



Portage County Clerk

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Election Update:

- As of Tuesday afternoon, the election is going on as schedule on April 7. Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Results will be posted on the Portage County website for all contests. My office will report results as soon as we get them in, but there may be delays due to the lack of staffing at the polls and the number of absentees that will need to be processed.
- Online voter registration closed last night. Electors can still register to vote in-person at their municipal clerks office until Friday, April 3rd at 5:00 p.m. Proof of residence is required. Acceptable forms of proof of residence can be found here: [Acceptable Forms of Proof of Residence](#)
- Electors can register at their polling place on Election Day. Proof of residence required.
- Although the polls will be open on Tuesday we are encouraging voters to vote absentee. Registered voters can request an absentee ballot online, by mail, email, fax, or in person. To request a ballot online voters can go to myvote.wi.gov, here are instructions for requesting a ballot through MyVote: [MyVote Absentee Request Instructions](#). To request a ballot by mail or fax, the voter can complete an absentee request form: [Absentee Application](#) and send it to their municipal clerk. If a voter needs help finding their municipal clerk contact information they can find that information on the MyVote website or my office is happy to help direct them to the right place.
- Photo ID is required regardless of the voting method. Acceptable forms of proof of identification can be found here: bringit.wi.gov. However, voters requesting an absentee ballot do have the option to select the “Indefinitely Confined” option. The “Indefinitely Confined” option does not require photo ID. This option is typically reserved for individuals that are indefinitely confined to their home due to age or disability. We’ve seen a large increase in people selecting this option that may not fit the typical “indefinitely confined” criteria, but are, due to the COVID situation, confined to their home. While we do not condone people misusing this option, we leave this up to the voter to decide which is appropriate for them to select. *This option will send them a ballot for all future elections.
- The deadline to request a ballot be mailed is Thursday, April 2nd at 5:00 p.m.
- Voters can also vote in-person absentee at their municipal clerk’s office. I encourage voters to reach out to their municipal clerk for office hours, as some of them are by appointment only. Most in-person absentee voting goes through Friday, April 3rd.
- No registration or voting can take place on Monday.
- For any mailed absentee ballots - in order to be counted ballots need to be received back by the municipal clerk/polling location by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. There are several lawsuits pending against the State that could extend this deadline, but as of today nothing has changed.

- There was a third party mailing that was sent out by the Voter Participation Center or Center for Voter Information. Many voters are getting confused by this and thinking it is a scam. If they have questions feel free to direct them to my office and I'm happy to explain to them what these are/where they are coming from. Here's more information regarding the third party mailing: [Center for Voter Information mailer](#)
- Voters who vote absentee must sign the certificate envelope and have a witness sign and provide their address on the certificate envelope. The witness is certifying they watched the voter vote their ballot (but did not view their selections). The witness requirement remains in effect and is required no matter the type of voter "regular" or "indefinitely confined." Please see the guidance from the Wisconsin Elections Commission for individuals with questions or concerns about meeting the witness requirement: [Absentee Witness Signature Requirement Guidance](#)
- My office is working with the WEC and the municipalities to provide hand sanitizer and other supplies to the polling locations for Election Day. The Wisconsin Elections Commission also released Election Day Guidance with help from public health officials on how to keep the polling locations safer for poll workers and voters on Election Day.
- We are losing poll workers rapidly as many do not feel comfortable working the polls, which is completely understandable. Municipal clerks are actively recruiting. Many of our seasoned poll workers are in the vulnerable population so clerks are trying to recruit "less vulnerable" poll workers. I have requested that Portage County's HR Dept put out feelers to see if there are any interested and available employees that would be able to staff the polls. If you know someone that is interested, have them reach out to their municipal clerk. You can serve in a different municipality than you live in as long as you live in Portage County.

Questions related to the election or voting can be directed to the County Clerk's office. We are happy to answer any questions and direct voters to the right place.

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