

Inmate Voting

610.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes the requirement for providing eligible inmates the opportunity to vote during elections, pursuant to election statutes.

610.2 POLICY

Because inmates are unable to access public voting polls, the Jail Commander or the authorized designee shall develop written procedures whereby the County Clerk allows qualified inmates to vote in local, state and federal elections, pursuant to election codes.

Inmates should be advised of voting methods during the inmate orientation.

610.3 PROCEDURES

Prior to each election, the Jail Commander will designate a correctional officer to be a liaison between the Agency and the local Registrar of Voters. The designated correctional officer will be responsible for assisting inmates who have requested to vote.

The designated correctional officer should ensure voting posters are hung in all housing units with dates and eligibility requirements prior to any local election.

To participate in an election, the following shall be completed:

- (a) An inmate shall submit an inmate request slip to the Law Library asking to vote.
- (b) An inmate programming officer shall verify the requesting inmate's voter registration using the My Vote Wisconsin website (<https://myvote.wi.gov>).
- (c) An inmate programming officer shall meet with the requesting inmate to determine if he/she was arrested with a valid Wisconsin driver's license or other government identification.
- (d) If so, the inmate shall complete a permission slip to authorize the inmate programming officer to open his/her sealed bag to make a copy of the identification.
- (e) The property clerk shall inventory all items in the sealed bag.
- (f) The inmate programming officer shall register the inmate to vote.
 1. The inmate shall complete the voter registration form to be used for registration.
- (g) The inmate programming officer shall deliver a copy of the inmate's identification and his/her absentee ballot request form to the inmate.
- (h) The inmate shall complete the application for an absentee ballot and send the form and copy of his/her identification to the Election Commission.
- (i) The Election Commission will send an absentee ballot to the requesting inmate, which he/she should complete and mail back to the Election Commission.