

Our Mission...

The League of Women Voters of Ashland & Bayfield Counties (LWV/ABC) is a nonpartisan political organization whose main objective is to promote political responsibility through the informed and active participation of all in government at all levels, especially locally.

Highlights

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The Leaguer

Fall 2020



100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

Photo from the Votes for Women March in Hawyard on August 26th

On Wednesday, August 26th we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote!! Across Ashland and Bayfield counties, and Hayward, local churches rang their bells 19 times at 12 noon to recognize this significant event. We had beautiful displays at the Ashland Vaughn Library, Bayfield Carnegie Library, the Bayfield Chamber of Commerce, the Ashland Historical Museum, and the Sherman and Ruth Weiss Community Library in Hayward. Car Parades were held in Ashland, Bayfield and Washburn; a Votes for Women march was held in Hayward. Vote face masks were made for this occasion and our upcoming election season.

Comment from Hayward participant: "Suffragists of old were watching over us. This was special, powerful to represent what those suffragists stood for and fought for. A car drove by and an older male spoke out the window 'Why don't you go home and do the dishes!' We have more work to do to protect our Voting Rights!!"

And from an Ashland participant "Thank you all so much for such a wonderful day of celebration. It was a wonderful opportunity for a simple history lesson, and I think my grandchildren will always remember the day, and what it means."



Sue Niemi, President

president@lwvabcwi.org

It is hard to believe that summer is already passing, and we are heading into fall. Though it is hard to see the lush green of summer go, I find the smell of autumn as refreshing as the crisp smell of winter, the fresh smell of spring and the warm smell of summer. The changing of the seasons reminds me of all the changes we have faced over the last year. It has been a year of exponential change. So many aspects of our lives have been altered that it is hard to determine what is going to happen next. Just as we treasure this beautiful area in which we live, we also cherish democracy and right now, it feels like our democracy is at risk. That is why the League's work is so important right now and your participation in the work is so critical. In the words of the first president of the League of Women Voters, Carrie Chapman Catt: "To the wrongs that need resistance, To the right that needs assistance, To the future in the distance, Give yourselves."

2 The Leaguer - Fall 2020

Greetings from our President

First, this is a critical election year. Our Voter Services committee is working diligently to ensure that voters are confident that they can vote and that their vote is counted. In this pandemic time, it has required re-thinking of how we engage with potential voters as the in-person, side-by-side engagement just is not going to be safe. Look at Margie's report on Voter Services and you will see some unique events that Voter Services has engaged in or will be sponsoring, such as "drive-up voter registration". Do you want to learn how to register people to vote or maybe help set up such an event in your area? Please contact Margie Braun and she will get you to the appropriate leader in your area.

Second, in July, the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution to put a fair redistricting referendum on the November ballot. This is huge! Since we are unable to get the state legislature to address this statewide, the approach is to get every county to pass the resolution and then pass a resolution to put a referendum on the ballot. Special thanks to Shari Eggleston for providing public comments at the meeting on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties! At our Fall Membership meeting, we will be having a special speaker on this topic, which you will learn more about in this issue.

Third, our Natural Resources Advocacy Committee has been working tirelessly on the opposition to Enbridge's Line 5 re-route, in partnership with numerous external partners such as Midwest Environmental Advocates, the Sierra Club, and the Bad River Watershed Association. The work continues as you will see in Joan's article. The incredibly beautiful land, water and our livelihood are at risk because of this proposed pipeline re-route. Even when we feel the fatigue of what feels like an endless fight, the work goes on and the more voices going to the right agencies is critical.

Fourth, our Economic Inequality committee is going to do an in-depth study to determine the economic effects on our area due to the Covid-19 pandemic and what we need to do in response. Jan Penn and Linda Jorgenson, as co-chairs will be leading this work. The hardship felt by this area where economic inequalities are so evident, are significantly compounded by the impacts of the pandemic.

An important part of ensuring we address economic inequality is to ensure that all our residents get counted in the US Census. This determines what type of government funding we receive. When we are trending below 50% participation in some northern counties, that means 50% of that revenue could go away once the census count is complete.

