

# The Power of the Disability Vote



**ABLE**  
NEW HAMPSHIRE



**BRAIN INJURY  
ASSOCIATION**  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



**Disability Rights Center - NH**  
Protection and Advocacy System for New Hampshire  
Advocating for the legal rights of persons with disabilities

DISABILITY RIGHTS  
CENTER - NH

# ABLE NH

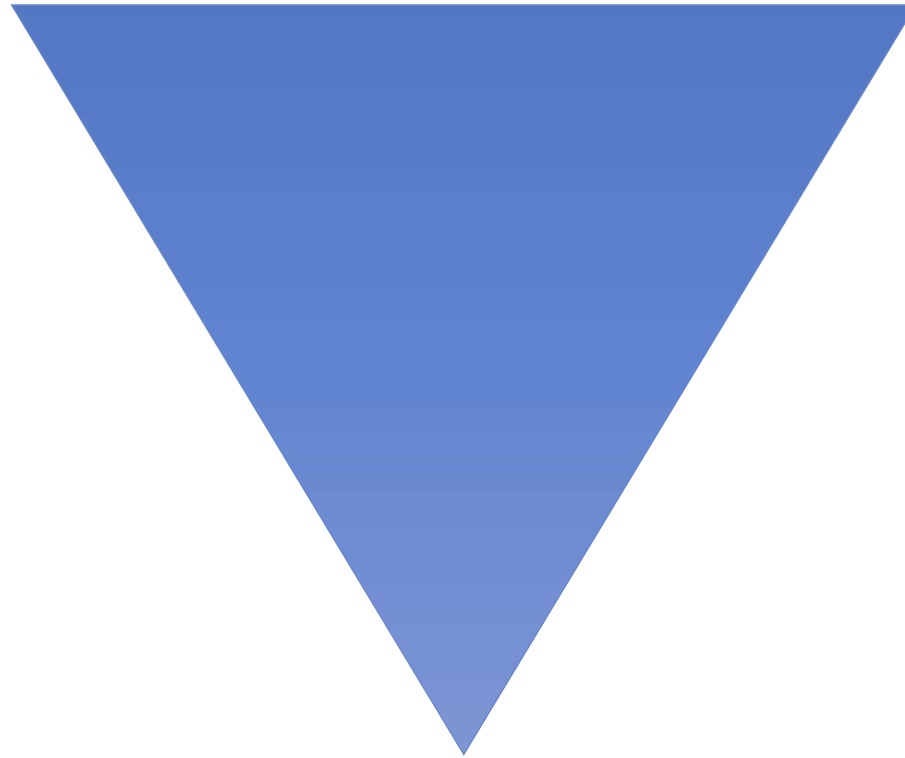
- Mission- Advocates Building Lasting Equality in NH advocates for the civil and human rights of children and adults with disabilities; and promotes full participation by: improving systems of supports, connecting families, inspiring communities, and influencing public policy.
- ABLE NH uses a synergistic blend of the disciplined practice of community organizing – organizing people and their stories-- to make clear demands about what needs to change, backed up with evidence-based best practices and research.
- ABLE NH organizes ordinary citizens to become extraordinary leaders.

**★ Inclusion - Everyone. Everywhere. Everyday**

# What is “Power?”

- Are you powerful?
- What are your feelings about power?
- Why aren't you powerful? Why are you powerful?
- How is the disability community powerful?

We the People



Public Servants, aka Elected officials

# Why Vote?

Americans w/  
Disabilities Act

Fair pay for support staff  
Employment

Developmental Disability Act

Life long learning

## Values

NH's RSA 171A

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Full funding for adult services

Healthcare

Affordable, accessible housing

Olmstead Decision

Medicaid

## Values → Self-Interest

- Self-interest is “self among others”
- People impacted by disability share a self-interest in protecting the things we value.
- How does the disability community move its values into the public arena?

