

Pictured: Independent Living Resources' 25th blue and purple Anniversary logo

Independent Living Resources. Empowerment. Fall 2020

Title: A Note From the Director

As all of us are aware, this is a presidential election year amidst a pandemic. This unusual situation does not have to make it more complicated or harder to have your vote counted. We have included information so you can overcome any barriers to voting. If this information doesn't help, call us at 608-787-1111, or send us an email at advocacy@ilresources.org and we will do all we can to assist. Please don't wait, think ahead to make sure your vote counts. Use your voice and vote!

Take care & be safe.
Kathie Knoble-Iverson

Title: Join the ILR Board!

ILR is looking for board members who want to be part of our agency that promotes: consumer control, inclusion, diversity, and equality in all aspects of society. ILR has switched to virtual meetings so no travel is necessary. Applications can be completed online or in paper format. Interviews with recruitment committee are virtual. Board orientation is virtual. Meetings are 6-7 times per year on the last Monday of every other month

Please call Kathie or Sara at 608-787-1111 to learn more about becoming a member of our Board of Directors.

Pictured: image of a hand holding a cell phone

Pictured: Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition logo with a red check mark

Title: Your Vote is Your Voice!

Subtitle: Voting in Wisconsin

Know your voter rights. You have the right to vote privately and independently. You have the right to access the polling place, including an accessible route to enter the building. You have the Right to use an accessible voting machine. All polling places are required by law to have an accessible voting machine. You have the right to assistance marking your ballot. You may bring someone with you or ask a poll worker for assistance. Note: You cannot receive assistance from your employer or from your union representative. You have the right to ask for reasonable accommodations at the polling place.

Some common reasonable accommodations people ask for might be: a chair to sit on, a signature guide, a magnifying glass, assistance with stating a person's name or address.

If you are unable to enter your voting location due to disability, you may request curbside voting.

Subtitle: Registering to vote

Check to see if you are registered to vote at myvote.wi.gov. In Wisconsin you can:

- Register to vote online or by mail up to 20 days before Election Day
- Register to vote in person at your municipal clerk's office until the Friday before Election Day
- Register to vote in person at the Polls on Election Day

You will need to provide proof of residence when registering to vote. Find Examples of acceptable proof of resident documents at elections.wi.gov/publications/voter-guides/proof-of-residence

The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition is a project of Disability Rights Wisconsin and The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

Pictured: Wisconsin BPDD logo with green, orange, and blue spiral

www.disabilityvote.org. www.facebook.com/wisconsin disability vote/

Pictured: blue facebook logo

Subtitle: Where to vote

Find your polling place at myvote.wi.gov. Can't make it to the polls? Vote absentee: myvote.wi.gov/en-us/VoteAbsentee. For early voting information, contact your Municipal Clerk: myvote.wi.gov/en-US/MyMunicipalClerk

Subtitle: Voter ID

-An Acceptable Wisconsin photo ID card is required to vote. Find out more at www.bringit.wi.gov. Need a free state ID? Call the Department of Motor Vehicles: 608-266-2261. Don't have an ID on Election Day? You can still cast a provisional ballot, which will give you extra time to get an ID: myvote.wi.gov/en-us/ProvisionalBallots

Subtitle: When is your next election

Check when your next election will be: myvote.wi.gov/en-us/PreviewMyBallot

Check what is on your Ballot: myvote.wi.gov/en-us/PreviewMyBallot

Subtitle: For help with voting concerns

If you have complaints about access to voting or believe your rights have been violated, file a complaint with the Wisconsin Elections Commission: elections.wi.gov or 1-866-VOTE-WIS

For help filing a complaint or any other disability related voting questions, contact the Disability Rights Voter Hotline: 844-DIS-VOTE or 844-347-8683

Subtitle: Resource List

- Wisconsin Elections Commission: elections.wi.gov or 1-866-VOTE-WIS
- Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition: www.disabilityvote.org & www.facebook.com/wisconsin Disability Vote/
- Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline: 844-DIS-VOTE or 844-347-8683
- Unbiased candidate information: vote411.org
- Need help getting an ID or to the DMV? Call the Voter ID Coalition for free voter assistance: 608-285-2141

Subtitle: Stay informed:

- Contact us at info@disabilityvote.org to get on our email list.
- Join the coalition on our website at www.disabilityvote.org

Make the Disability Vote Count in the 2020 Election
Title: November 3, 2020
General and Presidential Elections

Questions? Call Wisconsin Election
Commission: 1-866-VOTE-WIS
Visit: elections.wi.gov or
Email: elections@wi.gov

Register to vote online at MyVote.wi.gov
For help with disability related voting issues:
Disability Rights
Wisconsin Voter
Hotline:
844-DIS-VOTE
844-347-8683
Follow Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition:
www.disabilityvote.org
www.facebook.com/wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition
info@disabilityvote.org

Subtitle: Voter Registration Deadlines for the November 3, 2020 General Election

Voters can register in the following ways. All voters must provide a Proof of Residence document when registering to vote by mail, in-person in the clerk's office, or at the polls on Election Day.

