2020 ELECTED FOR INCLUSION:
A PRESIDENTIAL FORUM ON DISABILITY ISSUES

January 13, 2020

Watch Party Toolkit
Presidential candidates have been invited to a forum on disability issues in Austin, TX. A watch party is a great way to watch this forum. A watch party is when you bring together a group of people to watch a forum or debate. People can spend time with each other, eat and drink, play games, and learn how candidates approach issues that matter to our disability community! Our toolkit will give you tips on how to host a watch party.

**ELECTIONS MATTER.**

When you vote, you choose who represents the disability community. You have the power to choose who represents you in your local, state, and national government. The people you vote for will decide how important programs for people with disabilities—like Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income—work.

There was a big increase in the number of people with disabilities who voted in 2018! However, people with disabilities still face many barriers that stop them from voting. People may have trouble getting to polling places. Polling places may not be accessible. And, guardianship restrictions may mean people are not allowed to vote.

We want to make sure that all people with disabilities can exercise their right to vote in this election. The first step to voting is learning about the issues and candidates.

**Thank you for organizing a Presidential forum watch party!**

Use this toolkit to get tips for hosting a watch party for the Presidential forum! QUESTIONS? Contact Claire Manning at manning@thearc.org or 202-534-3716.
BEFORE THE WATCH PARTY

✓ **Decide where you want to host it.** At someone’s house? At your local chapter of The Arc or another organization? Think about a place with enough room for everyone you think will come. Is it accessible for everyone?

✓ **Figure out how you will watch it.** The Forum will be livestreamed on the internet. That means you will need to have internet access wherever you plan to show it. Information about how to access the livestream will be available closer to the date of the Forum, so be sure to look for emails and on social media for that information. Make sure you are following [facebook.com/thearcus](https://facebook.com/thearcus) and [facebook.com/DisabilityPowered](https://www.facebook.com/DisabilityPowered).

✓ **Check and double check your technology!** Make sure your computer, tv or projector, and internet connection are working a few days ahead of time!

✓ **Ask people to come!** One of the most important parts of a watch party is...people! You want to make sure you are inviting people to attend. Here are some ideas on how to promote your event (check out pages 6 – 8 for sample social media messages, a sample email, and a sample flyer to promote your watch party):

  * Create a Facebook event.
  * Think about what groups and clubs you are a part of and invite them. Some ideas include: self-advocacy groups, book clubs, and more!
  * Send to friends or colleagues to include in newsletters.
  * How else do you typically share information? Get creative!

✓ **Have refreshments ready!** Get some drinks and snacks for people to share during the party. Everyone loves free food!

✓ **What activities will you do and what materials do you need?** Think about what activities you can do to keep people engaged. What supplies do you need for these activities? For example: markers to make signs, printed paper, fidgets, little prizes for Bingo, etc.

✓ **Remind people who RSVP’d before the event!** Don’t forget to remind people who said they were coming about the event. You can call them, send emails, and post on social media again in the days before your event.

More information about the event and how to Livestream will be available closer to the event at [aapd.com/advocacy/voting/2020-presidential-forum-on-disability-issues](https://www.aapd.com/advocacy/voting/2020-presidential-forum-on-disability-issues).

A reminder for chapters of The Arc and other 501(c)(3) organizations: 501(c)(3) organizations are not allowed to support or oppose any candidates for office. These events must be non-partisan and non-political. You can learn more about these rules here: [bolderadvocacy.org](https://bolderadvocacy.org).

Can’t host or get to a party in person? Connect with people online. Disability advocates from across the country will be on social media while they watch. Use #REVUP and #Elected4Inclusion to follow, chime in, ask questions, and share your thoughts.
DURING THE WATCH PARTY

As a host, it’s important to keep people interested during the forum. Here are some things you can do to keep up the momentum:

✓ **Make signs!** Print enough copies of the sign on page 9 for everyone. Bring markers and ask people to write in why they are voting. When candidates are not on stage, have people share what they wrote on their sign and why.

✓ **Post on social media.** This is a big event! Some people will be at the forum in person, and other people will be watching from all across the country. Social media is an easy way to connect with others who are watching the forum. Post pictures of people at your watch party with their signs, and of your group. Use the hashtags #REVUP and #Elected4Inclusion.

✓ **BINGO!** Print the Bingo cards at the end of this toolkit and play a game of Bingo. You need one Bingo card for each person at the party. You should also print extras just in case you need them. Each time a candidate says one of the words on your board, you can use markers, candy, coins, or other small items to mark the squares. The first person to get five across wins! Bring small prizes for winners (like fidget spinners, gift cards to Starbucks, or candy). You can also play other Bingo games like blackout or cover-all, where you must get every square covered in order to win.

✓ **Have a group discussion.** Ask the group questions after each candidate speaks. Here are some ideas for discussion questions:
  - What did you like about what the candidate said? Why?
  - What did you not like? Why?
  - Was anything that the candidate said surprising to you?
  - Did the candidate not talk about something that matters to you?
  - What are the issues that are most important to you?

Make it a safe space to discuss. These issues are important and impact people’s lives. So, people often have very strong opinions about candidates. Make sure that people are respectful of each other's opinions and that everyone gets a chance to talk.

✓ **Register people to vote.** Most states have online voter registration. Bring a laptop and ask people if they need to register or update their registration at [vote.gov](http://vote.gov). You can find more information about your state’s voter registration and more at [866ourvote.org/state](http://866ourvote.org/state).

Ask people to keep in touch with ways to take action by signing up at [thearc.org/joinourfight](http://thearc.org/joinourfight).
AFTER THE WATCH PARTY

✓ Follow up with people one-on-one and thank them for coming!

✓ Post pictures of the event online using the hashtags #REVUP and #Elected4Inclusion.

✓ Ask people to participate in your next event!
JOIN [YOUR ORGANIZATION’S NAME]

for a watch party to view

Elected for Inclusion: A Presidential Forum on Disability Issues

DATE: January 13, 2020

TIME: [Insert the time people should arrive. The forum begins at 10 am Central time]

LOCATION: [Insert the location for the party]

[Other event details - snack, games, etc]
SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA

Elections matter! Join [your organizations name] for a Watch Party on January 13, 2020 to view “Elected for Inclusion: A Presidential Forum on Disability Issues”. Learn more here [link to Facebook event page]. #REVUP #Elected4Inclusion

More sample social media and graphics can be found here: https://www.aapd.com/advocacy/voting/2020-presidential-forum-on-disability-issues/
Dear ______,

I am hosting a watch party to watch Elected for Inclusion: A Presidential Forum on Disability Issues. Join me to learn more about Presidential candidates’ stances on key issues for people with disabilities.

When you vote, you choose who represents the disability community. You have the power to choose who represents you in your local, state, and national government. We want to make sure that all people with disabilities can exercise their right to vote this election. The first step to voting is learning about the issues and candidates. Presidential debates and forums can help you learn from candidates where they stand on issues that matter to you.

This event is not supporting any one candidate or political party.

Event details

Date: Monday, January 13, 2020

Time: TBD

Location: [write in the address for the watch party]

Other information: [write if you will be having snacks, playing games, so people can know what to expect]

Please let me know if you can make it. [Include your contact information].

Thanks so much,

Your Name
I’M VOTING BECAUSE...

#REVUP
# WATCH PARTY BINGO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home and community-based services</th>
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