# Organize!

- There are a number of ways to organize
- Voting is a powerful way for people impacted by disability to make their values clear in the public arena
- 19% of Americans experience a disability
- 2.35 million MORE votes if people with disabilities voted at the same rate as people w/o disabilities

# Think about that: 2.35 million more votes

If people who value:  
Equity, Opportunity & Access  
for people w/ disabilities  
voted in a block for  
candidates who will represent  
our values as elected officials



The disability community  
would change election  
outcomes



# The disability vote is POWERFUL

- We can elect candidates who will:
  - Protect Medicaid
  - Protect IDEA & appropriately fund it
  - Fully fund adult services
  - Fix workforce issues
  - Fix housing issues
  - Fund oral & overall healthcare
  - And on & on & on

# The disability vote is POWERFUL

When the disability community makes our values clear to candidates, then uses our VOTE as our VOICE, we can elect officials who RESPECT justice for people with disabilities

# Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire

## Mission:

*To create a better future through brain injury prevention, education, advocacy, and support.*

- Grassroots organization led by parents, caregivers and professionals
- Grassroots Disability Legislative Network  
Advocacy Matters Newsletter
- **HELPLINE 800-773-8400**



**BRAIN INJURY  
ASSOCIATION**  
**OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

# *Powerful Caregiver Advocacy*

- Promotes adequate healthcare for individuals.
- Promotes independence for individuals in the community.
- Promotes a quality of life to individuals based on their self determined values.
- Saves the state and federal government large amounts of dollars for caregiving services.
- Advocate for individuals they support through voting, public policy initiatives and the legislature.



**BRAIN INJURY  
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OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CENTER - NH

# Powerful Caregiver Advocacy

- Caregiver advocacy emerges through caregiving relationships.
- Caregivers witness the unmet/met needs of individuals that they provide care to.
- Caregivers support individuals who need help to navigate life.



**BRAIN INJURY  
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OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

# Power of the Caregiver Vote

- **Powerful Vote! Knowledge** -Family caregivers play a central role in the decision making and delivery of long-term care to the care receiver.
- **Powerful Vote! Choice** -Choose a candidate that has your best interest and the interest of the person that you are providing care to.
- **Powerful Vote! Voice** -“The ones who have a voice must speak for those who are voiceless” - Oscar Romero



**BRAIN INJURY  
ASSOCIATION**  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CENTER - NH

# Disability Rights Center

- Who we are
- What we do
- Contact DRC-NH:
  - (603) 228-0432
  - [mail@drcnh.org](mailto:mail@drcnh.org)

# Today's Topics



Voting Rights



Registration and  
Absentee Voting



Accessible voting



How to ask for  
accommodations



# Timeline 2020 - Election Schedule

- Primary Election- September 8, 2020
- General Election – November 3, 2020



# Timeline 2020- Important Dates

- Registering to vote:
  - **2 weeks before** an election (town/city hall)
  - Same day registration (polling place)
- Absentee Ballot:
  - **Requests** can be made until **the day before** election
  - Must be **returned by 5 p.m.** on election day

# Registering to vote

- What documents do you need?
- Where can you register?
- When do you need to register by?
  - By Mail: 2 weeks before an election
  - New Hampshire has same day registration at every polling place.

# Documents needed for registration

- Proof of Age
  - Driver's license or non-driver ID (government issued)
  - Birth certificate
- Proof of Citizenship
  - Birth certificate
  - Passport /Naturalization Papers
- Proof of Residency/Domicile

# Absentee Voting

Eligibility

How to request an absentee ballot

How to fill out an absentee ballot

# Absentee Voting

- Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, anyone can vote with an absentee ballot this year\*
- You can vote safely from home and mail your ballot back
- Skip the polling place, avoid the crowds
- NH Secretary of State Website: [www.sos.nh.gov](http://www.sos.nh.gov)

# How to Request an Absentee Ballot

- For Registered Voters
  - If you are already a registered voter, you can request an absentee ballot by filling out a form provided by the Sec. of State's website: [www.sos.nh.gov](http://www.sos.nh.gov)
  - You can also request a form through your town or city clerk's office. They will mail you an absentee ballot request form.
  - You must request an absentee ballot. It will not be automatically sent to you.

