



[Wisconsin Holds Presidential Primary Despite Ongoing Coronavirus Crisis](#)

The state of Wisconsin moved forward with its originally-scheduled presidential primary election on Tuesday, despite the growing coronavirus outbreak in the United States. In the face of the ongoing health crisis, Governor Tony Evers had issued an executive order to postpone the election until June 9th after the state legislature refused to do so. However, the Wisconsin Supreme Court overruled Evers' executive order, allowing the primary to carry on as planned. The controversial decision comes at a time when Wisconsin, like the majority of states around the country, is under a statewide stay-at-home order. Wisconsin is the last remaining state scheduled to hold in-person voting this month for the presidential primaries, as all other states have either postponed their elections or moved to an entirely vote-by-mail system. Election results are not expected to be released until early next week.

Under Wisconsin state law, only the state legislature can change the date of the election, barring executive action. As a result, Governor Evers had called the state legislature back for a special session and asked them to act in order to postpone the election or shift it to all mail-in ballots. However, lawmakers declined to do so over the weekend and into this week, prompting the governor to take unilateral action. Prior to issuing his executive order, Evers had also resisted changing the date of the primary election because many local offices on the ballot have terms that start this month. But after increasing pressure from local and state officials, Evers decided to issue an executive order to postpone the election until June 9th and stated that he was acting to reduce exposure to the coronavirus and ease concerns among constituents about the spread of the pandemic. In the lead up to this week, local officials pleaded for the election to be postponed due to a fear that polling places could serve as virus hot spots and mayors of some of the state's largest cities also called for a suspension of in-person voting. Evers' executive order postponing the election was met with immediate resistance from the state legislature, and the Wisconsin Supreme Court blocked the governor's action, allowing the primary to carry on as planned on Tuesday.

Shortly after the state's Supreme Court ruling withholding the election, the U.S. Supreme Court also blocked a lower court's extension of the absentee ballot deadline in Wisconsin. Under the extension, ballots received by 4pm on April 13th would have counted regardless of when they were postmarked however now, absentee ballots must be postmarked by April 7th and received by the same deadline in order to count. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was highly critical of the court's ruling and argued that it will result in massive disenfranchisement. In reference to the state's voters who have yet to receive their absentee ballots, Ginsburg wrote that "either they will have to brave the polls, endangering their own and others' safety or they will lose their right to vote, through no fault of their own."

Every other state with a presidential primary scheduled for this month either postponed their election or shifted it to a mail-in voting system only. Thus, Tuesday's in-person election in Wisconsin, combined with the rejection of the absentee ballot deadline extension, has infuriated many across the country and resulted in one of the more controversial elections in recent times.