

Disability Rights Voting Week, Sept 14 – 18, 2026

What:

Disability Voting Rights Week (DVRW) is a nonpartisan movement hosted by the American Association of People with Disabilities and REV UP. DVRW is about advocacy, celebrating community, and building power.

Why:

Across the country, voters continue to experience barriers that make it harder, and sometimes impossible, to participate in our elections. At the same time, we've also seen the power of community: people helping each other make a plan to vote, sharing resources, and advocating for change. We also know the power of collective action and that even small actions can make a big difference.

Who:

Grassroots disabled activists created DVRW is a cross-disability, cross-movement week of action. We invite all community members and allies to join us.

How:

DVRW includes: voter registration and education events, candidate forums on disability issues, digital organizing, engaging with elected officials, and creative actions. You can:

- Host a voter registration or education event.
- Activate your social media.
- Organize a candidate town hall on disability.
- Write an op-ed for your local newspaper.
- Partner with other disability and voting rights organizations.
- Ask your local government leaders to issue a proclamation in support of Disability Voting Rights Week.

Get Involved:

Join the [Global Disability Caucus](#). Review our Accessible Event Hosting Guide and use our Disability Voting Rights Week communication guide. Want to see more? We would love to hear from you! Write to us at DisabilityCaucus@DemocratsAbroad.org.

Core Principles:

- Community Integration
- Equal Opportunity and Economic Self-Sufficiency
- Equal Rights and Political Participation

Rev Up! Results:

In recent years, voter turnout has surged among citizens with disabilities, [with a 5.9% point increase in 2020](#) in comparison to the 2016 elections. As accessible forms of voting are stripped back, the disability community is persisting and more engaged than ever before.

Through the [REV UP Voting Campaign](#) and advocacy work, AAPD provides information and tools for disabled voters to engage as meaningfully as possible in their state, local, and federal elections. The GDC is proud to promote these ideas and advocacy to our greater community around the world.

Project 2025 Warnings: <https://www.aapd.com/2024-election-series-project-2025/>

Video to Share: <https://youtu.be/hgc8g3JpJ4w?si=3wnB8oxSvzMuPa9M>

PowerPoint: [Powering Disability PPTX](#)

Specific Actions You Can Take:

- Fight attempts to suppress voting: [Tell Your Senators How the SAVE America Act Would Impact You - Democrats Abroad](#)
- Guard the right to vote by mail: [Tell USPS to not Mess with Our Ballots - Democrats Abroad](#)
- Protect students with disabilities: [Tell Congress to Stop the Dismantling of the Department of Education and Protect Students with Disabilities](#)
- Advocate for the SSI recipients: [Tell Congress to Pass the SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act](#)
- Reconfirm legal protections and support for DEIA: *Tell Congress they must act against the removal of special education and civil rights functions from the Department of Education.*
- Share that you support this statement from *The Arc* CEO Katy Neas on the Executive Order to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education: [Dismantling the U.S. Department of Education: Here's What's at Stake for Students With Disabilities.](#)

You Can Sit With Us!

The Global Disability Caucus needs volunteers to help further our mission. Please complete the [GDC Volunteer Interest Form](#).

GDC Voter Registration/Get Out The Vote (GOTV) Liaison to Global GOTV Team

- Monitor GOTV efforts emanating from Global or other DA sources
- Engage Caucus members in GOTV effort
- Create Caucus-specific GOTV efforts as appropriate
- Evaluate results of efforts
- Work with Country Committees to encourage and support “assistance” teams

GDC Outreach Team Lead (External to non members/voters and organizations)

- Identify businesses, facilities, or communities with a concentration of Americans
- Develop outreach materials specific to audiences which focus on VFA and provide these to countries/chapters and other DA groups or individuals
- Work with countries to identify organizations advocating for people with disabilities and provide them with materials/information they can use to inform U.S. citizens in their memberships

GDC Accessibility Lead

- Develop program/materials for educating, encouraging, and implementing enhancements to DA accessibility efforts and overall member appreciation, advocacy, & knowledge of accessibility issues

Please contact us today: DisabilityCaucus@DemocratsAbroad.org.

Challenges We Face

Absentee Ballot Attacks

2026 Updates on Postal Mail, Tariffs, FVAP

In 2026, the Trump administration and Republicans in many states are attempting to dismantle mail-in and absentee voting for local, state, and federal elections. **Nearly 1 in 3 voters rely on mail-in voting, whether at home or abroad, making it vital we take action!**

Sample post:

Chronic illness, mobility challenges, transportation barriers, and immune-compromising conditions make absentee voting not just a convenience but a necessity. So when you hear the administration say they are “protecting” voting, know that really means less access and fewer voices heard. This isn’t about fraud. It’s about fear of a diverse, empowered electorate. We must stand up for the most vulnerable in our democracy because if their rights can be stripped away, yours could be next. #Resist

Many changes will affect citizens hoping to vote from abroad in 2026. **Please share and repost information directly from [DemocratsAbroad.org](https://democratsabroad.org), [VoteFromAbroad.org](https://votefromabroad.org), the GOTV channel on Mighty Networks, and accounts for VFA and DA on social media platforms.**

- Changes at the State Department may affect deadlines and hours of operation at U.S. embassies and consulates.
- USPS has experienced slowdowns.
- New tariffs are affecting the cost of postal mail and courier packages.
- FVAP no longer provides a reliable fax service. View the [Vote From Abroad fax guide](#) to ensure your ballot reaches home in time to be counted.
- All voters should be proactive and check in with their local election office to ensure ballot registrations and ballots have been received.

