



# CITY OF APPLETON

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** July 23, 2025  
**To:** Community Development Committee  
**From:** Kara Homan, AICP, Director of Community Development  
Kurt W. Craanen, Inspections Supervisor  
**Subject:** Electrical Exemptions - Section 4-392

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

Update Section 4-392 of the Municipal Code

## PURPOSE OF MUNICIPAL CODE TEXT AMENDMENTS

The intention of this text amendment is to allow licensed electricians to perform certain electrical work in their own dwellings without an electrical contractor's license.

## BACKGROUND

Currently, the Municipal Code allows for owner occupants to do electrical work in their owner-occupied dwellings, with a few exceptions: replacing service equipment and solar installations. The reason for these exceptions is because of the complexity of these types of installations. With this proposed change in code, licensed electricians would be allowed to do these types of installations in their own home.

## PROPOSED DRAFT TEXT AMENDMENTS

The text recommended to be added is underlined. The text recommended for deletion is identified by ~~strikethrough~~.

### **Sec. 4-392. Exemptions.**

As allowed under Wis. Stats. §101.862(4)(a), a residential property owner may perform electrical work in ~~his~~ their own dwelling which ~~he~~ the individual owns and occupies without a license, as long as the work is being conducted in a single-family dwelling. In the case of installing or replacing or repairing service equipment ~~in a single-family dwelling, utility-interactive~~ solar photovoltaic installations or electrical work performed on a residential property which is not a single-family owner-occupied dwelling, the electrical work shall be performed by a licensed electrical contractor, meeting all the requirements of SPS 305.41 as amended from time to time. If the property owner is a Wisconsin licensed electrician, they are allowed to install, replace or repair the service equipment and install, replace or repair solar photovoltaic system on a single-family dwelling they own and occupy and are not required to have an electrical contractor license to perform such work. The owner of the property must procure a permit prior to starting any electrical work. The property owner may not procure a permit on behalf of an electrical contractor or another individual. A property owner, meeting the same eligibility requirements listed in this section, may also wire their accessory structures associated with the single-family dwelling, if located on the same parcel as the single-family dwelling.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the proposed text amendments to Chapter 4 Buildings of the Municipal Code, **BE APPROVED** for Sec. 4-392 to allow licensed electricians to perform service changes and solar panel work in their owner-occupied single-family dwelling.