REV UP Voting Outreach Guide

A Guide for Making Sure Disabled Voters are Registered and Ready to Vote in the 2022 General Elections

This guide is made by the American Association of People with Disabilities’ REV UP Voting Campaign. REV UP is a national nonpartisan coalition building the power of the disability vote. REV UP stands for “Register! Educate! Vote! Use your Power!”
Using this Voting Outreach Guide

Why is it important to get out the disability vote?

This year, thousands of state and local offices are up for election, as well as countless ballot measures, constitutional amendments, and other decisions that can have a direct impact in the community. The disability vote has the power to create a more inclusive and accessible nation, where the policies and people that govern us prioritize people with disabilities. However, disabled voters turnout to vote less than other voters and are twice as likely to have difficulties voting.

What is in this toolkit?

This guide includes resources, advice, and strategies for getting out the disability vote in the 2022 election. Check out the sections below:

- Resources for Disabled Voters
- Strategies for Voting Outreach
- Using Social Media
- Other Voting Outreach Resources
Resources for Disabled Voters

1. Voting in 2022 Website

This year, AAPD’s REV UP Voting Campaign set up an online voter hub with information for disabled voters as they make their plan to vote in the 2022 general election on November 8.

How can I access this hub?

You can access and share this voting information hub at aapd.com/wevote.

What information does this voter hub have?

The hub includes these sections:

- **Register to Vote** - REV UP’s online voter registration form, created by Rock the Vote.
- **How to Vote** - State by state guides for how and when to vote, with information specifically helpful for disabled voters.
- **Why Vote** - REV UP’s core campaign issues to think about when voting.
- **Voting Stories** - Personal stories from disabled voters in 2020 sharing what voting means to them.
- **Voting Frequently Asked Questions** - Answers to common voting questions disabled voters may have.
- **Know Your Rights** - The ACLU’s list of voting rights, including the rights of disabled voters.
2. State by State Voting Guides for Disabled Voters

Every state has different voting rules and deadlines which can be confusing to voters. REV UP has made 51 voting guides for every state and the District of Columbia for the midterm elections on November 8. These guides include general voting information, as well as information about accommodations and accessibility that other guides often leave out. If you find any information that needs to be updated, please email Lilian Aluri at lauri@aapd.com.

What is in each state voting guide?

- How and When to Register to Vote
- Ways to Learn about the People and Policies You Can Vote For
- Rules for Voting In-Person or By Mail
- Information on Accommodations and Your Rights as a Disabled Voter
- What to Do if You Have Questions or Difficulties Voting

How do I get my voting guide?

1. Go to aapd.com/how-to-vote.
2. Select your state from the map or from the list of states below.
3. Share these guides with others online or with printed copies.

What about accessibility?

We worked to create these guides using plain language, commissioned easy read versions of a few guides, and will soon have Spanish translations of all 51 guides available on our website. If you experience any issues with the accessibility of these guides, please email Lilian Aluri at lauri@aapd.com so that we can make sure these guides are accessible to all.
To learn more about our state voting guides, check out this recorded webinar. ASL interpreting and captioning are included in the recording.

### 3. Other Resources

There are many resources out there for voters with disabilities. Here are just a few that may be helpful to you as you get out the disability vote:

- [Guardianship and Voting Laws](#)
- [Resources for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Voters](#)
- [Resources for Blind and Low Vision Voters](#)
- [Easy Read and Plain Language Voting Resources](#)
- **ASL Hotline**: 301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683)
- **Election Protection Hotline**: 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)
- [Voting with a Disability Video](#)
- [Voting Information Videos in ASL](#)
- [General Voting Info from Vote411](#)
- [Help with Getting a Voter ID](#)

When you’re not sure about a voting deadline or rule, make sure to check your state’s official election website. Misinformation, where there is incorrect voting information shared, happens a lot. Secretary of State websites have the most accurate information on voting in your state.
Strategies for Voting Outreach

1. Start with your network.

Are you a part of social organizations online or in your neighborhood? Are you a part of a religious community? All of us have many connections and relationships with people that we can encourage to vote and share voting information with. And, people with disabilities exist in every community, organization, and neighborhood. You do not need databases of thousands and thousands of contacts to do voting outreach.

