



Wisconsin Elections Commission

201 West Washington Avenue | Second Floor | P.O. Box 7984 | Madison, WI 53707-7984
(608) 266-8005 | elections@wi.gov | elections.wi.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Emilee Miklas emilee.miklas@wisconsin.gov

Early Voting, In-Person Absentee Begins Tuesday

MADISON – Starting on Tuesday, October 20 – two weeks before Election Day – clerks can begin to offer in-person absentee voting at the clerk’s office or another designated location.

The in-person absentee voting (IPAV) process, often referred to as “early voting,” involves a voter both requesting a ballot and completing that ballot on the same trip to the clerk’s office or designated location.

Municipal clerks are responsible for setting the dates and hours for in-person absentee voting. By visiting MyVote.wi.gov, voters can see locations and hours being offered in their municipality. Voters will need to show an [acceptable photo ID](#) when voting by in-person absentee.

When a voter casts an absentee ballot in-person, they will complete their ballot, seal the ballot in the proper envelope, complete their portion of the certificate envelope and return it to a member of the clerk’s staff. No IPAV ballots may be taken out of the voting site. All absentee ballots, either by-mail or IPAV, are not processed until Election Day.

Voters who requested an absentee ballot by mail should plan to allow adequate time for mail handling and delivery of their ballot, said Meagan Wolfe, Administrator of the WEC.

“If you’re planning to mail your ballot back, you should do so as soon as possible,” Wolfe said. “Your ballot must arrive by 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.”

Absentee Voting Statistics

As of Monday, 173,164 absentee ballots have been returned statewide out of 364,888 amount requested, according to WEC’s absentee statistics. That’s far fewer than the same time four years ago during the 2022 General Election when over 195,287 absentee ballots were returned and 438,673 absentee ballots requested statewide.

More than 191,000 registered voters received an absentee ballot for the upcoming November election but have not yet returned it, according to Monday’s data.

Administrator Wolfe said these figures suggest increased interest in in-person absentee voting (IPAV).

“Although voter behaviors are difficult to forecast, the data so far indicates that local clerks should prepare for higher turnout during in-person absentee voting,” Wolfe said.

To find voting statistics, including daily absentee ballot reports, visit: <https://elections.wi.gov/statistics-data>.

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

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Preparations for November

Based on turnout in previous midterm elections, more than 2.6 million eligible Wisconsin voters are likely to participate in the 2026 November General Election.

The WEC and local election officials have been preparing for this upcoming election for years, while simultaneously planning for and administering every local and state election in the interim, including three statewide contests so far this year.

A detailed report on how the WEC is prepared for the November election can be viewed here:

<https://elections.wi.gov/resources/reports/how-wisconsin-ready-november-2026-election>

The WEC and local election officials have robust safeguards and secure processes in place and are confident that they will hold a transparent and accurate election in November.

Voter Resources

For official voter resources, such as checking your registration and ballot status ahead of November, residents are encouraged to visit the state's official [MyVote website](#). The [Wisconsin Elections Commission website](#) and [2026 Election Information Hub](#) also provide guidance, election data, and resources for voters and members of the media.

- To track your absentee ballot, see what's on your ballot and more, visit Wisconsin's official source for voters at [MyVote.wi.gov](#)
- If you're voting by-mail, review our [Absentee Ballot Return Best Practices](#).
- Learn more about how Wisconsin delivers secure elections, visit: <https://elections.wi.gov/resources/brochures/how-wisconsin-delivers-secure-elections>

Important Dates & Deadlines

- October 20, 2026 - IPAV begins
- October 30, 2026 – Deadline for write-in candidate to file registration statements, register to vote at municipal clerk's office and make calendar year absentee ballot requests
- November 1, 2026 - Last day a clerk can offer in-person absentee voting
- November 3, 2026 – Election Day