

Cover Art Here

Voting Tips for the Disability Community

© Kat Hatz, 10 Minutes A Day

Why This Matters

Since 2020, fewer people have been voting and at the same time, it's gotten harder to vote.

For disabled people, voting has to be accessible.
Whether in person, by mail, or from a hospital or nursing home.

Here's the truth:

In 2024, more mail-in/absentee ballots were thrown out than in-person ballots.

For some of us, voting by mail is the only way we can vote.

If you're part of a marginalized community, your ballot is more likely to be rejected.

That's not okay. Our votes matter!!!!

All **40.2 million eligible disabled voters** in the U.S. can make a difference.

This zine will help you make a voting plan so your ballot is cast and counted!

Image here

1. Save These Numbers NOW

- Put voter protection hotlines in your phone before you vote:
National Hotline (English & Spanish): 833-336-8683
- Another Option: Call 866-OUR-VOTE or text VOTE to 70888
- En Español: Text VOTO to 70888

Hotlines can help with ANY problems at the polls, absentee ballot issues, or accessibility problems.

Image here
Imagery of making a plan:

Suggestions:

- A phone with the information**
- a person waiting in line to vote with the information**
- or both?**

2. Know Your Rights

You have the right to:

- Take notes into the voting booth
- Have someone help you mark your ballot
- Ask poll workers for assistance
 - Use accessible tools for blind/low vision, deaf/hard of hearing, or mobility disabilities

Vote curbside if your state offers it

Check here:

www.lgbtmap.org/democracy-maps/curbside_voting

Under the ADA, polling places must be

safe and accessible. If they aren't, call your hotline.

Image here

Imagery related to

-taking notes

-asking for help to fill out a ballot

-Tools for voting for blind/low

vision, deaf/hard of hearing, or

mobility (could be a sign that is a

ballot that says accessible voting

here)

3. Voting by Mail

If you're disabled, you can vote by mail — even in states that require an “excuse.”

Ways to return your ballot:

- Mail it
- Drop it off at your clerk's office
- Take it to an early voting site
- Bring it to your polling place on Election Day
- Use an official drop box (**check location and hours first!**)

Important:

- **Always** make sure you're using the correct drop box.
- On Election Day, you may only be allowed to use one specific location.
- Fill out your envelope **COMPLETELY**
- Missing info (like zip code or signature) can get your ballot rejected.
- Do **NOT** use tape if your envelope won't seal get a new one from election officials.

Image here

Imagery realted to
Voting by mail
Do wherever you mind takes you

4. If You Need a Witness or Help

Some states require a witness or a notary for absentee ballots.

A witness can be:

- Any adult U.S. citizen who isn't running for office in your election
- A friend, neighbor, postal worker, family member, or even a clerk/poll worker
- They must fill out their name, address, and signature exactly as required.

Image here

Imagery related to

Needing a witness or help to vote

Do wherever your mind takes you

5. Voting from a Hospital or Nursing Home

Hospital:

- Ask about an emergency absentee ballot.

Check ***www.patientvoting.com*** for state rules.

- Someone can often bring you the ballot and return it for you.

Nursing Home/Long-Term Care:

- According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (2024), you have the right to vote without interference, pressure, or punishment.
- Some states offer mobile polling or supervised absentee voting — an official brings the ballot to you, helps only if you ask, and returns it.

Image here

**Imagery related to
Voting from a hospital or Nursing
home
Do wherever your mind takes you**

6. Check Your Registration

- Do this at least a month before voting
- Go to ***www.IWillVote.com***
- Call your voter protection hotline
- Fix any errors
- Track your ballot if voting by mail

Image here

**Imagery realted to
Checking you Registration
Do wherever you mind takes you**

7. Bring ID (Even If Not Required)

Rules vary by state.

- Many states offer free voter IDs
- Some states accept utility bills or other documents with your name and address
- Resources: ***www.voteriders.org*** and ***votingrightslab.org***

Image here

Imagery realted to

Always bring ID

Do wherever you mind takes you

8. Transportation Help

- Hotlines may know local resources
- Uber/Lyft sometimes offer free or discounted rides
- ***rideshare2vote.com*** connects voters with drivers

Image here

Imagery related to
Transportation Help
Do wherever your mind takes you

9. Watch Out for Misinformation

- Push polling = someone tells you your vote was already counted. It's a lie.
- You must vote in every election — primaries, runoffs, generals.

Image here

Imagery related to

Provisional Ballots

Do whatever your mind takes you

10. Provisional Ballots

Last resort if there's a problem at the polls (missing ID, wrong location, etc.).

- You may need to follow up quickly for your vote to count.
- Always call your hotline if you're told to use one.

Image here

**Imagery related to
Provisional Ballots
Do whatever your mind takes you**

Bottom Line:

- Disabled voters face more barriers — but **we also have the power** to fight back with information.
- Make your plan, know your rights, and use your vote

Image here

Imagery related to

Disabled people have the power to
have their vote/voice heard

Do whatever your mind takes you

Laura A. Brody will do back cover