Other Important Voting Links

[Voter Registration](#)

[State Guides](#)

[Ballotpedia](#)

[Blue Voter Guide](#)

[Attacks on Voters Abroad Response](#)

What’s Happening and How To/Not To Talk About It

Voting, absentee voting, and civic participation

- New federal restrictions on mail-ballot delivery. A March 2026 Trump executive order directed federal agencies to tighten controls on mail ballots. USPS subsequently adopted requirements involving state voter lists, verification, and standardized/barcoded ballot envelopes. Litigation

is ongoing; as of September 1, 2026, a [federal judge's temporary restraining order is blocking the USPS rule](#), and the administration has appealed.

- Federal involvement in state election administration. The administration has sought greater federal involvement in verifying voter eligibility and accessing state voter data. Voting-rights organizations have raised concerns that this could create additional barriers and confusion for voters.
- SAVE/SAVE America proposals. This is a barrier alert! New voter ID requirements are a burden. There are stated criminal charges for voting with an old ID, which may be on file with a voter's clerk. [YouTube videos made by DA volunteers](#)
- PROVE Act - 8/1/2025 referred to the House Committee on House Administration. Barrier to UOCAVA voters. Requires civilians abroad to provide different evidence of residence, or lose voting rights and state representation. [Background post](#). [Demand D.C. statehood](#), in the case the PROVE Act passes, and voters abroad are relegated to Washington, D.C.
- Potential consequences for Americans abroad. For an overseas voter with a disability, additional documentation, ballot-delivery requirements, printing/scanning requirements, or tighter return deadlines compound existing accessibility and postal barriers. The federal litigation over the USPS requirements makes this an especially important 2026 DVRW topic.

Medicaid and healthcare

- Medicaid work/community-engagement requirements. The 2025 reconciliation law requires 44 states/DC to condition Medicaid eligibility for specified adults on meeting work/community-engagement requirements beginning January 1, 2027. CMS issued implementation regulations in June 2026.
- Disability exemption concerns. Disability advocates have objected to how the federal rule defines and verifies exemptions for people with serious medical conditions. Twenty-five states plus D.C. sued, arguing that the rule improperly narrows protections for medically frail Medicaid recipients.
- Six-month eligibility/redetermination requirements. The new Medicaid framework also increases eligibility-verification and renewal requirements. Advocates are concerned that paperwork, reporting, and verification requirements can cause eligible people to lose coverage for procedural reasons.
- Medicaid funding/payment scrutiny. HHS/CMS has aggressively deferred payments to states over alleged high-risk claims, including \$867.5 million involving California in-home-care programs and \$199 million involving Minnesota in July 2026. The administration says these are fraud-prevention measures and that the payment deferrals do not themselves terminate beneficiary eligibility.
- Home- and community-based services are therefore an important disability issue to track. Even where benefits haven't formally been eliminated, disability advocates are concerned about funding, provider availability, eligibility administration, and the practical ability to remain in the community.

Independent living versus institutionalization

- Disability advocates have raised concerns about a shift away from the federal government's traditional emphasis on community integration and independent living.
- The Justice Department has issued guidance concerning the *Olmstead* decision that advocates say could weaken the federal government's interpretation of the obligation to provide services in the most integrated setting appropriate. Disability advocates fear this could contribute to greater institutionalization.
- Housing, personal assistance, transportation, and community-based services may determine whether someone can live independently in one country but not another.

Employment and federal disability protections

- Federal DEI restrictions have implications for disability organizations and disability employment programs, although the March 2026 executive order itself specifically addresses *racially discriminatory* DEI practices rather than disability accommodations.
- Federal contractors face new contractual restrictions and potential penalties concerning covered DEI practices.
- EEOC enforcement is also *changing*. A proposed 2026 rule would limit certain administrative remedies available to federal employees bringing discrimination complaints, including eliminating mandatory mediation and restricting access to administrative hearings. Disability discrimination falls within the broader federal employment-discrimination framework.
 - Do not claim that disability employment protections themselves have been repealed at this time.