October 14, 2020 Deadline to Register by Mail. Your voter registration form, along with proof of residence must be postmarked to your municipal clerk no later than October 14, 2020.

October 14, 2020 Deadline to Register to vote online. Voters who are able to match their name, date of birth, Wisconsin Driver License or State ID number, and address with the Wisconsin DMV can register to vote online through October 14, 2020.

October 30, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m. Deadline to Register in Your Municipal Clerk's Office. Voters may register in-person in their municipal clerk's office during the clerk's business hours until 5:00 p.m. on October 30, 2020.

November 3, 2020 from 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Register to Vote at Your Polling Place. Voters can register to vote at their polling place on Election Day, November 3, 2020.

Subtitle: Absentee Voting Deadlines for the November 3, 2020 General Election

All voters in Wisconsin can request an absentee ballot be mailed to them for any reason. Voters must be registered before they can request an absentee ballot. Voters may request their absentee ballot in writing. To request an absentee ballot go to MyVote.wi.gov You must provide a photo ID with your absentee ballot request.

October 29, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m. Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot for Regular and Permanent Overseas Voters. If you are a regular or a Permanent Overseas Voter, your absentee ballot request must be received by your municipal clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 29, 2020.

October 30, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m. Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot for Indefinitely Confined. If a voter is indefinitely confined, your absentee ballot request must be received by your municipal clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 30, 2020.

October 20, 2020, possibly through November 1, 2020 Deadline for In-Person Absentee. Voters can possibly request and vote an absentee ballot in-person in their municipal clerk's office through November 1, 2020. Office hours vary by municipality. Some municipal offices may not offer additional in-person absentee hours. Please contact your municipal clerk for absentee voting hours.

November 3, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m. - Deadline for Hospitalized Voters - Voters who are in a hospital may request a ballot be brought to them by an appointed agent if they are hospitalized in the 7 days preceding the election. Hospitalized electors may request an absentee ballot between October 27, 2020 and November 3, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

November 3, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m. Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot for Military. If you are a voter in the military, your absentee ballot request must be received by your municipal clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 3, 2020.

November 3, 2020 @ 8:00 p.m. Deadline to Return Absentee Ballot. If you have already received an absentee ballot, you must return your absentee ballot by mail or delivery to your municipal clerk. Your ballot must be received by your municipal clerk no later than 8:00 p.m on Election Day November 3, 2020.

Pictured: a black calendar, a blue hand turning in an absentee ballot, and an envelope in outlined in black

Title: Peer Recovery Conference

Pictured: a variety of words in different colors describing recovery

The 5th Annual WI Peer Recovery Conference was held virtually this year. This Zoom-based conference took place August 13-14, 2020. Over 265 individuals registered for this year's conference. Attendees selected topics of interest from 22 breakout sessions offered. This year's conference featured Tonier Cain as the Keynote Speaker. The word cloud pictured shows the takeaways conference attendees submitted. If you are a Peer interested in serving on the 2021 Conference Planning Committee please contact:
Chelsey Myhre-Foster Conference Coord.
608-787-1111 (ILR office)
608-667-5762 (work cell)
Chelsey.MyhreFoster@ilresources.org

Title: Staff Spotlight

Name: Brigette Betz

Photo ID: Photo shows Brigette in a smiling selfie. She is a white woman with long brown hair. She wears a maroon cardigan over a black and white patterned blouse.

Role at ILR: Community Health Worker/ Independent Living Specialist

Time with ILR: 1 year prior in skills training and peer support and now new to HUB

What is your favorite part about your job: Watching consumer's believe in themselves.

Educational Background: Bachelor's in Social Work from Winona State

Favorite Caffeinated Beverage: Dirty Chai Latte

Something you are looking forward to this fall: Going to the apple orchard with my daughter.

Favorite Quote: "Work for a cause, not for applause. Live Life to express, not to impress."

