

Voting Rights and the ADA

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) makes it illegal for state and local governments to discriminate on the basis of disability in their programs, services and activities.
- Specifically, the ADA entitles people with disabilities to reasonable accommodations necessary to enable them to participate in government programs, such as registering to vote and casting a ballot.
- The ADA also prohibits states from setting eligibility criteria that prevent people with disabilities from voting unless those criteria are “necessary.”
- Contact this organization if you or someone you know needs reasonable accommodations at any stage of the voting process because of a mental disability. Example of reasonable accommodations are instructions explained in simpler language, or being accompanied into the voting booth by a friend or family member, or getting assistance in casting a ballot.
- Contact this organization if you or someone you know cannot vote because of a state law or practice barring people with mental disabilities from voting. An example would be if you have been told you cannot vote because you are in a hospital or because you have a guardian. Such restrictions may be too broad and therefore illegal.

