

**Go Voter!
Let's Vote!**



Self Advocates United as 1 (SAU1)

is an independent non profit in PA.

Our mission is to

support the self advocacy of
people with disabilities for

positive impact

in our communities and in people's lives.



Staff and Board meeting Fall 2018

**People and their families
changed their communities,
schools, and lives.**



How did they
do that?

**They spoke up!
Voting is a great way to speak up.**



This presentation was written by professional self advocates.

Special thanks to Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) and Disability Rights PA for working with us.



Today Let's Talk About

- why voting is important, and the right to vote,
- how to register to vote,
- how to learn about what will be on the ballots,
- getting involved: help build a voting community,
- absentee and mail-in ballots,
- your polling place and your voting rights, and
- help for questions about, or problems when, voting.

Today, we are **NOT** going to talk about private and personal things like

- What political party any of us belong to, or
- Who we might be planning on voting for, or
- How we may be planning to vote on issues.
- There are other ways, times and places to talk about those things.

**Why should you learn
about these things?**

When we learn new things,
we are powerful!

**KNOWLEDGE
IS
POWER!**

Here are some reasons we think voting is important.

- Because it is a right we have that others may not have
- To get the person we think will be best in a government job
- To make changes in
 - your local community
 - your state
 - our country
- So our voices are heard!



For many years, many people in the United States did not have the right to vote!

- Until 1920, only 100 years ago, women did not have the right to vote. The 19th Amendment in 1920 gave WOMEN the right to vote.
- Until 1965, only 55 years ago, people of color did not have the right to vote. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 says no person may be denied the right to vote because of their race or color.



In this picture, President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

is a federal law from 2002 which says states must:

- Make sure that everyone can vote privately and independently.
- Have a way to give people provisional ballots if there is a question about whether they can vote (we'll talk more about this later)
- Have a list on computers of all the voters in the state.
- Make sure polling places - where people go to vote - are accessible.

Like many laws, not everyone or everyplace follows HAVA laws. We will talk later about what to do if you feel these laws are not being followed at your polling place.

In PA, it is against the law to not allow people to vote because they have a guardian.

In PA, it is against the law to not allow people to vote because others say they are incompetent.

The word incompetent means that a person is thought

- to not be able to make good, serious decisions; or
- isn't smart enough, or
- doesn't know enough.

What does PA law say about being in jail or prison?

- People in jail or prison for a felony conviction are not allowed to **vote**.
- People convicted of crimes against voting laws anytime from Nov. 3rd of 2020 to Nov. 5th of 2024 cannot vote this year.

Who Can Register to Vote in Pennsylvania?

- People who are, or will be, at least 18 years old on election day.
- You must live in the district you plan to vote in for at least 30 days before election day.
- You must be a citizen of the United States for at least one month.



When can you register to vote in PA?

- You can register to vote anytime.
- If you want to vote in this year's election, you must register by **Oct. 21, 2024**.



GoVoter Power Tip: Register as early as you can!

**It's easy to register to vote, or
check voter registration online.**

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx>

If you do it online, you won't have to mail or take anything
anywhere.

You can also register with a paper application.

You can get an application to print out, fill in, and mail at pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistration.

The instructions tell you where to mail it depending on where you live. If you fill in a paper application, use a black ink pen.

PABanner

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

English Spanish HOME OTHER LINKS

VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Deadline Alert: 10/19/2020 is the last day to register before the 11/03/2020 election.

If you are not a U.S. citizen and a resident of Pennsylvania at least 30 days before the next election, you CANNOT register to vote.

If you have any questions, please call 1.877.VOTESPA (1.877.868.3772).

Your registration is **not complete** until processed and accepted by your county voter registration office.

To vote in the next election, you must complete your application by 10/19/2020. You can submit your application:

- On this web site
- Delivered to your county voter registration office
- By mail to your county voter registration office, received by 10/19/2020.

[Click here to download a blank voter registration form](#)

If you are on active duty in the military, or you are a hospitalized or bedridden veteran, you can register at any time. See www.fvap.gov for more information.

There are other ways to get and fill out the application.

You can register in person, or pick up an application at

State offices that provide public assistance and services to persons with disabilities