Federal disability-policy infrastructure

- The National Council on Disability faced a potential shutdown during an appropriations lapse. Its January 2026 contingency plan contemplated furloughing all 11 employees and cessation of all activities if appropriations lapsed.
- There is already talk of what programs and people will continue and what/who will be axed in the next budget before Congress.
- NCD remains operational for now.
- In July, the NCD announced work on a disability-middle-class framework addressing employment, health care, transportation, and economic self-sufficiency. We wait to see how this plays out.

Education & special education

- The Department of Education is being restructured and dismantled. The administration is moving major Education Department functions elsewhere as part of its effort to shrink/ultimately close the department.
- IDEA/special-education administration moved toward HHS. Oversight of special education and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is being shifted from the Education Department

toward the Department of Health and Human Services. Disability advocates have expressed concern about reduced federal oversight and enforcement.

- Civil rights enforcement moved under the DOJ umbrella. The Education Department is also transferring civil rights functions to other agencies. Advocates worry about the loss of specialized infrastructure and enforcement capacity.
- Section 504/ADA enforcement is a major 2026 concern. We are looking for answers as to who administers and enforces the protections, how aggressively complaints are investigated, and whether families can obtain timely remedies.
- Actual disability-discrimination investigations continue. For example, ED's OCR investigated Texas school districts over alleged discrimination involving special-education placement and services in 2026.
- Federal accessibility requirements for digital services delayed. HHS extended compliance dates for web/mobile accessibility requirements under Section 504. GAO notes that the extension postpones both costs and benefits of the 2024 accessibility rule.

Social Security (SSI, SSDI)

- 2026 benefits received a 2.8% COLA.
- SSA is increasing the use of electronic wage-data matching. The agency says this will identify wages earlier and improve overpayment recovery; the 2026 Trustees Report says the policy is expected to increase identification of wages and reduce the number of beneficiaries remaining in current-payment status.
- Continuing Disability Reviews have been brought in-house. SSA says this is intended to improve accountability and processing; disability advocates have historically been concerned about CDRs because benefit termination can be devastating for people whose conditions are difficult to document.
- SSA is simultaneously expanding digital self-service. New online disability-claim tracking, electronic notices, and document submission were introduced in 2026.
- The bigger 2026 concern is administrative access. For people who cannot easily use online systems, receive notices electronically, gather documentation, or respond quickly to agency requests, a more digital/verification-heavy system can itself become an accessibility barrier.
- Long-term Social Security financing remains a concern, but it should not be presented as a 2026 disability-benefit cut. The 2026 Trustees projections put the combined OASI/DI trust funds on a different trajectory from DI alone; the Disability Insurance trust fund itself is projected to remain solvent over the 75-year projection period.

Specific State Legislation

News/Legislation by state:

Positive notes from 2025: both Florida and Texas failed to pass measures that mirror the SAVE Act. Several bills failed in AZ. A voter ID law failed in PA.

Nebraska, Montana and Iowa

Watch because these states are moving ahead of the federal January 2027 Medicaid work-requirement deadline; Nebraska began May 1, 2026, Montana July 1, and Iowa is scheduled for December 1.

Wisconsin

Federal Medicaid work requirements explicitly encompass Wisconsin's waiver population.

Arizona, AZ Abroad

Arizona remains important because of proof-of-citizenship/registration issues and continuing efforts around voter verification. Arizona already has a two-tier system in which voters who don't provide qualifying citizenship documentation can be restricted to federal-only voting.

The 2025 Arizona litigation/administrative developments concerning legacy driver's licenses and proof of citizenship.

Indiana

Indiana specifically provides an absentee process for voters with print disabilities.

North Carolina

Especially relevant because absentee voting is available statewide and state law specifically contains an annual absentee-request mechanism for people with long-term sickness or physical disabilities.

Also add the 2026 implementation calendar, since ballots begin moving toward voters shortly. This is one of the states where the federal USPS fight could have immediate practical implications.

Ohio

Ohio has a significant new 2026 proof-of-citizenship issues. A federal judge has temporarily blocked Ohio's new proof-of-citizenship requirement for voter registration, with the injunction in place ahead of the October 5 registration deadline. Ohio officials have indicated they will appeal.

Documentation requirements can create particular problems for people whose names, addresses, records or identity documents don't line up neatly.

Ohio also continues to provide specific absentee procedures for voters with qualifying disabilities and overseas voters.

Oklahoma

Oklahoma already has substantial voter-identification requirements, but absentee voting has its own rules. Standard absentee ballots require notarization, while physically incapacitated voters use a two-witness process.

Can a person with a disability independently satisfy the authentication, witnessing or notarization requirements?

Pennsylvania

2025 voter-ID legislation should be tracked, but HB 771 did not become law; it was tabled/recommitted in May 2025.

[South Carolina](#)

South Carolina's absentee rules remain relevant to disability voters: physical disability is one of the qualifying reasons for absentee voting.

Major 2026 court development: a federal appellate ruling found South Carolina's age-based distinction in absentee voting unconstitutional. The state has indicated further appeal is possible.

