



MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY TO SUSPEND BRANCH LIBRARY SERVICES
ON ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 3RD TO ACCOMMODATE VOTING**

MILWAUKEE (October 8, 2020) – The Board of Trustees for the Milwaukee Public Library authorized a one-day pause of library operations at all 12 branch library locations on Election Day, November 3, 2020. Central Library, located downtown at 814 W. Wisconsin Ave., will remain open to patrons and staff for limited services at reduced capacity. The historic closure, the first of its kind on Election Day, will allow library staff to serve as poll workers and for branches that serve as polling sites to accommodate more voters safely. The COVID pandemic has limited each library’s capacity to 25% of its typical occupancy since they reopened to the public at the end of the summer.

“Milwaukee Public Library has a long history of supporting elections and helping to strengthen patrons’ civic literacy,” said Joan Johnson, Library Director. **“We are expecting and planning for historic voter turnout in the City of Milwaukee. By closing these branch library locations for all services except voting, it will allow more capacity for voters without compromising safety protocols.”**

Milwaukee Public Library has supported elections for decades – serving as polling sites, housing voter registration kiosks, and assisting people requesting absentee ballots. This year, MPL has expanded its partnership with the City of Milwaukee Election Commission to offer voter assistance at each location and has installed permanent, secure absentee ballot drop boxes at Central Library and every branch. Nine library branch locations will serve as in-person early voting sites from October 20-November 1 and seven libraries will be Election Day polling sites. For a complete list, visit mpl.org/vote

“The Election Commission is extremely fortunate to have Milwaukee Public Library as such a strong collaborative partner,” said Claire Woodall-Vogg, Executive Director of the Milwaukee Election Commission. **“Thanks to the Library’s commitment, we have managed to expand voter resources in spite of the pandemic.”**

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About the Milwaukee Public Library

Milwaukee Public Library is an anchor institution that helps build healthy families and vibrant neighborhoods – the foundation of a strong Milwaukee. Since 1878, Milwaukee Public Library has been a free provider of education and information for residents of Milwaukee and beyond. With 14 locations, and nearly three million items in circulation, MPL offers free access to a rich collection of materials both physical and digital, access to technology, classes, exhibitions, programming and more. From toddlers to scholars, MPL serves more than one million patrons who come through its doors annually and many more around the globe who use its resources at www.mpl.org. To offer this wide array of free programming, MPL relies on both public and private funding. Learn more about how to support Milwaukee Public Library at mpl.org/support.