Armed Forces Recruitment Centers

County Clerk of Orphans' Court offices, including Marriage License Bureaus

Area Agencies on Aging

Centers for Independent Living

County Mental Health and Intellectual Disability offices

Student disability services offices of the State System of Higher Education

Offices of Special Education

Paratransit offices

PennDOT Photo License and Driver's License Centers

Any agency using the Compass application

Pennsylvania Voter Registration Application

Use black ink

Print your name 1	Last name _____ First name _____ Middle name or initial _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Jr <input type="checkbox"/> Sr <input type="checkbox"/> II <input type="checkbox"/> III <input type="checkbox"/> IV
Eligibility If you answer "No" to either question, you cannot register to vote.	2 Are you a citizen of the U.S.? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Will you be 18 years or older on or before election day? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 40px; margin-left: 100px;"></div>
Reason	3 <input type="checkbox"/> New registration <input type="checkbox"/> Change of name <input type="checkbox"/> Change of address <input type="checkbox"/> Change of party <input type="checkbox"/> Federal or State employee registering in county of last residence
About you Phone and email are optional and used if information is missing on this form.	4 Birth date _____ Sex <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F Race (optional) _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Your address If you do not have a street address or a permanent residence, or are a student, see the instructions.	5 Address (not P.O. Box) _____ Apt. number _____ City/Town _____ State PA Zip Code _____ Municipality _____ County _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have a street address or permanent residence (use map on back)
The address where you receive mail	6 <input type="checkbox"/> Same as above Address or P.O. Box _____ City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Identification If you have a Penn DOT number, you must use it. If not, please provide the last four digits of your Social Security number. See Verifying your Identity.	7 PA driver's license or PennDOT ID card number _____ Last four digits of your Social Security number X XX - XX - _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have a PA driver's license or a PennDOT ID card or a Social Security number.
Political party To vote in a primary you must register with either the Democratic or Republican party.	8 <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic <input type="checkbox"/> Republican <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Libertarian <input type="checkbox"/> None (No Affiliation) <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Voting assistance	9 <input type="checkbox"/> I require help to vote. I need this kind of assistance: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I require language help. My preferred language is: _____
If your name or address has changed Skip if this is the first time you are registering to vote.	10 Name on previous registration _____ Full previous address and county _____ PA Voter No. (if available) _____ Year _____ Transfer Permanent Ballot Request <input type="checkbox"/> I am on the annual ballot request list to automatically receive mail-in or absentee ballot applications each year, I am registering in another county in PA, and I would like to remain on the annual ballot request list at my new address.
Declaration	11 I declare that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am a United States citizen and will have been a citizen for at least 30 days on the day of the next election. I will be at least 18 years old on the day of the next election. I will have lived at the same address in Section 5 for at least 30 days before the election. I am legally qualified to vote. I affirm that this information is true. I understand that this declaration is the same as an affidavit, and, if this information is not true, I can be convicted of perjury, and fined up to \$15,000, jailed for up to seven years, or both. Signature or mark _____ <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 60px; margin-left: 100px;"></div> Print name _____ Today's date _____
Help with this form Fill in if someone helped you with this form or witnessed you make a mark for your signature.	12 Name of assistant _____ Address _____ Phone _____ Signature of assistant _____

Do you need identification (ID) to fill out an application to register?

If you have one, use your PA state ID or Driver's License from the PA Department of Transportation (PENNDOT) Driver's License center.

If you don't have a PA state ID or driver's license you can use the last 4 numbers in your social security number.

You can fill out an application without ID. Just check the box that says you don't have a PennDOT ID or a social security number.

What if your voter registration information has changed?

You use the same application, and check the box for the change you need to make. You can change your:

- address
- name
- political party – the group you choose to follow and belong to. In PA, the political parties are: Democrat, Green, Libertarian, Republican, or Socialist.
- You can also choose Independent, which means you choose no political party.

You've registered. What comes next?

- Check your voter registration card when it comes in the mail to make sure all the information is right.
- If the information isn't right, you can fill out another application with the right information.
- Learn as much as you can about what and who you can vote for.
- Ask questions if you have them.

**Use YOUR POWER to Vote
in every election!**

Here are some ways to build a voting community.

- Call, write to, or email
 - County or statewide Election Officials
 - The League of Women Voters
 - Disability Rights PA
 - The Center for Independent Living in your area
- Go to community or online meetings about voting.
- Send e-mail and paper information to people you know to help get people interested in voting.
- Work with community groups to help more people learn about voting.
- Use social media like facebook to speak up about voting.



You can get involved with the candidates and issues, too.

- Contact your political party, and tell them you want to help.
- Tell the candidates what you think about issues.
- Use social media like Facebook to speak up about the candidates and issues.

Did you know...You can apply to be a poll worker?

- Many poll workers are paid to learn their job, and to work on election day.
- Many poll workers support people with disabilities to vote.
- The United States needs 250,000 more poll workers.
- Get more information and sign up to help Power the Polls at powerthepolls.org



There might be people, called candidates, to vote for, like

- Senator
- Representative
- Governor
- Mayor
- Tax Collector
- County Commissioner
- City Council Members
- People for other government jobs
- School Board Members
- President and Vice President

There may be measures, propositions, or issues on the ballot to vote on.

- These are all words for changes in laws, taxes, or other things.
- Your local, state, or federal government, may put some of these items on the ballot.

**No matter what you vote for,
EVERY VOTE COUNTS!**

There are many ways to learn what will be on the ballot. Some ways are:

- **Liveballot.com** shows you information about all the candidates and measures on your ballot.
- The League of Women Voters has information. Go to their website **lwv.org**, or invite someone from the League to speak to your group.
- **Vote411.org** has links to check your registration status, and to find out what will be voted on in your area.
- Check out the Voting in Pennsylvania guide at **www.pa.gov/guides/voting-and-elections/**

Learn about the candidates who are on the ballot.

