The first step to knowing Your Right to Vote is getting informed. To help you navigate the voter participation process, we have compiled several resources on how to fully take advantage of your right to vote. Whether you need to know when and where to vote, how a disability affects your voting eligibility, how to help someone with a disability vote, or why it’s important to vote at all, there are resources at your disposal.

If you’d like to learn about a topic that is not included in these resources, please contact Max Daniel, Daniel@thearc.org.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission
Register and Vote in Your State
This government website includes a voter registration information map of the country. Click on your state to access the website of the Secretary of State, whose office oversees elections. You will also find primary and general election dates and information about online registration, if available in your state.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission
14 Facts About Voting in Federal Elections
Are you unsure of where to get started, or how to have an effect on federal elections? The U.S. Election Assistance Commission has a great resource guide for you! This guide will help you understand how to check current voting eligibility, how to register to vote, and even where to cast your ballot. Be sure to follow the Voter’s Checklist of things to do before Election Day!

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission
10 Tips for Voters With Disabilities
In general, everyone should be aware of the voting process and how to vote—but a person with a disability should also know additional information such as what voting method is right for them. This two-page resource has ten steps on how to ensure your vote counts, including helpful advice on checking the accessibility of your polling place, as well as knowing your rights as a voter.

Nonpartisan Election Protection
Voter Hotlines
What should you do if you feel your rights as a voter have been violated? This nonpartisan Election Protection coalition was formed to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process. Through their hotlines: 1-866-OUR-VOTE (administered by the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law) and 1-888-Ve-Y-Vota (administered by the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Education Fund), this website — and voter protection field programs across the country—provide Americans with comprehensive voter information and advice on how they can make sure their vote is counted.
Self Advocates Becoming Empowered
Your Voting Rights
Voting can seem confusing when you are first starting and are unfamiliar with the process, but don’t let that stop you from making an impact! The Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) network has a great resource on the history of voting laws that apply to the voting rights of people with disabilities.

Self Advocates Becoming Empowered
Learn Directly from Self-Advocates about Your Rights
Voting is something you can do to empower yourself, but don’t just take our word for it! SABE has great videos and stories from people with disabilities about their experiences with voting. Empower yourself; vote this year and every year!

Self Advocates Becoming Empowered
Webinars on the Voting Process
Check out SABE’s archived webinars about elections and voting. A good highlight is the “Is Voting Important to You, If so why?” webinar which was organized by The Arc’s very own Autism Now® program.

Self Advocates Becoming Empowered
Voting and Guardianship
You want to get involved in the voting process, but you have a guardian. How does that affect your rights as a voter? This web page from SABE is a great outline on how guardianship affects how you can vote and participate in the democratic process.

Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered
VOTE Project Toolkit
You already have a network of empowered self-advocates at your chapter of The Arc or People First, or another organization. How do you involve them in the voting process? This voter education toolkit from SABE can be a great way to get your self-advocate leaders involved!

National Disability Rights Network
People with Mental Disabilities Have the Right to Vote
This one page flier from the National Disability Rights Network lays out what rights you have in terms of available assistance on Election Day, as well as voter protection and who to call if you encounter a problem.

National Disability Rights Network
Providing Help to Voters with Disabilities
How do you help people with disabilities exercise their right to vote and participate in the process? You might want to start with this helpful resource guide provided by the National Disability Rights Network. This resource maps out what you, as an assistance provider, can and cannot do to help a person vote. When you know your role, you can ensure the rights of people with disabilities are respected!
National Disability Rights Network

Challenges Based on Lack of Mental Competence to Vote

What happens if you are assisting someone at their polling location and there is a challenge to their mental competence to vote? This flow chart from the National Disability Rights Network can help analyze the challenge and provide practical solutions on how to move forward with the voting process. You can also consult with a voter protection person by calling 1.866.687.OUR.VOTE (1.866.687.8683).

National Disability Rights Network

State Laws Affecting Voting Rights of People with Mental Disabilities

Do you need to know the laws surrounding voting in your state for people with mental disabilities? Empowering people to vote includes knowing how the law effects their participation. Make sure you know the correct information before you pass it on to the people in your networks. This resource from the National Disability Rights Network spells out the laws that affect people in your state.

#PwDsVOTE    #DDAware