Greetings... continued on page 3

Please encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to participate in the US Census if they have not already. Check it out: <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html>. The deadline is closing at the end of September!

So, as I sit back a day after the wonderful celebrations honoring the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, I hope we all can take a deep breath and gear up for a fall where we push on even more diligently to ensure that we get as many people to register and vote, safely and confidently.

A big shout out to the Centennial Committee Coordinator Ginger Quay for managing all the numerous details to make the celebrations successful and the Steering Committee Dianne Judd, Linda Jorgenson, Margie Braun, Lissa Radke and Kelly Westlund, plus the people on their committees and Jackie Kruse in Cable.

Happy Fall and looking forward to seeing all of you when we have our Fall Membership Virtual Meeting on September 24th at 6 pm, which you will learn more about in Gail Syverud's article. It will be worth your time!

CENSUS 2020 - URGENT RESPONSE NEEDED

by Bev Lindell

Every ten years our government as required by the Constitution takes count of the population of our country. This has been in place since 1790. The purpose is to collect statistics on the persons living in America because it helps to determine how public federal funds will be allocated to communities.

Answers to the census questions are confidential. Private information is never published and cannot be used against anyone by a government agency.

Funding for services that are important to your community such as schools, fire departments, roads and highways are affected by these statistics. To date, the response numbers for Ashland and Bayfield counties are lower than our state average of 71%.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET COMPLETED YOUR CENSUS FORM, PLEASE DO SO TODAY.


You can complete your census form online, by phone or by mail. For more information go to <http://my2020census.gov> or call +1 (844) 330-2020.




STAND UP and BE COUNTED

**I will
respond
to the
2020 Census!**

What's at stake?

 Billions in federal funds for public education and housing, roads and bridges, and more.

 The number of seats New York City has in Congress.

 Your community. Your voice.

Learn more and volunteer to get out the count: nyc.gov/census

Fair Maps Resolution to Appear on November Ballot in Bayfield County

by Shari Eggleston

At the urging of the League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties (LWV/ABC) and others, the Bayfield County Board voted on August 28 to include an advisory referendum on “the creation of [a] nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional redistricting plans and maps” on the November ballot. The resolution adopted by the Board reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors on October 31, 2017 passed a resolution calling for nonpartisan legislative and congressional redistricting maps; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IV, Section 3 of the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Legislature is directed to redistrict state legislative districts “according to the number of inhabitants” at its next session following the decennial federal census. The legislature also reapportions congressional districts at the same interval pursuant to federal law; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous indicators that the citizens of Wisconsin are concerned about the practice of redistricting by whichever party holds the majority, because it may stifle political participation and competition, discourage collaboration and compromise, and lack the fairness necessary to our democratic process, by undermining the principle of one-person-one vote.

WHEREAS, the current procedure allows the legislature of the majority party to prepare redistricting plans and maps that may result in unfair partisan plans and maps, allowing the legislature to choose its voters rather than the voters choosing their representatives, which is commonly called gerrymandering.

The question the Board therefore directed be placed on the ballots is: **“Should the Wisconsin legislature create a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional district plans and maps?”**

In testimony before the Board, before it adopted this resolution, speaking for the LWV/ABC, I said:

“The League believes that a fair and independent redistricting process is needed to put an end to gerrymandering, and according to a Marquette Law School poll conducted earlier this year, Wisconsin voters agree, with 72% of the likely voters polled expressing a preference for district maps drawn by a nonpartisan commission.

Already, 51 counties, including this one, have passed county board resolutions urging the Legislature to ban gerrymandering, and 17 counties have passed referendums by overwhelming margins with the same demand. Perhaps if enough Counties speak loudly enough, the Legislature will be forced to listen.”

This question will appear on the November ballot in eleven other counties.



