PANEL:

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Despite repeated statements by President Trump that vote by mail will lead to election fraud, experts say up to one million legitimate voters will not have their votes counted in this election.

Can we understand the demographics of voters most likely to be disenfranchised? And the ways that is likely to happen (ex. rejected ballots, signature verification issues, USPS delivery problems, etc.)?
WISCONSIN PRIMARY - APRIL 7, 2020

Photos courtesy of Wisconsin Watch
A drone and an N100 mask were essential reporting tools on April 7.
QUESTIONS AFTER THE WISCONSIN PRIMARY

● Who didn't get a ballot in the mail and why?
● Who had their ballots rejected and why?
● Were there certain areas where ballot rejection was disproportionate with the population?
● Did people get rejected in multiple elections?
● Do clerks have to notify voters if absentee ballots are rejected?
MAIN FINDING - VOTER ERROR
How Wisconsin’s 23,000 rejected absentee ballots could spell trouble for the November election

As states move toward mail-in voting during the pandemic, many voters are unfamiliar with how to successfully cast an absentee ballot.

By Tom Schell (APM Reports), Geoff Ring (APM Reports) and Des 3. Hall July 23, 2020

Wisconsin Watch is a nonprofit newsroom that focuses on government integrity and quality of life issues. Sign up for our newsletter for more stories and updates straight to your inbox.

This story was co-published with APM Reports
Wisconsin's Absentee Voting Challenges Spell Trouble for November

July 27, 2020

The Takeaway 7/28/20
“Slightly more than 23,000 ballots were thrown out, mostly because those voters or their witnesses missed at least one line on a form.

While there is no way of knowing who those voters will choose in November, the figure is nearly equivalent to Trump’s 2016 margin of victory in Wisconsin of 22,748 votes. And with voter turnout expected to double from April to more than 3 million in November, a proportionate volume of ballot rejections could be the difference in who wins the swing state and possibly the presidency.”
Postal delivery scores in five battleground states are missing targets as mail voting increases

Large cities in key states — Philadelphia, Detroit, Milwaukee — have sub-par delivery records; a former deputy postmaster general estimates tens of thousands of mailed ballots will be at risk for late delivery.

August 12, 2020 | by Tom Scheck, Geoff Hing, and Dee J. Hall
Mail Delivery In Swing States Falls Short, Worrying Elections Officials

August 13, 2020 - 4:10 PM ET
Heard on All Things Considered

Postal data show mail delivery in three critical swing states is not meeting on-time performance goals. Elections officials worry that voters won’t be able to get their ballots submitted on time.

ARI SHAPIRO, HOST:

If you’re planning to vote by mail this election, there are troubling signs that on-time delivery is not guaranteed.
VOTE BY MAIL ISSUES ACROSS MANY AREAS

- Shifting deadlines and procedures
- Witness requirement, if any
- Signature verification, if any
- Ballot rejection issues + ballot curing
VOTE BY MAIL ISSUES ACROSS MANY AREAS

- Availability of drop boxes or other mechanisms to avoid postal delays
- USPS delivery and performance
- Ability to process vote by mail ballots in a timely manner
- Requirement to notify voters if absentee ballots are rejected
ADVICE + REPORTING IDEAS: LOCAL ELECTIONS OFFICIALS

- Understand how elections are administered in your area
- Who is in charge and how much authority do they have?
- Learn who is eligible to vote by mail and how that is administered
- What are the deadlines for registration and requesting ballots?
- What are local elections officials expecting or fearing on Nov. 3?
- How are local, county and state elections officials using funds?
ADVICE + REPORTING IDEAS: LAST MINUTE CHANGES

- What are the legal challenges in your state to voting rules?
  - Updated list from the Brennan Center [here](#)
- Make contact with key attorneys to anticipate outcomes
ADVICE + REPORTING IDEAS: PROCESSING VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS

● When can elections officials start processing mail in ballots?
● How will mail in ballots be counted (ex. precinct, special board)?
● Who can handle the ballot?
● What ways can a ballot be rejected (ex. signature match, witness requirements, ballot envelope, postmark or arrival deadline)?
● Postal performance issues and pre-paid postage
QUESTIONS?

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