



Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Voting Rights are Dementia Friendly

Contact: Rob Gundermann, 608-232-3408, gundermann@alzwisc.org

Madison, WI – In preparation for Wisconsin's election season, the Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin reminds people there are no state or federal laws prohibiting people with dementia from voting.

"There is no scientific evidence that someone diagnosed with Alzheimer's or other dementia is incapable of voting," said Rob Gundermann, ADAW Public Policy Director. "A diagnosis of dementia is not sufficient reason to withdraw the right to vote," Gundermann added.

As much as possible, the person with dementia should be included in the decision-making process regarding their ability to vote. Gundermann advises. The determining factor is the person's ability to understand what he or she is doing in the voting process.

Asking these ADAW guideline questions may be helpful:

- Does the person with dementia want to vote?
- Does the person understand what he or she is doing, such as choosing between candidates?
- Does the voter understand that the person who wins received the most votes and takes office?

If a person with dementia is too impaired to vote, and it becomes necessary to withdraw voting privileges, it should be done through the legal process in a manner that preserves the dignity of the person with dementia.

Caregivers or family members are not allowed to vote for a person with dementia. While proxies are allowed for healthcare and many other decisions, this does not apply to voting. It is illegal in Wisconsin to cast a proxy vote for another person. However, a friend or family member may assist someone with dementia in the voting process including going in the voting booth with the voter.

"People with dementia make up a sizable portion of our electorate and have a right to be represented in the electoral process" Gundermann added.

Representatives from ADAW are available to help provide further details about voting rights for people with dementia. For more information, please contact Rob Gundermann at 608-232-3408 or call the ADAW main office at 608-232-3402.

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The mission of the Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin is to support individuals, families, and professionals impacted by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias through information, education, advocacy and consultation; and to promote the advancement of scientific research to better diagnose, treat, and eventually eliminate Alzheimer's disease. Since 1985, our expert staff has been offering compassionate guidance to those affected through every stage of the disease. Our services help people create the best quality of life for those facing a dementia diagnosis. Visit www.alzwisc.org for more information.