



Eliminating Barriers and Supporting People with I/DD to Vote

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NDRN

- National Disability Rights Network
- The nonprofit membership organization for the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems for individuals with disabilities

The P&A Network

- Established by Congress to protect the rights of people with disabilities through legal support, advocacy, referral, and education
- In all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, US Territories, and the Native American Consortium (Hopi, Navaho and Piute Nations in the Four Corner region of the Southwest)
- Largest provider of legal advocacy services to people with disabilities in the US

PAVA

- Protection & Advocacy for Voter Access
- Federal mandate to the P&As
- Established under HAVA to “ensure the full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities, including registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places”

Elections Are Coming

- 2018 Midterm General Election:
Tuesday November 6
- <https://www.eac.gov/voters/register-and-vote-in-your-state/>

Why Our Vote Is So Important

- Disability voter turnout is 6% behind non-disabled Americans
- That's about 3 million missing voters
- That's enough voters to win any election



Polling Places: More Accessible

- US Government Accountability Office:
<https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-18-4>
 - 2000: 16%
 - 2008: 27%
 - 2016: 40%

Voting Booths: Less Accessible

- Voting stations with at least one impediment:
 - 2008: 46%
 - 2016: 65%
- Less likely to be: private, wheelchair accessible, earphone ready, powered on

Voter ID Laws

- More strict and complicated voter ID laws are on the rise in states
- Find your state laws:
<http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/voter-id.aspx>

Confusing Ballots

- Ballots are getting longer and more complicated everywhere
- Some ballots have confusing layouts
- Ballot measures are written in legalese
- www.vote411.org

Your Right to Assistance

- Section 208 provides for voters who need assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write
- Any such voter may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of the employer or officer or agent of the voter's union

Poll Worker Challenges

- Reports that poll workers question voters with disabilities
- Limits on number of voters that one person can assist
- Call voter advocacy hotlines if your right to vote is challenged

Voter Competency Laws

- Loss of the right to vote, usually determined with guardianship
- Know your state laws:
<http://www.bazelon.org/our-work/voting/>
- Talk to your guardian and your P&A



Supported Decision Making

- Individuals make decisions by choosing supports to help them make choices
- Can help individuals retain the right to vote
- Research your state:
<http://supporteddecisionmaking.org/states>

Options for Voters

- Curbside voting
- Early voting
- Absentee balloting

Researching Your Options

- Your state elections website
- Your local elections officials
- Your P&A: www.ndrn.org
- www.electionary.info

When Voting Goes Wrong

- Call your P&A: www.ndrn.org
- Call Election Protection: www.866ourvote.org
- NAD's ASL Hotline (301-818-VOTE)
- The Arc's voter app

Reporting Back

- Call a voter hotline, even if you get to vote
- Talk to your P&A
- Take SABE's voter survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018GoVoterSurvey>

The Bottom Line

- Don't forfeit your right to vote.

Thank You

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