



The #2020Census counts:
Be counted!

1-844-DIS-VOTE
www.disabilityvote.org

November 2, 2020

Contact: Barbara Beckert, barbara.beckert@drwi.org, 414-292-2724

Know Your Rights: Resources for Voters with Disabilities

The [Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition](#) urges voters with disabilities to make a plan to safely cast their ballot tomorrow. Approximately 23% of the electorate will be people with disabilities, according to the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD). Many voters with disabilities report barriers to asserting their right to vote, and COVID-19 has created additional difficulties.

The Disability Vote Coalition encourages voters to check [MyVote Wisconsin](#) for their polling place as it may have changed, contact their clerk today regarding any accommodation needs, and wear a mask. Because so many voters with disabilities are non-drivers, transportation to the polls may be a challenge. Our [Ride to the Polls resource](#) lists organizations providing transportation. **Act now** - many require advance notice.

The Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter (DRW) Hotline is available to assist voters with a disability at 844-DIS-VOTE/ 844-347-8683 or info@disabilityvote.org. The Hotline can help voters check on their registration and polling place, explain accommodations, share transportation options, describe how to return an absentee ballot and more. Voters who experience a voting rights concern and need assistance are encouraged to contact the DRW Voter Hotline.

Voters with disabilities should [know their rights](#). To ensure that our voting process is accessible to all, voters with disabilities have the right to request accommodations, including the following:

- **Curbside voting** should be available at every polling place for voters who have difficulty entering their polling place due to a disability; individuals who are immunocompromised, or have symptoms of COVID-19 are also eligible to curbside vote. Two poll workers will bring a ballot to the voter, and conduct voting at their vehicle, or at the polling place entrance. Proof of identification must be provided. If a voter is not registered, proof of residence must be provided. *Voters should contact their clerk today to ask how to access curbside voting.*

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*The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition is a project of
Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities and Disability Rights Wisconsin*

- **If a voter needs help marking the ballot, they may have a person assist them.** That person does not need to be qualified to vote. The voter may bring someone with them or request assistance from a poll worker. The voter may not receive assistance from an employer or union representative.
- **If a voter inside the polling location cannot sign the poll list** due to a physical disability, they should inform a poll worker. The poll worker will write "Exempt by order of inspectors" in the signature space on the poll list.
- **An accessible voting machine will be available at every polling place on November 3.** This machine will allow voters to independently mark the ballot. These machines will be set up to allow voters who use a wheelchair to reach the controls, and have an audio ballot-marking option for voters with a visual disability.
- **The poll worker may ask voters to speak their name and address.** If a voter is unable to state their name and address, Wisconsin law allows voters to have poll workers or assistants of their choosing state their name and address on their behalf prior to receiving a ballot. Voters can also provide their information in writing to poll workers or assistants.
- **Other reasonable accommodations can be requested.** Speak to the chief inspector at your polling place.

A voter with a disability cannot be turned away from the polls because a poll worker thinks they are not 'qualified' to vote. Disability or medical diagnosis does not take away the right to vote. Only the courts can take away that right.

Reporting Concerns. If a voter experiences an accessibility or voting rights concern, it is important to report that concern so it can be resolved. Concerns should be reported to the Chief Election Inspector at the polling place or to the Municipal Clerk. We also recommend reporting the concern to the Wisconsin Elections Commission at elections.wi.gov/form/accessibility-complaint. The DRW Voter Hotline is available to help voters who have a complaint.

Voter Survey. Voters with disabilities are encouraged to take a survey to help us learn more about their voting experience. The SABE GoVoter survey is conducted nationally to learn more about what is working well for voters with disabilities and what are the challenges. The Disability Vote Coalition will use the survey results to advocate with elected officials to make improvements to our voting system.

- Link to the SABE Go Voter 2020 survey (English):
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SABEGoVoter2020survey>
- Link to Spanish (Español) survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SABEGoVoter2020surveySPA>

About the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition

The WDVC is a non-partisan effort to help ensure full participation in the entire electoral process of voters with disabilities, including registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places. Members include people with disabilities, and community agencies including Access to Independence, Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, NAMI Wisconsin, People First Wisconsin, Mental Health America, Wisconsin Association of the Deaf, and many others. The Coalition is coordinated by Disability Rights Wisconsin and Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.