



STATE OF WISCONSIN
BOARD ON AGING AND LONG TERM CARE

1402 Pankratz Street, Suite 111
Madison, WI 53704-4001
(608) 246-7013
Ombudsman Program (800) 815-0015
Medigap Helpline (800) 242-1060
Fax (608) 246-7001
<http://longtermcare.wi.gov>

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Eva Arnold
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Long Term Care
Ombudsman Program
1 (800) 815-0015

Voting in Long Term Care Facilities

It's election season again. Many concerned voters who live in nursing homes or assisted living facilities are wondering how they will be able to cast their ballot. Well, there is a way, even for those who have difficulty getting around.

Wisconsin law, in Chapter 6 of the state statutes, includes a provision designed to provide voters in these circumstances with a means to have access to the ballot box.

As a resident of a long term care facility, you have a right to request an absentee ballot and have two "special voting deputies" come to the facility for the purpose of allowing you to vote. Each of the two special deputies will be affiliated with a different political party so there will be minimal risk of undue influence. The law permits you to have a close relative assist you to cast your ballot if you wish. Your vote will be witnessed by the special deputies and forwarded by them to the local election office for recording on election day.

The Board on Aging and Long Term Care urges all concerned voters who live in residential care homes or assisted living to contact the town, village, or city clerk, or the board of election commissioners in your community to request access to an absentee ballot under section 6.875 of the Wisconsin Statutes. This is not something that should be put off. Requesting the ballot now will give the election workers ample time to arrange for the process to be completed without unnecessary delay and it will assure you that your vote will count.

If you have questions about this or any other issue of your rights as a resident in a Wisconsin long term care facility, contact the Ombudsman Program at 1 (800) 815-0015 .

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