[Home](#) > [Elections](#) > [Voting in New Hampshire](#) > Voting During the COVID-19 State of Emergency

# Voting During the COVID-19 State of Emergency

[COVID-19 How to Request Absentee Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Packets](#)

[COVID-19 Absentee Voter Registration Instructions](#)

[COVID-19 Absentee Ballot Instructions](#)

Absentee Ballot Application | [Download the Form](#) | [Fill-in Form](#) |

[Absentee Voter Registration Form "Physical Disability" to be used for COVID-19](#)

[Absentee Voter Registration Form to be used for "Temporary Absence"](#)

[Joint Guidance on Voter Registration June 2020](#)

[Voting by Absentee Ballot During the State of Emergency Related to COVID-19](#)

[Click here to find contact information for your City or Town Clerk](#)

Contact the Secretary of State's Office

Phone: 603-271-3242

Fax: 603-271-6316

Email: [elections@sos.nh.gov](mailto:elections@sos.nh.gov)





### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE Application for State Election Absentee Ballot-RSA 657:4

Absence, Religious Observance, and Disability

(Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Voters Residing Outside the U.S. use the federal post card application)

**For  
Official  
Use  
Only**

Voter Not  
registered

Voter ID #

Date Returned:

Signature:

**I. I hereby declare that (check one):**

- I am a duly qualified voter who is currently registered to vote in this town/ward.
- I am absent from the town/city where I am domiciled and will be until after the next election, or I am unable to register in person due to a disability, and request that the forms necessary for absentee voter registration be sent to me with the absentee ballot.

**II. I will be entitled to vote by absentee ballot because (check one):**

- I plan to be absent on the day of the election from the city, town, or unincorporated place where I am domiciled.
- I am requesting a ballot for the presidential primary election and I may be absent on the day of the election from the city, town, or unincorporated place where I am domiciled, but the date of the election has not been announced. I understand that I may only make such a request 14 days after the filing period for candidates has closed, and that if I will not be absent on the date of the election I am not eligible to vote by absentee ballot.
- I cannot appear in public on election day because of observance of a religious commitment.
- I am unable to vote in person due to a disability.
- I cannot appear at any time during polling hours at my polling place because of an employment obligation. For the purposes of this application, the term "employment" shall include the care of a dependent child.

**For use only on the Monday immediately prior to the election:** I cannot appear at my polling place on election day because the National Weather Service has issued a winter storm

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# How to Request an Absentee Ballot 2

- For Unregistered Voters
  - If you are not registered to vote, you can register as an absentee voter registration packet.
  - Fill out the packet and mail the required documents back to the clerk's office.
  - Benefit: An absentee ballot being sent to you automatically. No further action is required!
  - Recent changes have made registering as absentee voter easier than ever before

## ABSENTEE VOTER REGISTRATION FORM – PHYSICALLY DISABLED

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
ABSENTEE VOTER REGISTRATION FORM  
(RSA 654:17)



Enabling Residents Who are *Physically Disabled* from Town (City) to Register of Vote

### AFFIDAVIT

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby swear or affirm, under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below, the following:

1) That my legal domicile is in the town of \_\_\_\_\_, New Hampshire, I will be of the age of 18 years or over on election day, and am entitled to vote in the election to be held in said town on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, except for the fact that my name does not appear on the checklist to be used in said town at such election;

2) That I am unable by reason of physical disability personally to appear before the supervisors of the checklist of said town in their regular sessions for the correction of the checklist for said election;

3) That I hereby enclose one of the following as proof of identity and domicile:

(a) A copy of a current and valid New Hampshire driver's license or an armed services identification or other photo identification issued by the United States government that shows my name and address: or

(b) A copy of a current and valid photo identification and a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, other government document that shows my name and address, or a letter from the administrator of a nursing home or similar facility affirming that I am a resident of that facility that was provided to me at my request pursuant to the administrator's duty to provide such a letter upon my request;

