



AP photo
Election officials Britt Bermingham, left, and Terry Perry count ballots as City of Milwaukee Election Commission workers were processing absentee ballots on the fourth floor of an office building Monday in Milwaukee.

With election results due, voters file lawsuit

Wis. clerks will count votes week after chaotic primary

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Municipal clerks across Wisconsin on Monday were set to start tallying votes from last week's chaotic presidential primary, a count that was delayed for several days by the legal struggle over whether to postpone the election due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Thousands of voters congregated for hours in long lines on Tuesday, defying social-distancing guidelines that led to the postponement of primaries in several other states. The U.S. Supreme Court decided on the eve of the election that absentee ballots, requested in record numbers, had to be postmarked by midnight Tuesday. That

overturned a judge's ruling that had granted a one-week extension, forcing many residents to weigh safety concerns against exercising their right to vote.

Hours before counting began, 14 Milwaukee-area voters filed a federal lawsuit seeking to force a partial revote to protect the "thousands" of voters who they argue were disenfranchised by the turbulent election. The lawsuit named Republican legislative leaders who refused to postpone the election or shift it to all-mail.

The election, while unprecedented for Wisconsin, isn't a factor in deciding the Democratic nominee for the White House. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders

dropped out of the race the day after Wisconsin's election, all but assuring former Vice President Joe Biden will lead the party ticket in November. Sanders endorsed Biden Monday.

However, also at stake in Tuesday's election were hundreds of local offices and a critical state Supreme Court contest that fueled the fight between Democrats and Republicans on whether the election should be held. Democrats accused Republicans of wanting to stick to the election date in part to suppress voter turnout in liberal Milwaukee and Dane counties, improving the conservative candidate's chances in the court race.

Teleconferences in May for high court arguments

President's bid to shield financial records on list

BY MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Monday it will hold arguments by teleconference in May in key cases, including President Donald Trump's bid to shield his tax and other financial records.

The court will make live audio of the arguments available for the first time. It had previously postponed courtroom arguments for March and April because of the coronavirus.

The court will hear 10 cases in all between May 4 and May 13.

In addition to fights over subpoenas for Trump's financial records, they include two cases about whether presidential electors are required to cast their Electoral College ballots for the candidate who won their state.

The justices and the lawyers arguing the cases all will participate remotely.

The court said a live audio feed will be provided to news organizations, which will be able to relay the arguments in real time.

The court has never live-streamed courtroom arguments and only rarely has it made the audio available on the same day. Cameras also are not allowed in the courtroom.

Most federal appeals courts already have moved to allow arguments by phone, though some cases are being postponed or decided without arguments.

The Supreme Court did



AP photo
People walk outside the Supreme Court in Washington. The Supreme Court has said it will hold May courtroom arguments by teleconference.

not indicate when it might decide the cases it will hear in May.

The court usually winds up its work for the summer by the end of June, and returns to the bench on the first Monday in October.

Another 10 cases that were postponed because of the virus outbreak will be argued in the fall, said Stephen Vladeck, a University of Texas law professor who will argue one of those cases, involving rapes by members of the military.

The justices last met in public on March 9, and have held private conferences by telephone since then.

The court has decided seven cases in the past month, and while the justices customarily read a summary of the decision from the bench, all the opinions have been released online.

The justices all remain healthy, court spokes-

woman Kathleen Arberg said.

Six of the nine justices are 65 and older, at higher risk of getting very sick from the illness, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 87, and Stephen Breyer, 81, are the oldest members of the court.

The only other time Supreme Court arguments have been held outside the 85-year-old court building was in October 2001, when anthrax was detected in the court mailroom. That led the justices to hold arguments in the federal courthouse about a half mile from the Supreme Court, but only for one week.

In 1918, when the court still met inside the Capitol, arguments were postponed for a month because of the flu pandemic.

Smallpox outbreaks in the late 1700s also caused postponement of court business.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Maine

Clean, renewable energy is a

Clean, renewable hydropower from Québec helps reduce our dependency on fossil fuels and the dirty emissions they generate.

Paid for and authorized by the Hydro-Québec Maine Partnership
225 Asylum Street, 27th Floor, Hartford, CT 06103
Jean Lapointe, Treasurer

Québec

sound choice for all.

Have questions about hydropower? Ask us at sidebysideforgood.com

Hydro Québec