Starting with the contacts you currently have, you can do the following activities:

- **Text Banking** - Text friends, family, and community members to ask if they are registered to vote, if they have a plan to vote, or if they have any questions about the voting process.
- **Phone Banking** - If you have a list of phone numbers for disabled people who are connected to your organizations, you can gather volunteers to call all of the contacts and make sure they have what they need to vote.
- **Mailing Postcards** - If you have a list of addresses, you can send a postcard with voting information on it.
- **Emails** - While emails can sometimes be less personal, you can share useful voting information, for example the REV UP voting info hub at [aapd.com/wevote](http://aapd.com/wevote) by email to many people at once.

2. Reach out to voters in congregate settings.

Disabled voters and seniors living in group homes, assisted living facilities, or other congregate settings may have limited access to information about voting and have more difficulty getting a ballot or going to a polling place. Here are some ways that you can work with local election officials and group living facilities to increase access to voting for the 2022 general election:
● **Mobile Voting Teams** - Some states can send teams of poll workers with ballots or an accessible voting machine to nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or other places where it’s more difficult to vote but there are many potential voters. Contact your local election officials or visit your Secretary of State’s website to find out if your state provides this service and how you can make sure that voters in group living situations can access this service.

● **Voter Education** - If allowed by your state and by the facility, bring absentee ballot applications, voter registration forms, and voter education materials to group living facilities. You may even be able to host a voter education training. Make sure to follow any rules in your state for who can distribute voter registration forms or absentee ballot applications and who can collect and deliver these forms.

● **Transportation to the Polls** - Some congregate settings may organize transportation to the polls during early voting or on election day. You may be able to support and encourage local group living facilities to organize this transportation if they do not already do so, and educate residents about this option.

3. **Prioritize accessibility in your outreach.**

Make sure to consider what accommodations you need, and how to make sure social media, materials, and other activities are inclusive to people with disabilities. Here are just a few tips for making your outreach more accessible:

● **Captioning and ASL** - Provide captioning by a live captioner and American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting by a qualified interpreter for in-person and virtual events.

● **Language Access** - Make sure handouts and written materials are written with plain language and limit use of long sentences and uncommon words. We encourage you to also make materials in other languages, for example Spanish, that voters in your community may be more comfortable with.
• **Image Descriptions** - Include image descriptions (also called alternative text or alt text) for social media graphics, images in toolkits, and other online or digital material.

• **Physical Accessibility** - For in-person activities, choose locations that are wheelchair accessible with accessible restrooms, extra seating available, and close to accessible and reliable public transportation.

For more information, check out these resources on accessibility:

- [The A to Z of Effective, Inclusive Campaigns](#)
- [Holding Inclusive Events: A Guide to Accessible Event Planning](#) - Pacific Alliance on Disability Self Advocacy
- [How to Make Your Social Justice Events Accessible to the Disability Community: A Checklist](#) - s.e. smith for Rooted in Rights
- [Digital Accessibility in the Age of COVID-19](#) - AAPD
- [How to Make Your Virtual Meetings and Events Accessible to the Disability Community](#) - Alaina Leary for Rooted In Rights
- [GOTV + Organizing Accessibility](#) - The Women’s March

4. **Support existing voting outreach efforts.**

You don’t have to do your voter registration efforts alone, and you don’t have to start from nothing. The REV UP Campaign encourages disability organizations to work collaboratively on voter engagement. Similarly, many national, state, and local civic organizations that already work on voter registration may be interested in partnering with you. Partnering with other organizations is an opportunity to make sure that disability related content is integrated into all community events and civic engagement efforts. Here are examples of some organizations to reach out to:

- [All Voting is Local](#)
- [American Civil Liberties Union](#)
- [American Council of the Blind](#)
- [Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#)
- [Association of University Centers on Disabilities](#)
- [Human Rights Campaign](#)
5. Support Voters to Make Their Voting Plan

As you reach out to voters, you can use the idea of a voting plan to make sure the people you reach out to are fully ready to vote. Especially for disabled voters, casting a ballot takes a lot of planning. Having a voting plan includes:

1. **Making Sure You Are Registered to Vote**
   - Have you checked to make sure your voter registration is up to date? Is the address on your voter registration correct?
   - If you haven’t registered, do you have any proof of identification you may need to register in your state?

2. **Deciding How You Will Vote**
   - Can you vote by mail or with an absentee ballot? If so, is a mail-in ballot accessible to you?
   - Do you need to vote using assistive technology?
   - Where is your polling location?
   - Are you worried about COVID-19 if you vote in person?
○ Can you vote using a ballot drop-box?
○ How will you get to the polling place or to a ballot drop-box?

