

VOTING RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Presented by:

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Why Should You Vote?

- Elect officials who will help you.
- Pass propositions (certain state laws) you agree with or helps you.
 - Example of a proposition: Prop 17: A “yes” vote would allow people 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.
- Participate in democracy!

Who Can Register to Vote?

- A U.S. citizen;
- California resident;
- 18 years old before the next election;
- Not currently imprisoned or on parole for the conviction of a felony;
and
- Has not had their voting rights revoked by a Court.

Some places I can get a voter registration form:



Disability Rights California



Regional Center of East Bay



Post Office



Dept. of Motor Vehicles

Other Places to Register:

- Your local County Elections office.
- Your local County Elections website.
- Independent Living Centers.

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 rights 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.

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, November 3.
- 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>

Returning a Completed Ballot

- Place the completed 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 it 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>

Return a Completed ballot (Cont.)

- 3 additional ways to return the envelope with the ballot
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Polling Places: You can drop the signed envelope with your ballot in it off at any polling place in the County.

In-Person Voting During COVID-19

- Alameda County will have less polling places
 - (i.e. one polling location for every 10,000 registered voters)
- Different in every county
- List of polling places to be announced September 24th
 - Your assigned polling place will 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.

Resources for Help Learning About Candidates and Ballot Measures

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