



# Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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*P.O. Box 7222, Madison, Wisconsin 53707*

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## **Survival Coalition Concerned About Voting Bills**

Today, the State Legislature will vote on several bills that will make it harder for many people with disabilities and older adults to vote. Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations opposes the following bills: SB 204, SB 205, SB 206, SB 209. The proposals would create new barriers for voters who vote with the status of “indefinitely confined” due to disability, and also restrict the voting rights of residents of nursing homes and group homes, many of whom need assistance to vote. While multiple amendments continue to be put forth, the amended versions were not available for public comment.

“We ask policy makers to slow down the process and not advance legislation that could create new barriers,” stated Beth Swedeen, Survival Coalition co-chair. “The proposals impact the voting rights for hundreds of thousands of Wisconsinites with a disability and older adults, and could further impact all voting age Wisconsinites – over 4,500,000 people.”

Many voters with disabilities rely on absentee voting because so many experience barriers to voting in person. Many are non-drivers with limited access to transportation. In addition to lack of accessible transportation, disability related or health concerns, difficulty obtaining photo ID, and polling place accessibility issues may limit their ability to vote in person.

Instead of advancing new restrictions, Survival Coalition would like to work with policymakers to advance recommendations that will ensure our elections are more accessible and inclusive of voters of all abilities.

*Survival Coalition is comprised of more than 20 statewide disability organizations that advocate and support policies and practices that lead to the full inclusion, participation, and contribution of people living with disability.*

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Real Lives, Real Work, Real Smart, Wisconsin  
Investing in People with Disabilities