



The Arc[™]
North Carolina

Individuals with I/DD: Voting in the November 2020 Election

*Holly C. Watkins, MPH
The Arc of North Carolina
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Who We Are

- ***Brief History***
- ***Who We Serve***

What Will Be Covered

- Mail-in vs. poll during COVID-19
- Access to voting for a person with I/DD
- Voting rights/advocacy
- Explaining the voting process and rights to guardians
- Person's intellectual ability to understand and make their own choices

All information covered in this presentation is based on voting laws and information in North Carolina.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

Access to Voting for People with I/DD

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates voting be accessible. It also requires poll workers be available to help people with disabilities if they need assistance.
- Ways to vote
 - *Mail-in ballot*
 - *Vote from a facility*
 - *In-person voting*

Voting by Mail or In Person

- There are three things that you need to do if you want to vote by mail: request an absentee ballot, fill out the ballot, mail the ballot to the local county BOE.
- In-Person
 - Curbside voting
 - Going inside the polling site

Voting Rights and Advocacy

- Your Rights
- Advocacy
 - NC State Board of Elections:
(919) 733-7173
 - Disability Rights North Carolina:
877-235-4210 (888-268-5535 TTY)

Explaining the voting process and rights to guardians

- Every person has the right to vote.
- It is often assumed people with I/DD, especially if they have a legal guardian in place, cannot vote. *This is false.*
- Only a judge can decide if a person cannot vote (usually because of a crime, not because of disability!)- not a poll worker, a service provider, or a family member.

Person's intellectual ability to understand and make their own choices

- People with I/DD are allowed to have a person of their choosing helping them to vote.
 - A family member or a DSP may accompany a person in order to help him/her cast a vote. They may read the ballot options aloud or provide accommodations for accessibility.
- Voting when you live in a group home/congregate setting

What if I am denied the right to vote on Election Day by a poll worker?

If you are turned away at the polls when you go to vote, you do have recourse. You can say to the poll workers: “The law requires you to give me a provisional ballot with a receipt.”

Voting: What to do before and after?

- **Before the election: educate yourself on each candidate running for office.**
- **After the election: stay up to date on the issues affecting people with I/DD and elected officials.**
- **Visit The Arc of the United States: thearc.org**

Resources

The Arc of the United States *Disability Voter Guide:*

(English) http://thearc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Disability_Voter_Guide_English.pdf

(Spanish) http://thearc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Disability_Voter_Guide_Spanish.pdf

Disability Rights North Carolina: *Access the Vote* <https://www.accessthevote.nc.org/>

NC State Board of Elections <https://www.ncsbe.gov/voting/help-voters-disabilities>

Questions?

***Holly Watkins, Business Development
and Public Relations Manager***

hwatkins@arcnc.org

919-624-2703

