

VOTERS GUIDE: Casting your vote

September 2008

The INFO SERIES has been developed to provide you with general information. The descriptions do not describe the full extent of services or products. We encourage you to evaluate all information and determine which is best for your particular needs. Contact one of our staff for more information.

You have the right to vote!

Here are some suggestions to make it easier for you to exercise that right.



Voting at the Polls:

Every polling place must be accessible to people with disabilities. If the building is not accessible, or you cannot access the polling place inside the building, you may:

- 1) Request in advance that a poll worker bring a ballot to the building entrance.
- 2) If your polling place is not accessible, notify the clerk's office and the State Elections Board.

If you need assistance reading or marking the ballot, tell the poll worker when you provide your name and address.

Voting by Absentee Ballot:

If you cannot go to your polling place on Election Day, you may vote by absentee ballot. There are several ways of doing this.

- 1) You may complete an absentee ballot in person at your city, town or village clerk's office. The deadline is 5 p.m. on the day before the election.
- 2) You may apply for an absentee ballot by going to the Wisconsin State Elections Board website <http://elections.state.wi.us> You will look for form EB-121 Application for Absentee Ballot in the Forms and Publications section.
- 3) Mail a request for an absentee ballot to your clerk's office. Your request must include these six things: your full name, legal voting address, ward or election district, request for an absentee ballot, address where you want the ballot sent and your signature.



Absentee ballots must be received in the clerk's office by Election Day.

Voting while Hospitalized:

If you are in the hospital, you can complete an absentee ballot application, unless you are too disabled. You may choose someone to pick up an absentee ballot from your polling place before 5 p.m. on Election Day. The person who picks up the absentee ballot for you cannot be a candidate. He/she must bring the application, must know you, must live in the same city or town as you, and must show identification

Voting while in a Nursing Home or Retirement Facility:

Many facilities make arrangements with their municipality to provide specific times for absentee voting. Special election deputies bring absentee ballots to the facility and

conduct the voting process. Check with your facility to find out if such an arrangement has been made. If it has not, contact your city, town or village clerk's office to request an absentee ballot.

Need more information?

If you need help finding your polling location or the name and location of your city, town or village clerk's office, contact **Society's Assets** at any of our three locations.

Disability Rights Wisconsin has a toll-free voter assistance hotline available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Contact them at 1-800-928-8778 (voice) or 1-888-758-6049 (TTY).

You will also find the information on the **Wisconsin State Elections Board** website: <http://elections.state.wi.us> Choose "Voter Information" in the left-hand menu. Then choose "Find Voter and Poll Information." You can use the "Voter Public Access" tool or select the "polling place links" or "municipal clerk list" options near the bottom of the page.

Complaints?

If you have complaints about access or a possible violation of your voter's rights, contact the Wisconsin State Elections Board at 1-608-266-8005 or toll-free at 1-866-868-3947 or via e-mail at seb@seb.state.wi.us

Related Info Series topics: Voters Guide: Issue Resources

Resources:

Voting in Wisconsin: A Guide for Citizens with Disabilities
<http://www.adawipartnership.org/Voting/VotingGuide.htm>

Frequently Asked Questions--Information for Voters with Disabilities
http://elections.state.wi.us/faq_que_list.asp?fid=48&locid=47



The listings on this Info Sheet should in no way be construed to constitute an endorsement of a company, organization or its service, nor should exclusion be construed to constitute disapproval. The information that appears in this publication was obtained from the company/organizations listed above.



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Racine, WI 53406
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(800) 378-9128 V/TTY

Kenosha Office
5727 6th Ave
Kenosha, WI 53140
(262) 657-3999 V/TTY
(800) 317-3999 V/TTY

Elkhorn Office
615 E. Geneva Street
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(262) 723-8181 V/TTY
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