Contact your representatives

US Senator Tammy Baldwin, <https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/feedback>, (202) 224-5653

US Senator Ron Johnson, <https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/> (202) 224-5323

US House Representative Tom Tiffany, <https://tiffany.house.gov>, (202) 225-3365

WI State Senator Janet Bewely, <https://www.bewleyforsenate.com/>, (608) 284-8874

WI State Representative, Beth Meyers, (608) 266-7690

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/legislators/assembly/>

2020 LWV/ABC Board & Committee Members

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Contact the Board at:

info@lwvabcwi.org or

PO Box 175, Ashland, WI 54806

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Nominating Committee

Jo Bailey

Chair

Kay Saari

Fall Membership Meeting

by Gail Syverud

We will hold our Fall Membership Meeting on September 24 from 6 to 7:30 pm. We have invited Jay Heck, Director of Common Cause in Wisconsin (CC/WI) to be our guest speaker. The topic of his presentation is Fair Maps.

CC/WI was established in 1996 and is now Wisconsin's largest non-partisan citizens reform advocacy organization with 2500 plus members. Jay Heck is known for leading redistricting reform in Wisconsin. He advocates for the Iowa model that uses an independent non-partisan organization to draw new district maps. He has also unified legislators and organizations to seek a more democratic approach to partisan gerrymandering.

Due to COVID 19 and the inability to hold in person meetings, we will be organizing a Zoom meeting. Members will receive a link and phone numbers to join. This event is also open to LWV/ABC friends and the public in general. To register, please contact President Suzanne Niemi (president@abcleaguevoters.org) for instructions on accessing the online video conference.

**We look forward to your
participation!**

League of Women Voters Websites:

LWV/ABC: <http://www.lwvabcwi.org/>

LWV or Wisconsin: <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin>

LWV National: <https://www.lwv.org/>

Natural Resources Advocacy

by Joan Elias

The Natural Resources Advocacy Committee met weekly throughout the summer, with the main focus of our activities being opposition to Enbridge Line 5. We continued our collaboration on this issue with other entities from throughout Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan. We also provided comments on the Nemadji Trail Energy Center's (in Superior, WI) Air Pollution Control Construction Permits on behalf of our local chapter. President Sue Niemi submitted those comments in August. Both the expansion of the Line 5 pipeline and the Nemadji Trail frac gas plant would be major investments in fossil fuel infrastructure at a time when we, as a society, should be moving away from fossil fuels and investing in alternative sources of energy.

The remainder of this article focuses on our activities relative to Enbridge Line 5.

Enbridge filed an application with the Public Service Commission (PSC) to potentially use eminent domain to acquire easements or title to land to complete their expansion of Line 5 around the Bad River Reservation. The PSC would have reviewed the application to determine whether the project was in the public interest. LWVWI, relying on our local chapter as liaisons, joined with several other non-profit organizations under the representation of

LWV CALENDAR

September (Voter Registration Month)

Thursday 17

Constitution Day and Citizen Day

Tuesday 22

National Voter Registration Day
LWV/ABC Board Meeting (via Zoom)

Thursday 24

Membership Meeting 6 - 7:30 (via Zoom)

Saturday 26

Communities United by Water 10 am
(Bayview City Park a.k.a. Pamida Beach)

October

Thursday 1

(Virtual) A Bi-Partisan Case for End
Gerrymandering 7

Tuesday 27

LWV/ABC Board Meeting (via Zoom)

November

Tuesday 3

Election Day!

Saturday 14

LWVWI Issues Briefing (Virtual)

Tuesday 24

LWV/ABC Board Meeting (via Zoom)

Thursday 26

Thanksgiving

Midwest Environmental Advocates to apply for intervenor status with the PSC. Ultimately, after two extensions of the deadline, Enbridge acquired the lands they desired for construction of Line 5, avoiding the need for eminent domain.

The other prong of the regulatory framework for pipelines lies with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), which will complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and decide permission for wetland and waterway crossings. The WDNR held a public hearing on these issues July 1st and accepted written comments

through July 11th. The hearing lasted over 5 hours, with nearly 100 people providing testimony. More than 1600 written comments were submitted.

Our Natural Resources committee provided comments on behalf of LWVWI focusing on the ecological fragility and natural treasures of our area. We requested specific information be included in the EIS and urged careful scrutiny of existing scientific literature when reviewing wetland/waterway crossing permits. Our thorough, lengthy comments can be found on the LWVABC website (lwwabcwi.org).