[Texas](#)

Texas pursued proof-of-citizenship legislation in 2025, including SB 16, which would have required documented citizenship proof for voter registration.

Texas also conducted a statewide SAVE database comparison in 2025 and reported identifying 2,724 potentially noncitizen registered voters, with counties responsible for further investigation.

- proof-of-citizenship legislation
- SAVE database matching
- voter-roll removals
- absentee/mail-ballot rules
- litigation/appeals

[Utah](#), [HB 300](#)

[West Virginia](#), [HB 2447](#), [HB 2117](#), [HB 2400](#)

- HB 2447 modernization of voting procedures - pending in 2025
- HB 2117 when mail-in ballots are due - pending
- HB 2400 prohibiting unsolicited absentee-ballot applications - pending

[Wyoming](#)

Wyoming's 2025 House Enrolled Act 57 enacted proof-of-citizenship and residency requirements for voter registration.

And Wyoming's current Secretary of State guidance expressly lists a valid REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID from another state as acceptable proof of citizenship, provided it doesn't indicate the holder is not a U.S. citizen.

It also accepts passports, naturalization certificates, birth certificates, military draft records and a Consular Report of Birth Abroad.

Be an Accessible Democracy Defender

Inclusive Event Access

Everyone has a role to play in making events accessible and inclusive. If you are hosting an event this year, use this guide to help identify and address accessibility barriers so that disabled people can participate fully.

How to Use This Guide

This guide has four sections to help you evaluate accessibility: parking and arrival, entrance, safety, and inside the event space. Use the questions in each section to observe whether people with disabilities can fully access and participate in the event.

If you notice a barrier:

- **Take notes about what you observe.** Write down the time you noticed the barrier and its location.
- **Tell the event organizer, host, venue staff, or volunteer about the issue.** Ask whether the problem can be fixed immediately.

Example scripts

Parking:

- “Hi, thank you for hosting this event! I noticed there are no clearly marked accessible parking spaces, and I’m concerned about disabled participants being able to access the event. Can you help identify or designate an accessible parking space?”

Accessible Entrance:

- “Hello, thank you for hosting! I noticed the main entrance is not accessible, and there is no signage directing people to an accessible entrance. Can you please post signs directing disabled participants to an accessible entrance? If you do not have signs, could someone be stationed at the entrance to help direct people?”

Inside the Event:

- “Hi! I noticed that part of the event space is difficult to navigate for people using wheelchairs or other mobility aids. Can we move or remove these obstacles so everyone can access the space?”

Seating:

- “Hi! I noticed there is no clear space for wheelchair users or people using mobility devices. Can we make sure there are accessible seating options and enough space for people to sit with their mobility devices?”
- If the issue is not resolved, document the barrier and, when appropriate, follow up with the event organizer, venue, or organization responsible for the event.

Be kind to event staff and volunteers and keep the focus on access. Event hosts and volunteers may have a lot to manage and may not recognize an accessibility barrier right away.

We want to work with event hosts, organizers, and volunteers to help them become accessible democracy defenders, too. Your role is not to argue or confront people.

Your role is to **observe, document, and advocate to ensure everyone can access and participate in the event.**

Inclusive Event Accessibility Checklist

Outside the Event

Parking and Arrival

- Were there clearly marked accessible parking spaces?
 - For example, accessible parking spaces had appropriate signage, an access aisle, and clear markings.
 - For on-street parking, was accessible parking clearly identified and located in a place that allows people with disabilities to safely reach the event?
- Was the route from accessible parking to the event entrance paved, smooth, and clear of stairs and physical obstacles?
- Were curb cuts or other accessible routes clear of vehicles, equipment, trash cans, signs, or other obstacles?
- Was there enough space for people using wheelchairs, walkers, canes, or other mobility aids to safely travel from parking to the entrance?

Entrance

- Was there an accessible route to the event entrance?
- Was the accessible entrance the main entrance for everyone, or was there a separate accessible entrance?
- If the accessible entrance was separate from the main entrance, was it clearly marked and easy to find?
- If there was a separate accessible entrance, was it unlocked and available for participants to use?
- Were the doors easy to open and operate independently?
- Were doorways wide enough for people using wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids?
- If the entrance had a button or automatic door opener, was it working and easy to use?
- Was the accessible entrance free of obstacles, such as trash cans, furniture, equipment, or other objects blocking passage?

Safety

- Was the area immediately outside the event free of hazards that could make it difficult for people with disabilities to safely enter or leave?

- Were pathways free of objects, cords, equipment, signs, or other hazards that could create barriers for people who are blind or have low vision?
- Was anyone blocking access to the event or preventing people with disabilities from entering?
- Were event staff or volunteers available to help participants identify accessible routes or address access barriers?

