

Backgrounder on True the Vote Presentation

As you consider reporting on True the Vote's presentation to the Assembly, please keep in mind the following if allegations similar to those expressed in the past by True the Vote arise at today's hearing:

- Data allegedly showing cell phones that were tracked multiple times near absentee ballot drop boxes is, alone, not evidence of a crime.
- Many drop boxes used in Wisconsin prior to the 2022 ruling by the Waukesha County Circuit Court may have been located in central locations – such as a city hall – frequented by the public, or near apartments, restaurants, or other establishments.
- Every voter who received and/or returned an absentee ballot for the 2020 general election had to request it in writing or electronically, regardless of how the ballot was returned. There is a record of each request, and WisVote records every transaction in the system. Absentee ballots also generate an alert to the local clerk's office.
- When a clerk creates a new voter registration record or absentee ballot request, or makes any changes to a voter record, there will be a record of who performed the transaction and when.
- Each new registration (online or not) is automatically transmitted to the Department of Transportation and checked against their records.
- Voters are required to provide a photocopy of an acceptable photo ID to cast an absentee ballot by mail, with certain exceptions for military and permanent overseas voters and permanent absentee voters. Voters who self-identify as indefinitely confined are afforded a substitution under the law whereby their witness can verify their identity in lieu of providing photo ID, though a majority of indefinitely confined voters already have a verified photo ID status from previous election cycles. Wis Stat. [6.87\(4\)\(b\)2](#).
- The final disposition of the ballot is retained and recorded against the voter record. Voters can look up their election participation in MyVote Wisconsin. An absentee ballot request or voter participation cannot be recorded for a voter unless they are lawfully registered to vote. If a vote has already been recorded for a voter, the clerk cannot record more than one vote per voter registration record. If a voter attempts to vote more than once, that is identified by the clerk and the system and would be referred to law enforcement for prosecution.
- Records are subject to municipal and county canvasses; along with state certification, recounts, and sometimes public inspection and audits.
- Check with municipalities on their absentee drop box practices prior to the 2022 Waukesha County Circuit Court ruling – municipalities may have kept chain of custody logs and tamper evident seals, among other security measures.