Natural continued on page 7

As the process continues, the public will have additional opportunities to comment: 1) when the draft EIS is released, and 2) when WDNR issues wetland/waterway crossing permits. Presently, the exact locations of the stream and wetland crossings remain unknown. The devil lies in the details of these crossings (such as slope, soil type, depth to bedrock, upstream and downstream erosion potential), and there will likely be close to 200 crossings to evaluate.

The Penokee Hills Education Project is hosting an outdoor event September 26 at Bayview City Park in Ashland. The event, Communities United by Water – Celebrating Protection of our Environment and Resources, will be a safe event, with masks required. Find more information at Penokeehillseducation@gmail.com.

The Natural Resources Advocacy Committee will continue our involvement with Enbridge Line 5 and other issues relevant to our area and state as they arise.



**NO LINE 5
PROTECT THE WATERS
OF THE PENOKEE HILLS**

Economic Inequality Action Committee Back To Collecting The Facts

By Linda Jorgenson and Jan Penn, Co-Chairs

No one disputes today's shocking wealth gap in America anymore. But we are divided into two camps: those who despair how that money imbalance translates into a power imbalance that distorts our governing process and policies, and those who feel stagnant wages, housing insecurity and lack of health insurance are problems of individual citizens. In either case it does not bode well for "making democracy work".

In its May 2017 study our Ashland/Bayfield League made an effort to analyze the impact of economic inequality on two of our rural counties. Citing the 2016 WI United Way ALICE report they found that 48% of Ashland County residents and 36% of Bayfield County residents have incomes too low to cover the basic monthly necessities of life. The Study Committee recommended that elected officials revisit living wages, affordable housing/child-care/health care and fair taxes as important policies to redress the US wealth gap. It narrowed down its local public education campaign to ways to address child poverty in our counties. They felt this was important not only for fairness, but because rural counties, and children in particular, suffer when wealth and power are so concentrated.

Now with the Covid pandemic accentuating economic inequality in our country, the Inequality Action Committee plans to continue its effort to strategize how our League of Women Voters (LWV) locally and statewide can address this problem. Looking to the emerging 2020 Census data, the Committee feels the need to step back this fall and gather more recent facts about how unemployment, lack of or cost of health insurance, childcare options and inadequate public transportation are disadvantaging people in both counties. This becomes foundational for advancing an advocacy agenda in 2021.

Please come join us in working on this salient issue in America today. We will meet once a month, virtually until we get a Covid 19 vaccine. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 29. If you would like to join this Committee, please email Linda Jorgenson at jorgensonla@gmail.com.

We will start by divvying up areas for research (e.g. unemployment, wages, small business closings; health care insecurity; childcare costs; public transportation). At subsequent meetings we will share research, but most importantly strategize ways to take local action on the issues and report that to our LWV/ABC Board.

100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment Celebrations!

August 26th,
Ashland, Bayfield, Hayward & Washburn



Votes for Women!

*For decades fought the petticoats
with speeches brandished from their throats,
petitions, marches, banner quotes
“for women's votes, for women's votes!”*

*In Seneca Falls, the anthem grew
as Declaration words make new
with Sentiments for women too—
old ways undo, old ways undo.*

*In eighteen sixty-nine (back then!)
Wyoming gals could vote like men.
In time, states number more than ten—
lace votes again, lace votes again.*

*The skirts begin to agitate.
Amendment draft sparks long debate,
words Susan pens in '78.
Yet vote must wait, yet vote must wait.*

*With tactics new comes Alice Paul,
she leads the charge to overhaul
the women's suffrage scene; her call,
grant rights to all, grant rights to all.*

*Though struggles long, vict'ry at last,
a milestone reached, when Congress passed
Nineteenth—disenfranchisement dashed!
Vote-hope recast, vote-hope recast.*

*But states must ratify these words,
required approval by three-fourths.
Though Illinois shows up rehearsed,
Wisconsin's first, Wisconsin's first!*

*In Tennessee, amendment rides
on yellow roses. Starry-eyed,
one red rose “yellows,” turns the tide—
now ratified, now ratified!*

