

Press Release: Response from Disability Rights Wisconsin and League of Women Voters of Wisconsin on District II Ruling

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Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) and the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin (LWV) are disappointed in today's ruling from the District II Court of Appeals which reversed a temporary injunction issued last June that would have allowed voters to request an emailed ballot from their municipal clerk if they certified they were unable to independently read and/or mark a paper absentee ballot due to a print disability. The Court had already issued a stay on the injunction in August 2024.

However, DRW and LWV continue to be encouraged at the prospect of permanent relief being obtained as the full merits of this case continue to be litigated. Today's ruling was focused on one of the four required factors for imposing a temporary injunction, not on a permanent injunction sought by the plaintiffs.

Current state law requires all absentee ballots to be mailed to voters except for military and overseas voters. But state and federal law require that people with a disability must be able to vote on equal terms to those without disabilities, and Wisconsin's Constitution protects voters' right to a secret ballot. For many voters with print disabilities (including voters who are blind or have a physical disability that impairs manual dexterity), the mailing restriction means that they are required to share their vote with a third-party assistant who manually marks the absentee ballot on behalf of the voter. This is the process which was in place for all voters for the November 2024 and February 2025 elections, and will continue to be for the April 2025 election.

The plaintiffs are represented in the suit by Stafford Rosenbaum, LLP and Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP.

Organization Information

Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) is a private non-profit organization that protects the rights of people with disabilities statewide. As Wisconsin's recognized Protection & Advocacy Organization, DRW is legislatively mandated to provide services to voters with disabilities and ensure individuals with disabilities can participate in every step of the voting process.

[More information is available at Disability Rights Wisconsin's website.](#)

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin (LWVWI) is a nonpartisan political organization that advocates for informed and active participation in government. There are 20+ local Leagues throughout Wisconsin.

[More information is available at the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin's website.](#)