Name: Ellen Oligney

Photo ID: Ellen, a white woman with light brown hair, wears dark athletic clothing, and backpack. She stands with arms at her sides on a bluff. She is smiling, and her hair is in a bun, with a headband.

Role at ILR: Homeless Outreach Specialist

What is your favorite part about your job: I love being able to go out and meet people where they're at, we often do outreach at the local park, or other areas people are staying when they're unsheltered. I enjoy being the first point of contact to help them get connected to services they may not have known about.

Educational Background: Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Spanish from UW-La Crosse and minor in Women and Gender Studies

Time with ILR: 1 month

Favorite Caffeinated Beverage: Colectivo Coffee!

Something you are looking forward to this fall: My birthday is in October!

Favorite Quote: "Everything we do, even the smallest things can help us get to where we want to be. Every small step deserves recognition and celebration!"

Name: Ashley Parkhurst

Photo ID Left: Ashley, a white woman with curled light brown hair is smiling at the camera. She sits in a power wheel chair in a kitchen. Ashley is wearing bright red lipstick, an olive green jacket, tan shirt, and jeans.

Role at ILR: Independent Living Specialist

What is your favorite part about your job: being able to help consumers meet goals

Educational Background: Bachelors degree in Social Work

Time with ILR: 4 weeks

Favorite Caffeinated Beverage: Flavored Coffee

Something you are looking forward to this fall: Pumpkin Spice donuts

Favorite Quote: "Normal is just a setting on the dryer ."

Pictured: Wisconsin Election Commission Logo. My Vote Wisconsin in red and blue font. A "VOTE" button in red white and blue font.

All Wisconsin voters have a right to cast a ballot privately and independently at their polling place on Election Day. The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) is committed to ensuring that all polling places in Wisconsin are accessible to all voters. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires that every polling place in the State of Wisconsin meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility standards.

The WEC conducts audits of polling places around the state for each election and uses the results of those audits to work with municipalities to address identified problems and improve accessibility. WEC analyzes and uses information gathered during polling place audits to improve and update clerk and poll worker training materials and voter outreach information. This data is also used to inform the Wisconsin State Legislature about the barriers that citizens with disabilities face when voting.

If you need help marking your ballot on Election Day, you may take anyone you choose with you into the voting booth, except your employer or your labor union representative. After you have marked your ballot, the person helping you must then sign the ballot in the space provided. Also, the election workers will write the name of your assistor on the voting list. Your assistor does not need to be qualified to vote.

You can also request help with the accessible voting equipment. Anyone who helps you with a direct-recording electronic accessible voting machine (Edge, iVotronic, Populex or Accuvote) should position themselves behind the machine so that they cannot see how you vote. They are allowed to explain how the equipment works but cannot assist you with making your ballot choices.

You can also have an assistant when completing a voter registration application or absentee application. After completing the application, the assistor must then sign the form in the appropriate box and provide any additional required information. Explaining how to complete the form is not "assistance". Since 2011, voters in Wisconsin are required to sign the poll list before receiving a ballot. You are exempt from this requirement if you cannot sign the poll list because of physical disability. The election inspectors will write "exempt by order of inspectors" in the signature line and issue you a ballot.

To find the location of your polling place, view a sample ballot, check the status of your voter registration or find contact information for your municipal clerk go to myvote.wi.gov.

Information obtained from Wisconsin Elections Commission
www.elections.wi.gov

Title: Independent Living Resources, Inc. Core Services:

Information & Referral: ILR provides information about disability-related resources and services to people with disabilities, families, professionals and the general public. Staff are available to listen and assist with locating resources and developing strategies for individuals to resolve barriers such as: housing issues, transportation, employment, accessibility, discrimination and legal rights, adaptive equipment, and community supports and services. The Information & Referral process is the gateway into other services at ILR.

Independent Living Skills Training: Independent Living Staff provides one-on-one skills training to overcome individualized disability-related barriers. Acquired skills include any life skill needed to become or remain independent. Skills training can be provided in the community, at home, and/or in the best possible setting for meeting the goals of the individual with a disability.

Individual & Systems Advocacy: ILR works with individuals with disabilities to provide support and guidance related to individual and systems advocacy. Self advocacy is about having the personal confidence to dictate individualized needs and wants. Systems Advocacy is looking at impacts that can be made at a local, state or national level. Independent Living Specialists can teach self-advocacy skills and help individuals develop strong advocacy skills so that they are able to make individual or system-wide impacts.

