



**WCILC and Centers for Independent Living
Concerned about Impact of Election-Related Bills**

6/8/21

This week the State Legislature will vote on several bills that will make it harder for many people with disabilities and older adults to vote. WCILC opposes the following bills: SB 204, SB 205, SB 206, SB 209. WCILC Executive Director Maureen Ryan stated, "Those voting bills will result in additional barriers and hurdles for people with disabilities to vote, particularly those who rarely leave their homes due to their disability."

While amendments have slightly improved some of the bills, WCILC believes that the process should slow down and include real discussions about the unintended consequences of these bills. The legislature should consider solid recommendations for bills that actually improve the election process for people with disabilities and older adults and address accessibility barriers.

According to the CDC, in Wisconsin, 22.7% of the adults at least 18 years old have a disability. These bills will have an impact on many voters with disabilities, particularly older ones as the incidence of disability increases with age. It is important that the state legislature understands how these election bills could affect voters with disabilities.

The Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers (WCILC) is the not for profit statewide association of the eight ILCs in Wisconsin. WCILC facilitates and promotes the collective work of the Wisconsin ILCs through a unified statewide voice. This collaborative effort strives to enhance the opportunities for people with disabilities to live independently and be active participants in their community. Because of the unique federal requirement for Independent Living Centers to have at least half of their boards and at least half of their staff be persons with disabilities, we are acutely conscious of how state voting regulations can impact people with disabilities.

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