



PRESS RELEASE

March 18, 2020

IMPORTANT ELECTIONS INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Good Afternoon,

Given that the Governor and others are signaling that the April election is slated to continue as scheduled, it is more important than ever to ensure that the public has correct information about absentee voting and the election process in general. We continue to hear from members of the public and municipal and county leadership that incorrect information is being shared within the community. We are asking that, if possible, you stress the following in your coverage and/or create a place where your readers, viewers, and others can easily find this information so that we can nip any misinformation and/or misunderstandings in the bud.

This information will also be posted on the Portage County website under the "Press Releases" link that is at the top of the COVID-19 information page as well as in the "In The Spotlight" section in the lower left of the county homepage.

Thank you.

Chris Holman
Portage County Executive

Kayla Filen
Portage County Clerk

KEY INFORMATION:

Wednesday, March 18 is the deadline for electors to **register to vote by mail or online** for the Presidential Preference Primary and Spring Election. After this date, electors must register in person in the municipal clerk's office or at the polling place on Election Day.

Electors who wish to register by mail should send in a voter registration application with proof of residence immediately. Voter registrations that are mailed must be postmarked by today Wednesday, March 18.

Electors can complete a voter registration application at <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-US/RegisterToVote> then print and return to their municipal clerk.

Voter registration forms that can be printed and filled out by hand are also available here: <https://elections.wi.gov/forms/el-131-fillable>.

Voters can register online at <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/> until 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18. In order to register online you must have a Wisconsin DL or Wisconsin State ID card.

The information entered into MyVote including name, date of birth, and address must match what is on file with the Department of Transportation in order to register online. Individuals who need to update their name and/or address can update their information with the DOT online and then complete their voter registration online.

Electors who miss the March 18 deadline to **register by mail or online** can still register in their municipal clerk's office or at the polls on Election Day. Proof of residence is required. More information on acceptable forms of proof of residence can be found here: <https://elections.wi.gov/publications/voter-guides/proof-of-residence>.

The polls will be open on Election Day, but we are encouraging voters to vote absentee. Registered voters can request an absentee ballot online, by mail, fax, or in-person. To request an absentee ballot online, voters should go to <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/VoteAbsentee>. Photo ID is required.

Voters can also request an absentee ballot by mailing, emailing, or faxing their municipal clerk's office. Your clerk's contact information can be found here: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyVoterInfo>. These requests must be accompanied by a copy of your photo ID. If you already have a photo ID on file from a previous absentee request under your current registration, you will not need to provide it again.

Voters who are indefinitely confined, meaning they may have difficulty getting to the polls for reason of age, illness, infirmity, or disability are not required to provide a photo ID. More information on photo ID and exemptions can be found at <https://bringit.wi.gov/>.

The deadline for registered voters to request an absentee ballot be mailed to them is the Thursday before the election, April 2.

Voters must return their absentee ballot to their municipal clerk's office or polling place by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

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