



The [statewide COVID-19 website](#) is a one stop shop that consolidates information from state agencies, and provides up-to-date information and guidance regarding COVID-19. If you're not busy, please make a call, send a card, or write a letter to someone you know who lives alone of may need assistance.

Please, let them and your family know that you are thinking of them, and that we are here for each other.

Bless each of you during this difficult time of uncertainty and suffering. Take good care!

## Contents

- [Legislative Session](#)
- [Election Returns](#)
- [Postmark Problems](#)
- [Hospitals Struggling](#)
- [Emergency Assistance Volunteer Program](#)

## The Wisconsin Legislature Finally Meets

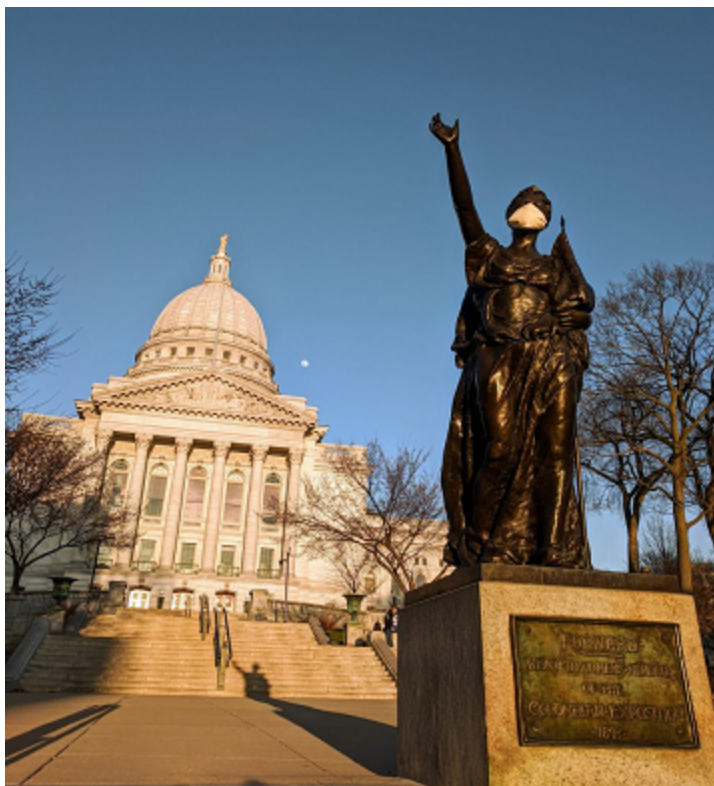


Photo Credit: Nazan Gillie

After a month of dragging their feet, and criticizing the timely actions of Governor Evers. The Wisconsin Republican controlled State Legislature is finally convening in session to address the issues that COVID-19 has brought to our state.

The parameters of these floor sessions in the Assembly and Senate have been determined entirely by the Republican leadership of each house.

## The Wisconsin Assembly Met Today, the Senate Meets Tomorrow

The only items on the agenda are the COVID-19 response bills, [Assembly Bill 1038](#) and [Senate Bill 932](#) and amendments to them.

These measures come after weeks of stalling, while the people of Wisconsin have faced the complications created by the Coronavirus, members of the State Legislature continue to collect their paychecks. Governor Evers [put forth a proposal](#) to address these issues nearly 3 weeks ago.

When Governor Evers called a [special session for April 4th](#) to address the upcoming election and guarantee Wisconsin's right to vote, only 4 legislators, including myself, could be found in the statehouse to consider the actions that we now know should have been taken.

For the last four weeks, I have been imploring Senate President Roger Roth to convene the State Senate in order to address the concerns brought to our attention by our constituents. The Republican Leadership of our state legislature waited until the final hour before an April 17th deadline to take action, after which Wisconsin would not be able to take full advantage of the federal CARES act relief.

The bill passed the Assembly today with near-unanimous support. Although it does not contain several important provisions that Governor Evers put forward in his proposals, and other issues that have come to our attention, it is a step forward. I will continue to pressure the Leadership in the state legislature to meet and address the issues that were not considered in these bills, and those that have not yet developed but are sure to come as we continue to face COVID-19.

## **April 7th Election Results**

According to the ruling issued by the Supreme Court of the United States, election results were delivered yesterday evening.

You can see the results for all of the races in Milwaukee County [here](#).

And for the statewide races you can see the results [here](#).

Keep in mind that these results are still unofficial, pending the results of final canvassing and certification by our local clerks. For more information about the canvassing and certification process, see the [Guidance on Canvass Procedures](#) issued by the Wisconsin Election's Commission to local elections officials. Due to the complicated nature of this year's Spring Election, the canvassing process may be slightly different than in other elections.

At least one [lawsuit](#) has already been filed on behalf of residents of the state of Wisconsin, based on the conditions of the election which they allege prevented them from voting.

## **Milwaukee Votes to Count Ballots with Postmark Problems**

Members of the Milwaukee Election Commission voted Monday to count at least 390 absentee ballots that had problems with their postmarking.

Ballots have been received by clerks around the state without postmarks as a result of normal postal procedures in some post offices.

Under normal conditions, differences in postmarking would not influence the results of an election, because absentee ballots are normally valid if they are *received* by the end of election day. Due to the ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court however, ballots were to be considered valid for Wisconsin's April 7th election based on the time of their *postmarking*.

This ruling was issued without considering that some post offices process mail without postmarking, and without giving guidance to post offices that they should change their procedures and consider themselves part of our state's elections infrastructure. The effect has been that thousands of voters, despite following all of the instructions given to them, will not have their votes counted.

The Milwaukee Election Commission made the decision to count these ballots in order to avoid disenfranchising voters based on ambiguous information. [Read more.](#)

## **Hospitals are Struggling without more Support from the State and Federal Government**

An article by Rich Kirchen, the Wisconsin Hospital Association CEO, explains that the funding granted by the federal CARES Act is inadequate to make up for the approximately \$1 billion loss in revenue that Wisconsin hospitals have seen in the last four weeks. [Read more.](#)

## **Governor Evers Announces COVID-19 Volunteer Program**

Last Friday, the governor announced that Wisconsin is looking for volunteers to support our healthcare system during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the coming weeks, the number of cases of coronavirus requiring treatment is expected to surge. Volunteers can help to head off any potential surge and keep coronavirus from overwhelming our healthcare system.

Active and retired healthcare professionals can volunteer for critical clinical roles by entering their information into the [Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry](#) (WEAVR), a secure, password-protected, web-based volunteer registration system for healthcare and behavioral health professionals. Individuals who are not licensed professionals are also encouraged to sign up to volunteer for non-clinical support positions. [More info.](#)

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