

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

The Town of Shelby encourages you to be an informed absentee voter.

Post card applications sent to voters in the mail are not from the Town of Shelby or the State of Wisconsin. They are sent by political parties and special interest groups.

Voting absentee is not without risk. When you cast your ballot on Election Day, if you make a mistake and over-vote, the voting machine will reject your ballot and you will have an opportunity to fix your mistake. You get a "do over". When you vote absentee and make a mistake, your ballot is rejected when the Election Inspector puts it into the voting machine. However, the Election Inspector over-rides the machine and the machine accepts your ballot, BUT your error is not corrected and your vote is not counted in any race that is over-voted. You get no "do over".

If you apply to have an absentee ballot mailed to you and the return affidavit envelope is not signed and witnessed, it is rejected by the Election Inspectors and placed, unopened, in a special envelope which is taken to the County. Your votes are not counted. You are not listed as voting in the election.

If you are concerned that there will be a long line on Election Day, I want to assure you that in the Town of Shelby we set up the polls to accommodate voters. We set up our elections based on the expected voter turnout and add extra election inspectors as needed.

On the other hand, with a major election like the Presidential Election coming up in November, if Absentee voting is similar to 2004, 2008, and 2012 there is a good chance that there will be a line at the Town Hall. Wisconsin voters now have only a two-week period of time before an election to vote absentee in the clerk's office. There is neither the staff nor the space to handle hundreds of voters at the town hall. Be prepared to wait in line if you vote absentee.

If you have health or mobility problems or are going to be out of town on Election Day, you should vote absentee. Persons with disabilities will be moved to the front of the line. If you have questions or concern feel free to call Clerk Michelle Kind @ 788-1032 extension 7.

Those who can vote on Election Day are encouraged to do so. The polls open at 7 am and close at 8 pm. We will be ready for you.