Inside the Event

Navigation and Space

- Was the path through the building smooth and clear of stairs, narrow doorways, and physical obstacles that could make it difficult for people with disabilities to navigate?
- Were hallways, aisles, and pathways wide enough for people using wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids?
- Were pathways free of cords, equipment, furniture, signs, bags, or other obstacles?
- Could people who are blind or have low vision navigate the space safely?
- Were important signs and directions easy to see and understand?
- Were there accessible routes to all areas that participants were expected to use?

Seating and Participation

- Were accessible seating options available?
- Was there enough clear space for wheelchair users and people using other mobility devices?
- Could wheelchair users and people using mobility devices sit with their companions if they chose to?
- Were accessible seating spaces integrated with the rest of the audience rather than isolated in a separate area?
- Could people using wheelchairs or other mobility aids comfortably see speakers, presentations, demonstrations, or other activities?
- Were tables, registration areas, and other surfaces at a height that wheelchair users could comfortably reach?
- Could people using wheelchairs or other mobility aids comfortably access registration, information, food, restrooms, and other event resources?

Communication Access

- Was there a clear way for participants to request disability-related accommodations?
- Were interpreters, captioning, assistive listening devices, or other communication supports provided when requested or advertised as available?
- If the event included presentations or videos, were captions available?
- Were printed materials available in accessible formats when needed?

- Were speakers using microphones when appropriate so that participants could hear them clearly?
- Were presenters encouraged to describe important visual information for participants who are blind or have low vision?

Restrooms

- Was an accessible restroom available?
- Was the route to the restroom accessible and free of obstacles?
- Was the accessible restroom unlocked and available for participants to use?
- Was there enough space for a wheelchair user or someone using a mobility aid to enter and maneuver inside the restroom?

Event Practices

- Were breaks provided when appropriate, including enough time for participants who may need additional time to move through the space or use the restroom?
- Were participants allowed to bring service animals?
- Were event staff and volunteers prepared to respond respectfully to accessibility requests?
- Was anyone interfering with participants' ability to access or participate in the event?
- Were there clear instructions for who participants could contact if they experienced an accessibility barrier?

If You Identify a Barrier

Remember that accessibility is an ongoing process. Not every barrier can be fixed immediately, but every barrier can be documented and addressed.

When possible:

1. **Observe and document the barrier.**
2. **Tell the event host, organizer, venue staff, or volunteer.**
3. **Ask whether there is an immediate solution.**
4. **If it cannot be fixed immediately, ask what can be changed for future events.**
5. **Share recurring barriers with the organization responsible for planning the event.**

Accessible events benefit everyone. By identifying barriers and working with event hosts to address them, we can help make voter registration events, community meetings, educational programs, advocacy events, and other activities more welcoming and accessible to people with disabilities.

Acknowledgments

This guide was adapted from a checklist developed by the National Polling Place Audit Coalition and the AAPD.

Social Media Guide

Disability Voting Rights Week (DVRW)

September 14-18, 2026

Hello everyone!

Thank you for raising awareness and helping our disabled community vote! This document may be updated as the week progresses. There are sections of suggested posts for Vote From Abroad (VFA), the Global Disability Caucus (GDC), the Veterans and Military Families (VMF) Caucus, taking action, and general prompt-style messaging. Graphics can be found via Canva links enclosed. Have something to share? Please scroll to the bottom and add in your content. Should you need assistance, or have a video or other types of content that cannot be shared on this doc, please email us. Disabled voters of all kinds deserve to be well-informed. Thank you for your hard work and GO TEAM!

The Global Disability Caucus

DisabilityCaucus@DemocratsAbroad.org

GDC - Connect With Us

Website - <https://www.democratsabroad.org/dc>

Email - DisabilityCaucus@DemocratsAbroad.org

Wiki

Facebook - [@DemocratsAbroadDisabilityCaucus](https://www.facebook.com/DemocratsAbroadDisabilityCaucus)

Instagram - [@DADisabilityCaucus](https://www.instagram.com/DADisabilityCaucus)

Threads - [@DADisabilityCaucus](https://www.threads.com/@DADisabilityCaucus)

Twitter/X - [@DemsAbroadGDC](https://twitter.com/DemsAbroadGDC)

Democrats Abroad strives to be inclusive; please read our [accessibility guide](#).

AAPD RevUp! Campaign: <https://www.aapd.com/disability-voting-rights-week/>

Key principles and resources:

Organizations like the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) frequently lead initiatives to protect voting rights for people with disabilities.

Their campaigns highlight common accessibility barriers and offer resources for disabled voters.

AAPD RevUp! Campaign: www.aapd.com/disability-voting-rights-week/

U.S. government resources such as the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the Department of Justice's Voting Rights Section provide guidelines on the rights of disabled voters, particularly around polling place accessibility and assistance.

Using interactive content such as polls, videos, and infographics to engage users is a common tactic in social media campaigns. Past campaigns have included a combination of educational content, personal stories, calls to action, and resource sharing to increase engagement.