*In 1920, plays the band—
at polling places, she can stand!
Her ballots count, placed by her hand—
across the land, across the land.*

*So sweet the millions, votes hard won
for women—yet, the cry begun
sings on so citizens, bar none,
cast votes each one, cast votes each one.*

Lucy Tyrrell

Bayfield Poet Laureate

August 26, 2020

Communities United by Water

"Celebrating Protection of our Environment and Resources"

SOCIAL DISTANCING - MASKING REQUIRED

Bayview City Park (aka: Pamida Beach) - Ashland, Wisconsin

The "Communities United by Water" event will be on the waterfront of Lake Superior for most of the day. A Caravan with participants will embark to a pre-selected "Bury Enbridge" site for funeral rights in the afternoon.

"Car Caravan" drivers will be using a slowed-down procedure (slow moving caravan) to ensure a safe convoy of vehicles.

Suggestions for Conduct and Other Stuff

1. You are being asked to mask at all times in public. Please help contain the outbreak of the Corona Virus in all your actions and inter-actions during your traveling and presence.

This is about elders, children and those at higher risk. Mask in the vicinity of other citizens

2. You are here to help protect many waterways contributing to the Bad River Watershed, Lake Superior, Chequamegon Bay, Wetlands and Resources throughout.

3. Livestreaming and pictures by cell phone and camera are allowed, acceptable, and encouraged. If you don't want your picture taken or video of what you are doing here today filmed or recorded, please reconsider being here. The media is welcomed to cover this event.

4. Bring your own chairs and tables. Share information, music, your organization, and your love of life. Share prepared and packaged Healthy Foods. Be self-sufficient with your needs.

5. Individual organizations are each responsible for their own members, promotional and education materials, on site activities and travel safety. Be cordial to all on-lookers, they could be our allies. Do not block or impede other vehicles. Turn headlights on. Turn safety lights on when in line or in any stall situation to help warn other vehicles that you are not moving or are moving slow. Local law enforcement has been notified and we all hope for their cooperation.

6. Educate yourself on how to participate and contribute information for the up-coming **Enbridge Line #5 DNR and Federal Water Crossing and Wetland Permit Hearings.**

Schedule

10:00 am – Arrive at Superior Waterfront, Ceremony and Set-Up of site

11:30 am – Organizations with Information Tables, Speakers and Music

1:30 pm – Baaga'odowe Exhibition - Line 3/5 Opposition vs Enbridge

2:30 pm – Caravan leaves for "Bury Enbridge" Funeral Rites site

For More Information

Facebook Event Invite and Host:
"Penokee Hills Education Project"

Email: Penokeehillseducation@gmail.com

Resources and Correspondence to
PHEP, PO Box 966, Ashland, Wisconsin
54846



This event may go virtual!

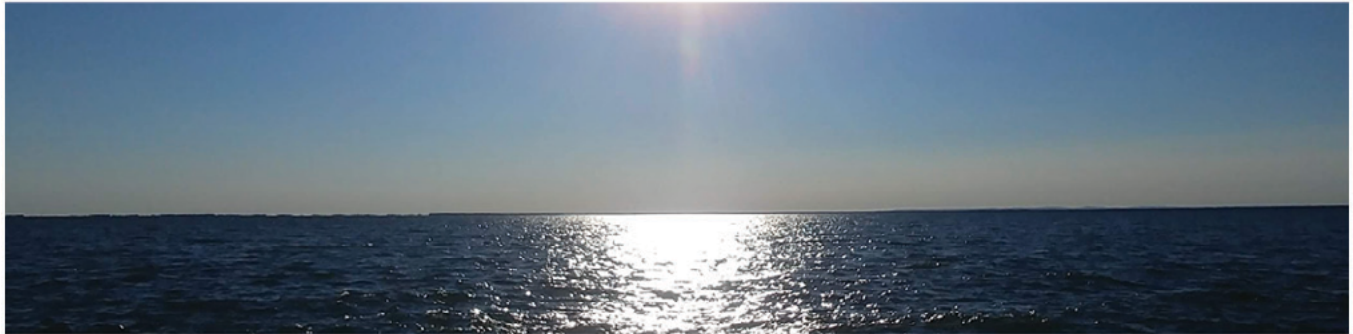
If this occurs LWV/ABC members and friends will be notified by email with instructions for participation.

