

### **Slide 1: Title and Introduction**

Voting rights for people with disabilities. Presented by Fred Nisen, Supervising Attorney Voting Rights at Disability Rights California. Presented on September 9, 2020. The Contact number for the Voting Hotline is 1-888-569-7955. Contact Fred by email at Fred.Nisen@disabilityrightsca.org

### **Slide 2: Why Should You Vote?**

To elect officials who will help you. To pass propositions (certain state laws) you agree with or helps you. An example of a proposition is Prop 17: A “yes” vote on Prop 17 would allow people who are released from prison to be eligible to vote when they are released from prison. A “no” vote keeps people on parole for a felony ineligible to vote. And to participate in democracy!

### **Slide 3: Who Can Register to Vote?**

A person must be a U.S. citizen, California resident, 18 years old before the next election, they must not be currently imprisoned or on parole for the conviction of a felony; and have not had their voting rights revoked by a Court.

### **Slide 4: Some places I can get a voter registration form:**

Disability Rights California, Regional Center of the East Bay, the Post Office, the Department of Motor Vehicles. You can also get a voter registration form from your local County Elections office, your local County Elections website, and Independent Living Centers.

### **Slide 5: Can a person under Conservatorship register to Vote?**

Yes! Being under a conservatorship does not disqualify a person from voting, unless the judge took away their voting rights. A recent state law allows a judge the ability to remove the voting right from a person with a conservatorship only if there is strong evidence that the person cannot communicate their desire to participate in the process, even with assistance. If you have a conservator and had your voting rights removed, but you want to vote, send a letter to the Probate Court in your county or tell the court investigator during the next annual review. See the toolkit on DRC’s website at <https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/publications/your-voting-rights-under-conservatorship-sb-589>. The toolkit has a sample letter to the Probate Court and a list of addresses for the Probate Court in each county.

### **Slide 6: Voting in the November Under COVID-19.**

Election Day is November 3, 2020. The Registrar of Voters will begin mailing all registered voters a Vote-by-Mail Ballot on October 5, or 29 days before Election Day. Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail (RAVBM) will be available to all voters (download the ballot, complete on a computer, then print and return it). See DRC's publication at <https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/publications/many-voters-with-disabilities-can-vote-by-mail-privately-and-independently>. See DRC's RAVBM demonstration video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54-Xbg5Nbg4&t=8s>

### **Slide 7: Returning a Completed Ballot**

Place the complete Vote-by-Mail or RAVBM ballot in the postage-paid return envelope that will be with the mailed ballot. Don't forget to sign the return envelope. Has your signature changed since you last registered to vote? If yes, you should fill out a new Voter Registration Card and send it to the Registrar of Voters' office by October 19, 2020. Are you unable to sign your name? You can make a mark, such as "X," so long a witness signs too. You can also use a signature stamp, as long as you have used at the DMV or at the Registrar of Voters' office. See DRC's publication at <https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/publications/you-can-vote-even-if-you-cant-sign-your-name>

### **Slide 8: Return a Completed ballot (Cont.)**

There are also 3 additional ways to return the envelope with the ballot. By Mail, voters are encouraged to vote early. Mail back ballots by October 27, to be sure that it is postmarked by November 3, 2020 at 8pm. By Dropbox, you can put it in any of the ballot drop boxes that will be located throughout the county. Contact the Registrar of Voters' office for locations. Or by Polling Places, you can drop the signed envelope with your ballot in it off at any polling place in the County.

### **Slide 9: In-Person Voting During COVID-19**

Alameda County will have less polling places, for example there will be one polling location for every 10,000 registered voters. However, the In-person voting options are different in every county. The list of polling places to be announced September 24<sup>th</sup>. Your assigned polling place will also be listed on the back page of the county voter guide. Bring your Vote-by-Mail ballot to the polling place and give to the poll worker. If not, you would have to

vote a provisional ballot. Every polling place will have three accessible voting machines.

**Slide 10: Resources for Help Learning About Candidates and Ballot Measures**

Family, friends or other people you trust. The Easy Voter Guide, voter information in plain language available at libraries and other governmental office and many public interest agencies. Or, State and County Voter Information Guides. Or, visit [www.votersedge.org/ca](http://www.votersedge.org/ca), a website with individualized voter information in plain language, based on your address)

**End of Presentation**