Ways to increase accessibility:

Respond to comments and encourage users to share their own experiences throughout the week to boost engagement.

Hashtags. When posting, include these hashtags to help people find your post!

#DisabilityVotingRightsWeek

#DisabilityVote

#RevUp2026

Text Accessibility

- Ensure all media (images, videos) have ALT text descriptions and captions for accessibility.
- Hashtags need to be in **Camel Case** (i.e., #EveryWordCapitalized)
- Use plain language
 - Keep it brief and message-focused
 - Use active voice
 - Use vocabulary no higher than sixth-grade reading level
 - Keep things to one idea per sentence
 - More guidance: <https://www.plainlanguage.gov/resources/checklists/>
 - Alt Text is written in the Notes section of each image created by the GDC in the enclosed project links. If text is missing, or you need to write ALT text for another image/video and a member of the GDC is unavailable to assist, you can find free AI generators using a simple Google search.

Canva Graphics - DVRW 2026:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFL0Z6qvU0/QOI54b0BEI7etCq099pXDA/edit?utm_content=DAFL0Z6qvU0&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

Canva Graphics - Create a Caption:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFnWyid9ak/-dpC9RZw-MdU5rKPWu0QiQ/edit?utm_content=DAFnWyid9ak&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

Canva Graphics - GDC Calls to Action: https://www.canva.com/design/DAGvs-DX0d8/cmBdcLNUBaOkqXSYndpW4Q/edit?utm_content=DAGvs-DX0d8&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

VFA Related Posts

X:

https://x.com/demsabroadgdc/status/1965007762750157142?s=46&t=uCwpeswBQ5F3vMgWW_bxcw

Insta: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DOVryAEDRUW/?igsh=ZWh5OHkzNDltcjJv>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/share/14LMjaKspJZ/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Day 1:

🇺🇸 Your Voice Matters! Voting Rights for Disabled Citizens

Did you know? Voters with disabilities are protected by law to ensure equal access to voting, including accessible polling places and assistance voting. EVERY vote counts, and disabled voters should face no barriers when exercising their rights! 🗳️

If you're a U.S. citizen living abroad, make sure you're registered to vote! You can easily register as UOCAVA using VoteFromAbroad.org.

🌐 Let's make voting accessible to ALL citizens! #VotingRights #DisabledRights #VoteFromAbroad #CripTheVote

Day 2:

American Living Abroad? UOCAVA Voting is for YOU! 🌐

If you're a U.S. citizen living outside the country, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) ensures your right to vote in federal elections, no matter where you are. ✅

Are you also a disabled voter? No problem! You have the right to accessible voting methods! Head over to VoteFromAbroad.org to register and request your absentee ballot. Don't let distance or disability keep you from having your voice heard! ✉️

#AbsenteeVoting #UOCAVA #VoteFromAbroad #DisabledVoters #CripTheVote

Day 3:

🗳️ Breaking Barriers: Voting Accessibility for All

Voting is a fundamental right, and that right extends to EVERYONE, including voters with disabilities. From accessible voting locations to assistance with absentee ballots, you should NEVER be held back from voting! 🙌 🗳️

If you're living overseas and need to register under UOCAVA, visit VoteFromAbroad.org to register or update your registration. It's quick, easy, and your vote will still make an impact from anywhere in the world! 🌐

Together, we can make voting accessible and inclusive for all! #EqualAccess #VotingMatters
#VoteFromAbroad #UOCAVA #DisabledRights

GDC posts to encourage civic engagement for all Americans

Day 1: Awareness & Introduction

Theme: The Power of Every Vote

Post 1:

Caption: Disabled Voting Rights Week 2026 is here! Let's celebrate the power of every voter. Accessibility, inclusion, and equity are key to strengthening our democracy. #DisabledAndVoting #EveryVoteCounts #VotingRights

Graphic: add a colorful, inclusive illustration of people with diverse disabilities participating in voting (wheelchairs, crutches, ASL interpreters, etc.).

Call to Action: Learn more about your voting rights and spread the word!

Post 2 (Infographic):

Caption: Did you know? 1 in 4 Americans has a disability, but barriers often limit access to voting. Here's what's at stake. #DisabledVotingRights

Infographic suggestion: show key statistics on voter turnout and accessibility challenges for disabled voters.

Day 2: Know Your Rights

Theme: Voter Empowerment

Post 1:

Caption: Every disabled voter has the right to cast a ballot! Here's how you can ensure your polling place is accessible and your rights are protected. #KnowYourRights #AccessibleVoting

Graphic: checklist of disabled voter rights (e.g., accessible polling places, assistance at the polls, accessible voting machines).

Call to Action: Click the link in bio to learn more about your rights as a voter with a disability.

