



VOTING RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES



WHAT DO VOTING LAWS REQUIRE?

- You must be a U.S. citizen and a Colorado resident for 22 days in order to vote in Colorado.
- You must be 18 years old by Election Day in order to vote
- There must be at least one accessible voting system in each Voting Service and Polling Center (“VSPC”).
- All VSPC’s must be accessible.
- Registration forms, ballots, and other materials must be made available in alternate formats that are accessible.
- Individuals with disabilities have a right to reasonable modifications and auxiliary aids that make it possible for them to participate in government programs and services which includes federal and state elections.
- A person with a disability may vote alone or with assistance from a person of the voter’s choice, other than the voter’s employer or an agent of the voter’s union and you may have extra time to cast your vote.
- Voting machines must provide all voters with the ability to independently and privately cast, verify, and correct their ballot before it is counted.
- You can pre-register to vote at the age of 16 in Colorado and vote in a primary at 17 as long as you will be 18 on Election Day
- You are not required to have a Colorado driver’s license in order to vote, but you must have an acceptable form of identification – a list of acceptable forms of identification is available at:
<http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/vote/acceptableFormsOfID.html>

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I BELIEVE MY VOTING RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED?

- You can file an election complaint with the Secretary of State’s Office
- If you need assistance completing and filing your complaint, you can contact Disability Law Colorado’s VOTE! Program at (303) 722-0300.

This is John, he has developmental disabilities and has a guardian.

Can he vote?

YES, People with guardians are entitled to Independently cast ballots.



This is Mary, she moved to a nursing home last year and has not updated her address.

Can she vote?

YES, she can update her address up until Election Day and can cast her vote, even if she needs assistance to do so.

This is Jane, she is blind and cannot read the mail ballot.

Can she vote independently?

YES, Jane is entitled to a mail ballot that will enable her to vote independently, or she can vote at a VSPC where there is an accessible machine, enabling Jane to vote privately and independently.



***** DISCLAIMER: This is not intended as legal advice, but rather for informational purposes only. Always consult a lawyer if you have questions about your legal rights. *****

References:

Disability Law Colorado – www.disabilitylawco.org
Dept. of Justice Information on the ADA – www.ada.gov
Colorado Secretary of State – www.sos.state.co.us
Peak Parent Center – speakout.peakparent.org