Peer Support: Peer Support is working with someone who has already been through a similar path as you and is willing to help guide you through the resources and support needed to accomplish your goals. Peer support is really the philosophy of "someone who has 'been there, done that - let me offer guidance and support. " ILR offers peer support in a number of different ways: through day-to-day interactions with staff who have disabilities themselves, or through a Certified Peer Support Specialist.

Transition Services: ILR will facilitate the transitions of individuals with disabilities from nursing homes to home or community based living, provide assistance to those at risk of entering institutions so they may remain in the community, or facilitate the transition from school to post-secondary life, including work.

Additional Services: ILR also provides Benefits Counseling and Employment Services (SSI and SSDI), Assistive Technology assessments and training, Public Education, Mental Health First Aid, Soft Skills Training, Housing/Homelessness assistance, Home Modification assessments, and Senior Home Safety assessments.

Title: TEPP and TAP

Subtitle: What is the Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program?

TEPP helps people with disabilities buy equipment they need in order to use basic telephone services. TEPP is paid for by the Wisconsin Universal Service Fund (USF) established by the Public Service Commission. Money is collected from Wisconsin telephone service providers to fund the USF. There is no age or income limit, but an individual can only get a TEPP voucher once every three years for the same type of disability.

Subtitle: TEPP requires that an applicant:

- Be a Wisconsin resident.
- Be a person who is deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired, or mobility or motion impaired.
- Needs special equipment to use the telephone in the home or when traveling.

Subtitle: How much do I have to pay?

You pay the first \$100 (except for Hard of Hearing vouchers). The voucher pays the rest, up to the maximum voucher amount. If you buy equipment that costs more than the voucher plus your \$100, you also pay the extra charges.

Subtitle: What if I can't afford the \$100?

The Telecommunication Assistance Program (TAP) may be able to pay the \$100. TAP is a program of the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. TAP is only for persons who are deaf or severely hard of hearing in a low income household. TAP funds pay the \$100 TEPP co-payment, if you qualify.

Pictured: Blue Wistech logo

Assistive Technology (AT) is any product or device that enables people with disabilities to improve their independence and quality of life in the community, at home, at work or at school. Assistive Technology can include, but is not limited to: I-Pads, ergonomic writing utensils, amplified cellphones, computer equipment such as keyboards, monitors, software, screen readers and ergonomic office equipment and furniture. There is truly a piece of AT to fit any of your needs! ILR also has a Device Loan & Demonstration Program with over 400 Assistive Technology devices that can be loaned out and/or demonstrated by an Independent Living Specialist. If you are interested in receiving more information on this program, or would like to have a demonstration, please contact ILR at 608-787-1111.

For a full list of ILR's inventory of Assistive Technology please visit:
www.wisconsinat4all.com

Title: Wisconsin Telework and WisLoan Programs

Subtitle: Telework

The Wisconsin Telework Program is a statewide alternative loan program that allows residents with disabilities to purchase computers and other equipment needed to work from home or from other remote sites away from the office, such as work on the road or at a telework center. Telework Loan funds can be used to purchase office equipment such as furniture, computers, printers, software, telecommunication devices and other office machines. Home modifications can also be paid for through the loan to create an accessible home office.

Subtitle: Wisloan

The Wisconsin Wisloan Program is a statewide alternative loan program that allows residents with disabilities to purchase assistive technology and/or make home modifications that help a person with a disability live more independently and productively. Examples of Assistive Technology that would be approved through the program would be wheelchairs and motorized scooters, hearing aids, visual aids and magnifiers, computers with modifications, controls or switches and vehicle modifications.

Pictured: Independent Living Resources logo in blue and purple
4439 Mormon Coulee Road
La Crosse, WI 54601

Title: Contact Us
Subtitle: ILR—La Crosse
4439 Mormon Coulee Rd
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 787-1111 Phone
(608) 787-1148 TTY
(888) 474-5745 Toll free
(888) 387-2198 Toll free TTY

Subtitle: ILR—Richland Center
149 E. Mill Street
Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 787-1111 Phone
Email: advocacy@ilresources.org
Website:
www.ilresources.org
Title: ILR Board of Directors
Michael Sersch: President
Marilyn Martin: Vice President
Janine Garvin: Treasurer/Secretary
Joalyn Torgerson
Susan Bramwell
John Davis
Lucas Herro

For your convenience, this newsletter is available in audio tape, braille, large print, e-mail, computer disc format, or on our website in text version. Let us know your particular format needs and we will make a copy for you accordingly.

Pictured: Blue Facebook logo

@IndependentLivingResources @ActNowILR @RaveRecoveryAvenue