Post 2 (Video):

Caption: Real stories, real impact. Hear from disabled voters about how knowing their rights made all the difference in their voting experience. #DisabledAndVoting

Video Content: clips of disabled voters sharing their stories about overcoming barriers and advocating for their rights.

Day 3: Resources & Assistance

Theme: Tools for Accessibility

Post 1:

Caption: Need assistance to vote? Here are tools and resources to make voting easier and more accessible. #VotingResources #AccessForAll

Graphic: Icons representing various tools like accessible voting machines, curbside voting, vote-by-mail options, and transportation services.

Call to Action: Download these resources and share with your community to ensure everyone has the tools they need to vote.

Post 2:

Caption: Voting shouldn't be a challenge. Swipe through to find out how you can access support at the polls! #AccessibleElections

Slides: Break down various forms of assistance disabled voters can request, such as sign language interpreters, voting from home, etc.

Day 4: Advocacy & Action

Theme: Fight for Change

Post 1:

Caption: It's time to break down barriers! Learn how you can advocate for better policies to support disabled voters. #DisabilityAdvocacy #MakeChange

Graphic: Illustration of a diverse group of people holding signs advocating for disabled voter rights.

Call to action: Join us by signing petitions and contacting your representatives to support accessible voting policies.

Post 2 (Poll/Interactive Post):

Caption: Have you experienced accessibility challenges while voting? Tell us your story! #YourVoiceMatters

Poll/Interactive Content: Encourage followers to vote in a poll about their voting experiences and share in the comments how they've faced or overcome barriers.

Day 5: Celebrating Success & Call to Action

Theme: Empowerment & Participation

Post 1:

Caption: Together, we've made progress, but the work isn't over. Join the movement to ensure that every vote counts, now and in the future. #DisabledAndVoting #VotingRightsWeek #CripTheVote

Graphic: A powerful visual celebrating disabled voters and advocates.

Call to action: Follow us for more ways to stay engaged year-round, and don't forget to vote in every election!

Post 2 (Success Stories Video, YouTube, TikTok, stories, and reels):

Caption: As we close out Disabled Voting Rights Week 2026, we're celebrating the victories and stories of resilience from disabled voters across the country. Watch and share! #SuccessStories #VotingRights

Video Content: Highlights from the week, including clips of voters, advocates, and allies working to make voting more accessible.

Hashtags:

#DisabledAndVoting
#VotingRightsWeek2026
#DisabilityAdvocacy
#AccessForAll
#CripTheVote
#EveryVoteCounts

Partnerships: Partner with disability rights organizations, advocacy groups, and influencers to expand reach. Don't forget you can collaborate with other Democrats Abroad accounts when you post! Use the "@" to raise awareness and tag or collaborate with a partner organization.

- AAPD
- VMF Caucus
- Seniors Caucus
- Access the Vote Florida
- ACLU
- Disability Rights [insert state] (e.g., Disability Rights Florida)

VMF Caucus

Please take these examples and make them your own. These are recommendations for veterans voting back home.

Key Rights & Protections for Disabled Veterans:

- Accessible Polling Places: Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Help America Vote Act (HAVA), polling stations are required to be accessible to people with disabilities, including veterans with mobility impairments, visual or hearing disabilities, or PTSD.

- **Voting Assistance:** Veterans can bring a person of their choice to assist them at the polls or request assistance from poll workers. They can also use accessible voting machines designed to help those with disabilities.
- **Absentee Voting:** Many states offer no-excuse absentee or mail-in voting, which is ideal for veterans who may not be able to physically get to polling stations due to disabilities.
- **Curbside Voting:** In some jurisdictions, disabled veterans can remain in their vehicles and have ballots brought to them, ensuring a safer, more convenient voting experience.

Specific Barriers Disabled Veterans May Face:

- **Transportation and Mobility Issues:** Veterans with physical disabilities or those living in rural areas may have difficulty accessing polling places.
- **Mental Health Challenges:** PTSD and other mental health issues can make the crowded and often chaotic atmosphere of polling places overwhelming.
- **Lack of Accessible Voting Information:** Veterans may not always be aware of their rights or the accommodations available when voting.
- **Veterans with a “print disability”** (visual impairment) that affects them seeing their ballot and ballot instructions.
- **Service-connected disabled veterans** enrolled in VA Health Care in the Philippines are largely unaware that they can use the diplomatic mail method by dropping ballots off at the “election materials” drop-box inside the entrance of the VA’s regional office and outpatient clinic in Manila.

Key Resources for Disabled Veterans:

- **National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV):** Veterans facing housing insecurity, especially disabled veterans, can seek assistance from organizations like NCHV to ensure their voting rights are protected.
- **Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA):** Offers advocacy and assistance to veterans with mobility impairments, including [access to information on their voting rights and how to overcome barriers to voting](#). In addition to PVA, other major veterans’ organizations can assist with voting issues for disabled veterans, e.g., Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and more.

