

VOTING IN THE APRIL 7, 2020 ELECTION – DeeAnn Cook, Barron County Clerk

Earlier yesterday Governor Evers issued Executive Order #74 suspending in person voting for April 7, 2020 until June 9, 2020.

ALERT: Supreme Court reinstates in-person voting for Spring Election
The state Supreme Court yesterday afternoon overturned Tony Evers' order pushing back in-person voting until June, putting the spring election back on hours after he sought to delay it amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Evers' order was enjoined in its entirety in the 4-2 ruling other than a provision calling the Legislature into a special session tomorrow to pick a new date for in-person voting. That provision is now moot with the election moving forward.

The order didn't include the court's reasoning, saying a more comprehensive opinion will follow.

Liberal justices Ann Walsh Bradley and Rebecca Dallet dissented.

Conservative Daniel Kelly didn't participate.

Wisconsin All polling places will be open from 7am to 8 pm on Election Day. Photo ID is required. Rest assured that Municipal Clerks and poll workers will take extra care in sanitizing election equipment, voting booths and their facility. **The National Guard has been called out and will be helping at polling places where requested throughout the state.**

REGISTERING TO VOTE

Voters can still register and vote on Election Day at the polls. Must provide Proof of Residence.

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT – following changes were made late on Thursday, April 2. Then further changes were made on April 6.

Judge William Conley of the Western District of Wisconsin federal court has issued an order related to absentee ballots for next week's Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary. The Court ordered the following:

- 1) The deadline for the receipt of absentee ballots is extended to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2020. ~~The Court specifically did not add a requirement for a postmarked by deadline as long as the ballot is returned by the new deadline.~~ **In order for an absentee ballot to be counted it must be postmarked by April 7 and received by 4:00 pm on April 13 or hand delivered to the polls by 8:00 pm on Election Day. Ballots postmarked after April 7 or hand delivered after 8:00 pm on April 7 cannot be counted.**
- 2) The deadline for receipt of absentee ballot requests by mail, fax or email (and if deemed administratively feasible in the sole discretion of the WEC Administrator, online) is extended to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 3, 2020.
- 3) ~~A witness signature on the absentee ballot certificate envelope is not required if the absentee voter provides a written affirmation or other statement that they were unable to safely obtain a witness certification despite reasonable attempts to do so, provided the ballot is otherwise valid.~~ **#3 WAS OVERTURNED ON APPEAL. WITNESS SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED.**

CLERKS SHOULD WORK WITH ANY VOTER MISSING A WITNESS TO TRY TO RESOLVE

Judge Conley's decision was issued in a set of three federal lawsuits which were consolidated and which requested various remedies related to the Spring Election. The decision did not grant other requests such as postponing the election date or suspending and photo ID requirements for mail-in absentee voters.

ELECTION RESULTS WILL NOT BE RELEASED BY THE MUNICIPALITY PRIOR TO 4:00 PM ON APRIL 13, 2020. ONCE RESULTS ARE ALL TALLIED, MUNICIPALITIES WILL REPORT RESULTS TO THE COUNTY FOR POSTING ON THE WEBSITE.