3. Deciding When You Will Vote
○ When is the last day to request a vote-by-mail or absentee ballot?
○ Does your state offer early voting day and, if so, when is early voting?
○ If you are voting on election day, how will you be prepared if there are long lines?
○ When are the polls open during early voting and on election day?

4. Learning About What You Can Vote On
○ What elected positions will you be able to vote for this election? What candidates are running for each of the positions that will be on your ballot?
○ What are these candidates’ policy positions? What do these candidates have to say about people with disabilities?
○ Will there be any ballot measures (sometimes called ballot initiatives or referendum) where you can vote directly on a policy?

5. Casting Your Ballot
○ If you are voting by mail, have you sent in your absentee ballot request, received and marked your ballot, and mailed it back by the deadline?
○ If you are voting in person, do you have your transportation plan prepared and have you packed any medication or supplies you may need if it takes a few hours to vote?
○ Will you need to use curbside voting if it is available in your state?
○ In case you have issues voting, do you have the election protection hotline or protection and advocacy agency contact information with you?
○ Will you need assistance voting? Are there requirements regarding who can assist you when you vote?

6. Make Sure Your Vote Counts
○ If you end up voting with a provisional ballot, do you know what you need to do to make sure your vote counts? When is the last day to take any actions you need to do to “cure” your ballot, which means to make sure it is verified and counts?
○ Does your state have a way to track if your mail-in ballot was received?
○ Does your state notify you if there is an issue with your mail-in ballot and how to resolve the issue?

Voting can be a complicated process. While many election officials and voting and disability advocates are working to make voting more accessible and easier, the process of voting has many different parts. Supporting voters through making their voting plan can make the process a little less scary and can build their confidence when they vote. For more information about voting plans, check out these resources:

● Vote411 - Make a Voting Plan
● NBC News - Plan Your Vote
● Being a Successful Voter with Disabilities Means Making a Plan

6. Stay Safe From COVID-19

The health and safety of our disability community is of utmost importance to us, especially given that our community faces a significantly higher risk from COVID-19, has experienced barriers to the vaccine, and may not be able to mask or social distance. Empowering individuals with disabilities to vote is more important than ever to ensure that the disability community’s voice is represented as we choose who will govern us and the policies and funding that will shape our future.

Since 2020, most REV UP activities have taken place online through virtual events and digital outreach. In 2022, we know that many advocates may plan some in-person events. We urge people doing voting outreach to strongly consider virtual events, and to closely monitor the presence of COVID-19 in their communities. If you decide to host an in-person event, we encourage you to plan outdoor activities, wear masks, and abide by social distancing as much as possible to ensure the safety of your attendees. View the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s social distancing guidelines for more information.
Using Social Media

The REV UP Campaign has several graphics freely available for REV UP partners to use. We will share some graphics and example posts below. Want to add AAPD or REV UP logos to your graphics? Check out our [AAPD and REV UP logos document](#) with logos and alt text.

Important Dates

- Your State’s [Voter Registration Deadline](#)
- Your State’s [Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot](#)
- October 28 - [National Vote Early Day](#)
- November 8 - General Election

Hashtags

Use these hashtags when posting on social media to join the conversation on getting out the vote in the disability community:

- #DisabilityVote
- #RevUp
- #RevUpTheVote
- #CriptheVote
- #VoteReady

Social Media and Outreach Tips

- Encourage voters to start early and make their plan to vote.
- Include the link to our voter info website: [aapd.com/wevote](#).
- Share your [state’s voting guide](#).
- Follow AAPD’s social media accounts and share our posts on your own social media platforms.
  - AAPD: [@AAPD](#) on Twitter, [@DisabilityPowered](#) on Facebook, [@aapdofficial](#) on Instagram
  - REV UP: [@RevUpCampaign](#) on Instagram, twitter, and facebook
Social Media Graphics

Graphic 1: Are You Ready to Vote?

- Download the Are You Ready to Vote Graphic (Twitter)
- Download the Are You Ready to Vote Graphic (Instagram and Facebook)

Alt Text: Text - Are you ready to vote in 2022? AAPD.com/wevote - Text is white on navy blue with a white banner at the top saying “vote” and the REV UP logo below.

