

UPDATE

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

All polling places will be open from 7am to 8 pm on Election Day. 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 register in person with their municipal clerk through Friday, April 3, 2020 or at the polls on Election Day.

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

This afternoon, 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.
- 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.

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.

You must make a request for an absentee ballot in writing or online at MyVote.wi.gov.

You may submit a written request in the form of a letter or you may apply for an absentee ballot online at MyVote.wi.gov. **(the MyVote system was set to work for absentees through April 2 and WEC indicated there was not sufficient time to reprogram the system so please use another process to request on April 3)** Your written request must list your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, and your signature. You may make application to your municipal clerk for an absentee ballot in person, by mail, by fax, by email.

Making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail

The deadline for making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail has been changed to April 3, 2020.

VOTING ABSENTEE IN PERSON

You may still be able to request and vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office. Contact your municipal clerk as hours vary by municipality

No in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election.

The municipal clerk will deliver voted ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place or counting location before the polls close on April 7, 2020

~~Any ballots received after the polls close will not be counted.~~ **CHANGE - Absentee ballots received up until 4:00 pm on April 13 will be counted. The requirement for the ballot to be postmarked on or before Election Day is being challenged.**