



Thursday, October 12, 2020



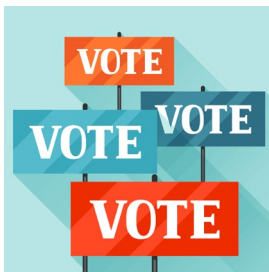
"Need to Know" Legislative Newsletter for Library Leaders

...from Wisconsin Library Association

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November 3, 2020 Election & Voter Information



A gentle disclaimer: All information given here is based on current court rulings as of October 8.

Voters will find choices for Congressional Representatives, State Senators from even numbered districts, all 99 State Assembly Representatives, all county district attorneys and other partisan county officials where applicable on their November 3 ballots. See ["What's on My Ballot?"](#)

VOTER REGISTRATION: The **deadline to register** to vote online or by mail (postmarked) is currently **Wednesday, October 14**. Visit myvote.wi.gov to update your name or registration address, or register for the first time. You can also **register in person at your municipal clerk's office by 5 PM October 30** or at your polling place on Election Day using [EL-131 Voter Registration Application \(2020-07\).pdf](#) [Go here for examples of acceptable photo I.D.](#) **Don't delay!**

A list of municipal clerks, organized by county, is [linked here](#). Registered voters can also find themselves in the system and search for municipal clerks using myvote.wi.gov. Unregistered citizens can use the "address search" feature, enter a street address and find their clerk for that municipality.

NOTE: [An appeals court ruling at the end of June](#) reinstated a requirement that voters must maintain **residency for at least 28 days** before casting a ballot for most offices. **The ruling allows you to vote at your former polling place until you establish residency in your new district.** Persons who meet the 28-consecutive-day residency requirement may still register to vote on Election Day at their new polling place.

ABSENTEE VOTING: In Wisconsin, “absentee” voting refers to casting a ballot ahead of Election Day. Technically, Wisconsin doesn’t have “early voting,” only in person absentee or [mail absentee ballot](#).

Requesting a mail absentee ballot: Go to myvote.wi.gov and follow the prompts under the Vote Absentee tab or download the Wisconsin Elections Commission voter information mailer [LINKED HERE](#) for instructions. Or make an absentee ballot request using the [Application For Absentee Ballot \(EL-121\)](#) in person, by letter or email attachment to your municipal clerk.

Although the deadline for clerks to receive absentee ballot requests is October 29, it is inadvisable to wait that long! Do it now.

Completing and returning your absentee ballot: You will need to arrange for a witness to verify you completed your ballot and sign the ballot return envelope under your signature. Mail it ASAP to avoid postal service delivery delays. Some municipal clerks have installed absentee ballot drop boxes at convenient locations in their communities. **Make sure your ballot is returned November 3 by 8 PM.** Then go to the [Track My Ballot page](#) at myvote.wi.gov to verify when your clerk received your ballot.

In-person absentee voting begins Monday, October 20. Each city, village and town in Wisconsin is responsible for setting the dates and hours of in-person absentee voting for their municipality and posting that information for voters. [Contact your municipal clerk](#) for details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LIBRARIANS: Detailed Wisconsin voter information may be found at the [Wisconsin Elections Commission elections](#) page. Librarians assisting residents of other states with second homes in Wisconsin can access absentee voter information for all 50 states at vote411.org

Who is Running for the Wisconsin Legislature?

The **final list of candidates running for the Wisconsin Legislature** on November 3 is [LINKED HERE](#). The list is organized by public library system boundaries and is searchable by using Ctrl + F. Legislators not running for reelection or higher office, as well as those running unopposed are noted.

Not included on the list linked above or official ballots are [7 candidates running as write-ins](#) in Senate District 26, and Assembly Districts 5, 8, 9, 32, 44, and 61 who registered with the Wisconsin Elections Commission as of September 15.

DPI 2021-2023 Biennial Budget – Library Aids Request

Part 1 (Agency Operations and Public Libraries) of the [2021-2022 Department of Public Instruction Biennial Budget Request](#) was released on September 15. It includes state library aid requests for public library system aid (pdf pp. 33-35,37), library resource contracts (pdf pp. 39-41), and Recollection Wisconsin (pdf pp. 42-44). Recollection Wisconsin will have its own separate line item following approval of a transfer of funds from WISELearn (pdf p. 22).

[CLICK HERE](#) for a summary page and [HERE](#) for more detailed information about the proposed WISELearn transfer of funds to Recollection Wisconsin.

Legislative and State Government Reference Resources

The [State Senate](#) and [Assembly](#) web pages provide details on legislative leadership, as well as contact information and committee assignments for individual members.

- [WLA's 2019-2020 Legislative Guide](#) is sorted for public library system boundaries and includes libraries in each legislative district.
- To verify your correct Senate and Assembly districts, enter your personal address or the address of your library in the search box at [Who are my legislators?](#)
- Information about Governor Evers, Lt. Governor Barnes and the executive branch is found [HERE](#).
- [State of Wisconsin Employee Telephone & Email Directory](#)
- [State Agency Staff with Responsibilities to the Legislature Directory for 2019-2020 Legislative Session](#) (updated October 2, 2020)

Concluding Thought

Democracy is not a
spectator sport.

Marian Wright Edelman

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