Graphic 2: Voting by Mail

- Download the Voting By Mail Graphic (Twitter)
- Download the Voting By Mail Graphic (Instagram and Facebook)

Alt Text: Text - Voting by Mail: request your ballot as soon as possible, find out if you can use a ballot drop box, if paper is inaccessible to you, check if your state can send you an electronic ballot, AAPD.com/wevote - Text is dark blue on yellow with an icon of a mail in ballot and the top and the REV UP logo below.
Graphic 3: How to Vote

- Download the How to Vote Graphic (Twitter)
- Download the How to Vote Graphic (Instagram and Facebook)

Alt Text: Text - Find out how to vote in your state - AAPD.com/how-to-vote - Text is white on teal with an illustration of a brown person with black hair who has questions - REV UP logo

Graphic 4: Election Protection

- Download the Election Protection Graphic (Insta, FB)

Example Social Media Posts

Here are some posts and graphics you can use on social media:

- **Know Your Rights** - Know your voting rights when going to the polls or voting from home! Your vote matters and can help decide the people and policies that govern healthcare, education, and more! [https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/voting-rights/](https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/voting-rights/) #RevUp #CriptheVote #DisabilityVote

- **Request Your Ballot (may be called absentee ballot or vote by mail in your state)** - Planning to vote by mail or absentee? Request your ballot as soon as possible to make sure your ballot arrives on time and is counted! #RevUp #VoteReady #VoteByMail #DisabilityVote
• **Assistance with Voting** - You are allowed to choose someone to assist you when voting (this person cannot be an employer or union agent). #RevUp #DisabilityVote #DisabledVoter #WeVote

• **Curbside Voting (if available in your state)** - If you cannot enter a polling place, you can request poll workers to bring a ballot outside to you. #RevUp #DisabilityVote

• **Accessible Remote Ballot** In many states, if you have a disability, you can request a remote accessible ballot that can be received and marked electronically before printing and returning the ballot. Find out how to access an accessible remote ballot in your state’s voting guide at aapd.com/how-to-vote #RevUp #DisabilityVote #VoteByMail

• **Alternative Ballots** - Need a braille or large print ballot? Ask your election officials if they have one of these alternative ballot formats. #RevUp #DisabilityVote #VoteByMail

• **Accessible Voting Machines** - Paper ballots not accessible to you? All polling locations must have at least one accessible voting machine with alternative ways to mark a ballot for people with disabilities. #RevUp #AccessibleVoting #AccessibleElections #VotingIn2022 #VotingInTheMidterms

• **What to Do If You Have Difficulties Voting** - If you have any questions about voting or are facing any accessibility issues, reach out to our state’s protection and advocacy organization [include name and link to your state’s protection and advocacy organization and phone number and email] or contact the election protection hotline at 866ourvote.org/ #RevUp #CriptheVote #DisabilityVote
Other Voting Outreach Resources

National and Local Organizations

You don’t have to do your voting outreach efforts alone. REV UP encourages our network to collaborate with each other and work with voting and civic engagement organizations. Here are some nonprofit and government organizations you can engage in your Get Out the Vote efforts:

- State Protection and Advocacy Agencies
- Local Centers for Independent Living
- State Independent Living Councils
- State Developmental Disabilities Councils
- State and Local Chapters of The Arc
- League of Women Voters
- State Elections Office

Other Resources on Voting Outreach for Nonprofit Organizations

- Running Facebook Ads Related to Voting Before the Election
- Staying Nonpartisan
- Fixing Errors on Ballots in Many States
- Election Protection Toolkit

About AAPD and REV UP

AAPD is a convener, connector, and catalyst for change, increasing the political and economic power of people with disabilities. As one of the leading national cross-disability civil rights organizations, AAPD advocates for the full recognition of rights for the over 60 million Americans with disabilities. AAPD’s programs and initiatives are effective in mobilizing the disability community through communications advocacy; cultivating and training new and emerging leaders with disabilities through leadership development programs; increasing the political participation of Americans
with disabilities and elevating the power of the disability vote through the REV UP (Register! Educate! Vote! Use your Power!) Campaign; and advancing disability inclusion in the workplace through the Disability Equality Index (DEI) — the nation’s leading corporate benchmarking tool for disability equality and inclusion. To learn more about AAPD, visit www.aapd.com.

AAPD’s REV UP Campaign aims to foster civic engagement and protect the voting rights of Americans with disabilities. AAPD works with state and national coalitions on effective, non-partisan campaigns to address the concerns of people with disabilities, eliminate barriers to voting, promote accessibility of voting; educate communities about issues and candidates; promote turnout of voters with disabilities across the country; and engage candidates and the media on disability issues. Learn more about REV UP at www.aapd.com/revup.

Questions?

Do you have questions about this REV UP Voting Outreach Guide or the REV UP Voting Campaign? Let us know! Email Lilian Aluri, the REV UP Voting Campaign Coordinator, at laluri@aapd.com.