Calls to Action for Veterans

Encourage veterans to share their experiences and advocate for accessible voting options through veteran advocacy groups and social media. Use the hashtag #VeteransVote to join the conversation and help others learn about their rights.

- **Post:** As a disabled veteran, you have the right to accessible voting options. Spread the word so no veteran is left behind at the polls. #VeteransVote #DisabledAndVoting

If you're facing challenges in getting to the polls or need assistance requesting your absentee ballot, don't hesitate to ask. Veterans can contact their local Department of Veterans Affairs office or organizations like Disabled American Veterans (DAV) for guidance on how to vote securely and with accommodations.

- Action: Need help with accessible voting? It is recommended that veterans contact VoterHelp@VoteFromAbroad.org for additional help. Alternatively, if stateside, contact your local VA or reach out to Disabled American Veterans (DAV) for assistance. Veterans living abroad are always welcome to contact VMF via VeteransCaucus@democratsabroad.org. #AccessibleVoting #VeteransVote

Veterans can support ongoing efforts to ensure that polling places and voting materials are accessible to all. By joining organizations like VoteVets or Wounded Warrior Project, veterans can push for reforms that benefit the disabled veteran community.

- Post: Advocate for accessible elections! Join VoteVets and Wounded Warrior Project in the fight to ensure every disabled veteran can cast their vote with ease. #VeteransVote #DisabledRights

Use Early Voting or Mail-In Options. Veterans with disabilities can take advantage of early voting periods or mail-in ballots to avoid the physical and emotional stress of Election Day crowds.

- Action: Skip the lines, vote by mail or early! Disabled veterans have options for voting safely and conveniently. Check your state's early voting rules. #VeteransVote #VoteByMail

Encourage Local Governments to Improve Accessibility. Call on LEOs to make necessary accommodations for disabled veterans by making polling places more accessible and providing better information on available assistance.

- Post: Local governments must do more to make voting accessible for disabled veterans. Contact your representatives to demand action. #VeteransVote #VotingRights

Post 1: Voting from Abroad: Disabled Veterans

Caption:

Serving our country abroad doesn't mean giving up your right to vote! Disabled veterans living overseas can still cast their ballots with ease through Vote From Abroad. Make sure your voice is heard, no matter where you live.

#VeteransVote #VoteFromAbroad #DisabledAndVoting

Graphic:

A U.S. flag, highlighting a disabled veteran.

Call to Action:

Visit votefromabroad.org to register to vote and request your absentee ballot from anywhere in the world.

Post 2: Step-by-Step Guide to Voting Abroad for Veterans

Caption:

Veterans, whether at home or abroad, your vote matters! us Here's how disabled veterans overseas can vote:

- 1** Register with VoteFromAbroad.org
- 2** Request an absentee ballot
- 3** Receive and submit your ballot securely

Your service doesn't stop, and neither should your right to vote. #VoteFromAbroad #VeteransVote #DisabledAndVoting

Graphic:

A simple step-by-step infographic showing the process of registering, requesting, and submitting an absentee ballot through Vote From Abroad for veterans overseas.

Call to Action:

Need help? Reach out to Vote From Abroad for assistance with the overseas voting process. Visit VoteFromAbroad.org for resources!

Call for Content and Collaboration

Publish or ask for submissions - send out one story or prompt each day:

- **Monday:** Why I Left
 - (Did disability intersect with your decision to leave America?)
- **Tuesday:** Why I Stay
 - (What makes your circumstances abroad more accessible/sustainable/affordable/preferable?)
- **Wednesday:** How I Vote
 - (Practical experience of voting from abroad - ideally we snag a few stories from a variety of states)
- **Thursday:** What America Gets Wrong / Disability didn't make me leave but disability changed what it meant to really live
 - (Unearth/create an understanding in America of how experiences abroad reveal truths about living back home - disability, accessibility, belonging, citizenship...)
- **Friday:** What I Want to Change / What Gives Me Hope
 - (Yes, we may get some long manifestos here - roll with it!)

Take Action Suggestions

Please see the "What We're Up Against" tab for insight and talking points.

- Fight attempts to suppress voting: [Tell Your Senators How the SAVE America Act Would Impact You - Democrats Abroad](#)
 - Guard the right to vote by mail: [Tell USPS to not Mess with Our Ballots - Democrats Abroad](#)
 - Protect students with disabilities: [Tell Congress to Stop the Dismantling of the Department of Education and Protect Students with Disabilities](#)
 - Advocate for the SSI recipients: [Tell Congress to Pass the SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act](#)
 - Reconfirm legal protections and support for DEIA: *Tell Congress they must act against the removal of special education and civil rights functions from the Department of Education.*
 - Share that you support this statement from *The Arc* CEO Katy Neas on the Executive Order to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education: [Dismantling the U.S. Department of Education: Here's What's at Stake for Students With Disabilities.](#)
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DA Member Additions

Please include text and ALT text to correspond with your graphics and articles. Thank you!