot Application Mailing

The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition strongly supports the Wisconsin Election Commission 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 for a variety of reasons. Voters may 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.

The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition supports the plan for the Wisconsin Election Commission 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 especially important. Many people with disabilities and older adults do not have computer or internet access so receiving an absentee ballot application in the mail is critically important.

We respect the concern raised about additional work for our municipal clerks but believe they also have a deep commitment 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, it is essential that the absentee ballot application mailing move forward.

disabilityrights wisconsin



The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition is a project of Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities and Disability Rights Wisconsin