4) That I acknowledge that if I do not provide a copy of proof of identity and domicile (as required by section 3) above, this application may not be approved; and

5) That I hereby make application for the addition of my name to the checklist of said town to be used at said

# How to Fill Out an Absentee Ballot

- Once you receive an absentee ballot you fill it out just like you would an in-person ballot
- You need to mail the ballot back to the city clerk OR Drop off the ballot at the Clerk's office
- You cannot drop off an absentee ballot at the polling place on election day
- Absentee ballots must be received before 5 p.m. on election day

# Curbside Voting

- If the building is not accessible, you can still cast your ballot in person that day
- You will need to have someone alert the moderator that you are unable to access the building
- The moderator will come out and deliver an absentee ballot for you to fill out



# Voting Rights

Voter eligibility

Voting under guardianship

The logo features the word "LET" in large blue letters at the top. Below it are three horizontal red lines, with a blue circle containing a white checkmark in the center. Underneath the lines are the words "PEOPLE" in blue and "VOTE" in red, both in bold, sans-serif capital letters.

**LET**  
PEOPLE  
**VOTE**

# Having a Disability Doesn't Prevent You From Voting!

- “No person shall be deemed incompetent...**to vote**... Solely by reason of his or her developmental disability or his or her participation in the [area agency] system” - NH RSA 171-A:14
- In most cases, adults who have a guardian are still eligible to vote!

# Voters with Communication Disabilities

- You have a right to vote even if you cannot speak or have difficulty communicating
- You must be able to communicate your preference. Very broad standard.
  - Can be by tapping finger or blinking
  - Still need to give an oath if you are asking for assistance (does not need to be verbal oath)



# Voter ID

- You will be asked for a photo ID before you vote.
- If you do not have a photo ID, **you can still vote!**
  - You will need to fill out a qualified voter affidavit

**QUALIFIED VOTER AFFIDAVIT**  
(Identity, Citizenship, Age)  
(RSA 654:12)



*Please Print:* Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name at birth if different: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Naturalization: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Naturalization: \_\_\_\_\_

Domicile Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street & House (Apt. Number) (Town or City) (Ward) (State) (Zip Code)

Mailing Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number *(requested but optional)* \_\_\_\_\_

Email address *(requested but optional)* \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby swear and affirm, under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below, that I am not in possession of some or all of the documents necessary to prove my identity, citizenship, and age and that I am the identical person whom I represent myself to be, that I am a duly qualified voter of this town (or ward), that I am a United States citizen, that I am at least 18 years of age as of this date or will be at the next election, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information above is true and correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

*In accordance with RSA 659:34, the penalty for knowingly or purposely providing false information when registering to vote or voting is a class A misdemeanor with a maximum sentence of imprisonment not to exceed one year and a fine not to exceed \$2,000.*

# Accessible Voting

Help Americans Vote Act

One4all accessible voting system

# HAVA and Voters with Disabilities

- HAVA requires polling places to be physically accessible
- People with disabilities must be able to vote:
  - Privately
  - Independently
- Unclear what impact COVID-19 May have on physical accessibility of polling places.

# Accommodations

Help Filling Out Your Ballot  
Architectural Accessibility  
Communication  
Mistakes



# Accessible Features

- Every polling place in New Hampshire is required to be physically accessible
  - Parking lot & entrance
  - Voting machine, lower tables, and larger booths for people in wheelchairs



# One4all Accessible Voting System

- New Hampshire uses the one4all Accessible voting system
- One4all is a tablet-based system designed to help people with disabilities exercise their right to vote
- Can vote either by using voice or with the touch screen
- Your choices are printed on the same ballot used by other voters

# One4all Accessible Voting System 2

- Reasons to use the one4all
  - Promote awareness of the need for accommodations
  - Easy to use
  - It's fun!
- Currently used for federal elections.





