



Commissioners
Stephanie Findley, Chair
Carmen C. Cabrera
Jess Ripp

Executive Director
Claire Woodall-Vogg

Election Commission

Four-Year-Maintenance Deactivation

Wisconsin Statutes § 6.50 requires the Wisconsin Election Commission (WEC), no later than June 15th following a general election, to mail notices to all voters who have been registered to vote for the past four years but have not voted. The notice indicates that voters' registrations will be deactivated unless they request continuation of their registration within 30 days.

33,227 City of Milwaukee voters are currently slated to receive this mailing and be inactivated if they do not respond. This number is comparable to past mailings; the maintenance process is routine and has not resulted in any major errors in the past. The WEC updated the language of the post card in 2018 to be easier to understand for voters. The mailing only targets voters who have not voted since November of 2016 or earlier. **We would like to make Council Members to help us spread the word to City of Milwaukee residents that the post cards are going out in mid-June so that voters know that the mailing is legitimate and from their elections office.**

Voters who receive the notice can request continuation in several ways:

- The voter can sign and return the "Application for Continuation of Registration" section of the "Notice of Suspension of Registration" postcard.
- A written request for continuation of registration can also be made in person or sent by mail.
- A voter whose name or address has changed must re-register.

The postcard directs voters who believe they received it in error to contact the City of Milwaukee Election Commission or the WEC and provides voters with the WEC's toll-free number. If the notice is returned as undeliverable or if the voter does not respond within 30 days, the WEC deactivates the voter's registration in the statewide voter registration system. **Voters who are deactivated do not appear on the poll list on Election Day and must re-register in order to vote.** WEC staff plan to complete this process on or before July 31, 2021.

Indefinitely Confined Absentee Voting Maintenance

Wisconsin Statutes § 6.86(2)(b) require that the Election Commission contact indefinitely confined voters following an election if they do not return their absentee ballot. Indefinitely confined voters are those that have certify that they are "indefinitely confined due to age, illness, infirmity or disability" and are mailed a ballot automatically for every election until they fail to return a ballot. Due to the tight timelines between elections, the City of Milwaukee does this after each Spring Election.

Just over 16,000 of our 29,000 indefinitely confined voters did not return their absentee ballot for the April 7, 2021 Spring Election. Performing this maintenance will help us ensure that we are not wasting postage, ballots, and labor on mailing ballots to voters who no longer wish to receive ballots by mail or do not want to vote in every single election. Prior to COVID, we would have between 6,000 – 7,000 indefinitely confined voters annually.



Voters will be mailed a letter in June. The letter will instruct that if they wish to remain on the indefinitely confined list, they should sign and return the letter to us or email us at absenteeballot@milwaukee.gov in order to stay on the list. Otherwise, voters who do not respond will be removed and will need to reapply in 2022 in order to resume receiving ballots. This mailing does not affect the voter's registration status whatsoever.