

Wisconsin National Guard Will Assist on Election Day

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<http://newiproggressive.com/images/stories/S5/wi-national-guard-troops2-s5.jpg>



400 Citizen Soldiers and Airmen will mobilize to state active duty in the coming days to support the Wisconsin Elections Commission and clerks across the state. Governor hopes to ensure election day goes smoothly and voters and officials alike have assistance.

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers announced Thursday that the Wisconsin National Guard will assist local election officials as poll workers for the November 3 election across Wisconsin.



“The Wisconsin National Guard has played a critical role in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and this mission is no different,” said Gov. Evers. “As Wisconsin faces an urgent crisis with more than 200,000 positive cases of COVID-19 across the state, the help of the Guard will be needed to ensure that election day goes smoothly and that voters and election officials alike have the assistance they need.”

Approximately 400 Citizen Soldiers and Airmen from the Wisconsin National Guard will mobilize to state active duty in the coming days to support the Wisconsin Elections Commission

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and clerks across the state. The Guard continues to work closely with the Wisconsin Elections Commission to support and fulfill requests from local elections officials as needed.

The troops will report to duty on Sunday to complete necessary training and begin receiving assignments. They'll report to clerks on Monday to receive site-specific training and assist with polling place setup, before fulfilling the role of traditional poll workers on Tuesday during the election. The troops will be released from duty Wednesday, November 4.

Members of the Wisconsin National Guard reside in all 72 Wisconsin counties and will serve in the county in which they reside. Guard members at the polls will be wearing civilian clothes and perform the same roles and functions as other volunteers who traditionally staff the state's polling sites. The state called on the Guard to assist at the polls due to a critical shortage of poll workers in the state stemming from concerns over COVID-19.

Mobilized Guard members will complete several hours of training provided by the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

"We've worked in close partnership with the Wisconsin Elections Commission and other partners statewide since the COVID-19 pandemic began," said Brig. Gen. Robyn Blader, Wisconsin's assistant adjutant for readiness and training and the Guard's liaison with the Wisconsin Elections Commission. "Our Citizen Soldiers and Airmen live and work in these same communities across Wisconsin, so this is truly neighbors helping neighbors, because these Guard members are assisting the state and their own local communities during a time of need."



The Wisconsin National Guard also worked in collaboration with the Civil Air Patrol and the Wisconsin Elections Commission in recent weeks to ship supplies of hand sanitizer, wipes, spray bottles, and personal protective equipment to each county to help ensure safe and sanitary polling sites.

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