# Help Filling Out Your Ballot

- You are allowed to have someone help you fill out the ballot
  - Need to take an oath that you need help
  - Family or friends can help you fill out the ballot
  - They will also need to take an oath
    - Your employer or union representative cannot help
  - A poll worker can also help you if you fill out your ballot

# Mistakes

- You **are** allowed to have your ballot replaced if you make a mistake
- If you make a mistake, tell the moderator. He or she will give you a new ballot
- You only get 3 chances to mark your ballot correctly, so be very careful when you are filling out a replacement ballot

# What If You Need Assistance?

- If you have a problem voting, or if someone is denying your right to vote, here are some people you can call:
  - New Hampshire Attorney General:
    - 1-866-868-3703
  - New Hampshire Secretary of State:
    - (603) 271-3242
  - Disability Rights Center-NH:
    - (603) 228-0432



# Research The Candidates

- It is important to research the candidates to figure out who you will be voting for.
- Lots of available resources online
  - Ballotpedia contains lots of information about many specific candidates
- Videos
- Surveys

# Candidate Survey on Disability

- Sent surveys out to the major candidates in both parties.
- Asked questions about a wide range of disability topics, including several issues that impact people with developmental disabilities.
- Go to [www.drcnh.org](http://www.drcnh.org) to read the candidates' answers

# “Vote or die.” – Sean Combs





# NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



Contact Information:  
Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre  
[NHCDD.Director@ddc.nh.gov](mailto:NHCDD.Director@ddc.nh.gov)  
(603) 271 – 1157  
[WWW.NHCDD.ORG](http://WWW.NHCDD.ORG)



NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL ON  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

# DD Council Mission

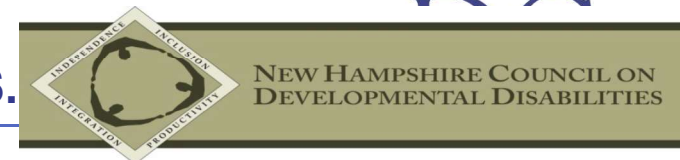
*We are dedicated to dignity, full rights of citizenship, cultural diversity, equal opportunities, and full participation for all New Hampshire citizens with developmental disabilities.*





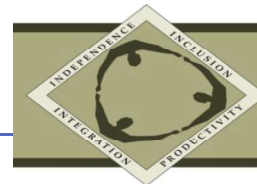
# What is the DD Council?

- **Councils were created by the Federal law known as the DD Act.** (The Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act, 2000). At least 60% of our members are people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and parents or guardians of people with developmental disabilities.
- The DD Council is a federally funded agency that **supports public policies and initiatives that remove barriers and promote opportunities in all areas of life in the community.**
- **We identify and address the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities through a five-year state plan** with objectives and activities that address key areas important to people with disabilities and their families.
- The Council carries out its mission through education, advocacy and the funding of innovative projects that make a difference in people's lives. **We partner with other organizations like ABLE NH, DRC, and BIA to impact systemic change.**
- **There is a DD Council in every State and Territory of the US.**



# Voter Resources

- Your values matter! Voting for our legislative representatives is how you can communicate those values
- If you don't feel safe or comfortable voting in person, you should take full advantage. The DD Council can be a resource for people that need assistance and information about voting.
- We can help connect you with other organizations or groups that can assist you with registering to vote, filling out absentee ballots, or getting to the voting booth
- ABLE NH has \$20 gift cards available to aid with transportation



NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL ON  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



# Questions?

# Contact Info

- James Ziegra, Esq.: [jamesz@drcnh.org](mailto:jamesz@drcnh.org); 603-228-0432
- Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre,  
[Isadora.Rodriguez-Legendre@ddc.nh.gov](mailto:Isadora.Rodriguez-Legendre@ddc.nh.gov)  
603-271-3236
- Lisa Beaudoin, [lisab@ablenh.org](mailto:lisab@ablenh.org); 603-878-0459
- Ellen Edgerly, [ellen@bianh.org](mailto:ellen@bianh.org), 603-834-9570

