

2024
September

A MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER
ABOUT YOUR
RIGHTS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES

Right Here!

Rights of the Month

Send and Receive Mail
Make / Receive Calls
Spend Money
Be Safe

Vote

Live Where You Want
Belong to Groups
Have the Best Health
Practice Cultural and Religious Beliefs
Be Heard, Have Freedom of Expression
Be Free From Abuse, Neglect and Mistreatment
Have Personal Possessions
Have Privacy
Obtain Meaningful and Productive Work
Decide and Participate in What People Say, Share and Write About You
Make Decisions About Your Life
Have Family, Friends and Intimate Relationships
Express Grievances and Object to Services



This Issue

Your Right to Vote **P.1**

Vote 411 **P.1**

Disability Rights NY Voter's

Checklist **P.2**

What Are My Rights As a Voter With a

Disability? **P.2**

Regulation References **P.2**

Additional Voting Resources **P.2**

You Have the Right to Vote!

Voting is a fundamental human right for People with Disabilities, as well as for all people. Voting rights for People with Disabilities are federally protected by several laws. Two critical federal laws that protect People with Disabilities from voting discrimination include: The Voters Rights Acts, or "VRA", and the Americans with Disabilities Act, or the "ADA". The VRA was signed into law on August 6, 1965, as part of the Black American Civil Rights movement. The VRA outlawed discriminatory voting practices adopted in many southern states after the Civil War, including literacy tests as a prerequisite to voting. Although literacy tests were designed to prevent Black Americans from voting, this inequitable practice affected many people, including those with disabilities. The ADA was signed into law on August 6, 1990, which requires state and local governments to ensure that people with disabilities have a full and equal opportunity to vote in all elections. This includes federal, state, and local elections. The ADA safeguards the right for People with Disabilities to vote, which includes ensuring access to all parts of the voting process such as: voter registration, selecting a location for polling places, and voting itself, whether in person on Election Day or through early voting. Other federal laws that protect the right for People with Disabilities include: Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and the Help America Vote Act of 2002. The right to vote for all citizens regardless of their disability status is essential for a truly inclusive and legitimate democracy.

-Bridget Murphy, Quality Assurance & Training Specialist



VOTE411

All the election information you need, available in English and Spanish. Check your voter registration, find your polling place, learn about candidates, and more. Brought to you by the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

VOTE411.ORG



Did You Know?

OPWDD Regulations
14 CRR-NY 633.4
includes,

“No person shall be denied: ...

(xiii) the opportunity to register and vote and the opportunity to participate in activities that educate him or her in civic responsibilities;



You have the right to use your local polling place

You have the right to cast a secret ballot

You have the right to have someone help you mark and cast your ballot

You have the right to vote using an absentee ballot

You have the right to vote using an affidavit ballot if your name is not found in the pollbook

You have the right to see a sample ballot from your County Board of Elections

VOTER CHECKLIST

Before You Head to the Polls Make Sure You...

- ✓ Register or check to make sure that you are registered. Update any changes in your personal information (address, name, and political party) Online voter registration is available at <https://elections.ny.gov/register-vote>
- ✓ If you will be voting by absentee ballot, fill out and send an absentee ballot application to your county board of elections by the deadline. Return your absentee ballot no later than the close of polls on Election Day or have it postmarked no later than the day before the election
- ✓ If this is your first time voting, know what type of ID you need to bring to the polling place with you.
- ✓ Figure out where your polling place is and what hours it is open.
- ✓ Arrange transportation to your polling place. Ask for a ride ahead of time if you need one.
- ✓ Learn about your voting machine and accessible voting options. Check out the NYS Board of Elections website for videos or call your local county board of elections

Voting Resources

- You can also register to vote online at <http://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/electronic-voter-registration-application> In order to register online, you need a DMV-issued driver license, permit or Non-Driver ID
- Find your polling place or vote center and its hours of operation at <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>
- New Yorkers must register to vote by certain deadlines to be eligible to vote in Primary and General Elections: <https://elections.ny.gov/registration-and-voting-deadlines>
- For additional resources on Disability Voting Rights visit: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/news/its-national-disability-voting-rights-week-lets-make-plan-rev-vote>