This event may go virtual!

If this occurs LWV/ABC members and friends will be notified by email with instructions for participation.

Save This Date!

Gitchigaming Manitoowid "In The Spirit of Lake Superior"



Communities United by Water

"Celebrating Protection of our Environment and Resources"

Honoring the Environmental battles of the past, the Treaty of 1854 and Water Protectors Everywhere

Saturday, September 26, 2020

SOCIAL DISTANCING - MASKING REQUIRED

Bayview City Park - (aka: Pamida Beach)

1803 E. Lake Shore Drive, Ashland, Wisconsin

Indian Time-Line.....

10:16am – Arrive, Set-Up and Dockside Water Ceremony

11:30am – Information Tables/Blankets, Speakers, Food & Music

Confirmed Speakers to Date:

Winona LaDuke - "Transitioning to a Green Economy"

Jan Penn - "Harvesting the Bad River Watershed"

Mike Wiggins - "The Anishinabeg Love of Lake Superior"

Mike McCabe - "The Politics of Environmental Politics"

1:30pm – Baaga’odowe Exhibition (*Line 3/5 Opposition vs Enbridge No-Shows*)

2:30pm – Caravan Leaves for "Bury Enbridge" Funeral Rites

Environmental, tribal and advocacy organizations are welcome to attend and are responsible for organizing their own members for security and safe activities. Bring your own tables/blankets, chairs, food, portable sound systems, humor, friends and relatives -- sanitize during your travel to and from this event, mask, petition, organize and enjoy the day.

Keep yourself and our relatives safe.

Watch for Facebook Event Sites and Livestream "Communities United by Water"

Environmental and Leadership Organization Announcements and Updates

FMI: Penokeehillseducation@gmail.com

For General Information on the Battle against Enbridge Lines #3 and #5 go to: www.honorearth.org/

Critical Support and Resources can be sent to PHEP, PO Box 966, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

https://www.paypal.com/paypalmc/PenokeeHillsEducation?locale.x=en_US

GEAR UP TO VOTE

Register for the November 3 General Election

1. ONLINE OR BY MAIL

with a valid DMV license or photo ID

Deadline: October 14

Visit myvote.wi.gov for more information

2. AT YOUR CLERK'S OFFICE

Deadline: October 30

3. ON ELECTION DAY

November 3, at your polling place

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Helpful Resources

MYVOTE.WI.GOV

Find who is on your ballot, where your polling place and clerk's office are, and request and track your absentee ballot

BRINGIT.WI.GOV

Make sure you have the right photo ID

STATEWIDE VOTER HELPLINE: 608-285-2141

Call or text this number to have your voting questions answered

VOTE411.ORG/BALLOT

Your voter's guide, with unbiased candidate information

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Drive-Up Voter Registration and Services

Sherman Weiss Library in Hayward

Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



REQUEST YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT EARLY

You must be a registered voter to request an absentee ballot

REQUEST YOUR BALLOT ONLINE

Visit myvote.wi.gov to request your ballot. You will need to upload of your photo ID if your clerk does not have one on file for you

REQUEST YOUR BALLOT THROUGH MAIL

Visit elections.wi.gov to download and print a ballot request form

No Internet or Computer? No problem.

Request an absentee ballot in writing to your Clerk's office, including the following information:

- Your name
- Copy of your photo ID
- The address you are registered and the address you wish to receive your ballot
- The election(s) you want a ballot(s) for
- Contact information - phone or email

You can also obtain a request form from your Clerk

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Don't Wait. Make Your Request Now.

3 WEEKS BEFORE THE ELECTION: OCTOBER 14

Suggested time to request **and** return your ballot. You will need a witness to sign your ballot

If you receive your ballot later...

- Use a dropbox in your community, if possible.
- Drop it off at your polling place on Election Day
- Vote Early: Contact your Clerk for options