- Listen to them. If you can, go to where they are speaking, or find out if the speech will be on TV, radio or internet.
- Invite them to speak to you and your group.
- Listen to, read about, or watch the meetings, called debates, where candidates from different political parties talk about issues.
- Visit their websites and social media.
- Find stories about them in newspapers, magazines, and online.
- Listen to talk shows on the radio, TV, or online.

Make a list of the issues important to you.

- Check what the candidates have said or done about the issues.
- Send questions and ideas to them and ask for a response.
- Look up their voting records.
- Contact your legislator - a person elected to a job to bring the issues important to you to other government people.
 - Legislators may be senators or representatives, with the state or for the federal government.
 - Call or email and make an appointment with your legislator.
 - Send a letter or email that shares what you think.

How can you learn more about the candidates and issues?

- Check with your county's political party group
- Ask at your library – they are there for you!
- Ask someone you trust to do it with you
 - Think of a person who won't try to tell you what to do or what to think.



“Vote as if your life depends on it - because it does!”

Justin Dart, lifelong self advocate, thought of as the Father of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), said these words often.



In this picture, Justin is the person wearing a hat, while President George H.W. Bush signs the ADA. Also in the picture are, Evan Kemp, Chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, seated, and standing behind him is Minister Harold Wilke. Seen standing is an unidentified person.

Once you are registered, there are a few ways to vote in PA.

- By mail with an absentee ballot or mail-in ballot, or
- At a polling place on election day with
 - a touch-screen voting machine, or
 - a paper ballot.



What are mail-in and absentee ballots, and how do you get one?

- These are two ways to vote without going to your voting or polling place.
- If you want to use one of these ballots, you must apply at least 7 days before an election.
- This year's deadline to apply is **Tuesday, Oct. 27.**
- You apply for either ballot:
 - by calling **1-877-868-3772**, or
 - by emailing ra-voterreg@pa.gov, or
 - by contacting your county election office.



What is the difference between mail-in and absentee ballots?

Anyone can apply for a mail-in ballot!

Anyone who will not be able to vote in person may apply for an absentee ballot.

- You must list your reason for applying for an absentee ballot.
 - Disability or illness
 - Out of town (business, college, jail or prison, religious holiday, etc.)



What do you get after you apply, and what do you do next?

- You will get your ballot and a pre-stamped return envelope in the mail.
- After you fill out your ballot, put it in the envelope that comes with it, and mail it to your county election office.
- If you don't mail it in time, you, or someone you trust, can deliver it to your county election office.
- Your ballot must get to your county election office **before 8 pm on election day – Nov. 5.**
- If you vote by mail-in or absentee ballot, you do not have to go to your polling place on election day.

Send in your mail-in or absentee ballot as early as you can. The ballots may take more time to process.

Find out where your polling place is.

Your voter registration card has the address of your polling place on it.

Or, you or someone you trust can go online and type in **“Polling Place in PA.”**

- Click on **Polling Place Information - PA Voter Services** (pavoterservices.pa.gov)
- Enter the information to find out YOUR polling place!

9/3/2020

Polling Place Information



FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

The Polling Place Search tool will help you locate a polling place for Election day. Begin by typing the county of residence and city in the dropdown menus below. Then enter the street name, the house number, and zip code.

If the polling place is not found, please make sure the information is correct. Click Search again. If the polling place is still not found you may contact the county election office. County Contact Information (<http://www.votespa.com/en-us/voting-and-elections/be-prepared/Pages/County-Contact-Information.aspx>)

County

City

Street Name

House #

Zip Code

Search

Clear

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/pollingplaceinfo.aspx>

1/2

Polling places can be anywhere. Some polling places may be in a



Library



Place of worship



Police station



School

How Do You Vote at your polling place?



- With a touch-screen voting machine or
- With a paper ballot

Go online to [VotesPA.com](https://www.votespa.com) to learn more about what your county uses.

You need to show identification (ID) the first time you vote at a polling place.

- If you have voted at your polling place before, you do not need to bring or show your ID to vote.
- If you move and have to vote at a new polling place, you must bring and show your ID.
- Your ID must have your photo or your address on it.
- Here is the list of ID you can use:
 - Any ID issued by the US or PA government like voter registration card, driver's license, passport, or military ID.
 - A student or employee ID, or a firearm permit.
 - A utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or government check

Check out your polling place before election day.

- Call your county election office and ask about how you vote there.
- Go to your polling place and find out if
 - There is accessible parking, if you need it, and
 - Where the accessible entrance is, if you need it.

It is YOUR RIGHT to get assistance when you vote.

- If this is the first time you have asked for assistance, you have to fill out a form called “Declaration of the need for assistance to vote”.

Declaration
Of the need of Assistance to Vote

(Print name and residential address of elector requiring assistance)

by reason of _____ am unable to vote without the
(Print reason for need of assistance)

assistance of _____
(Print name and address of person rendering assistance)

Signature or mark of elector _____ Date: _____

WITNESSED BY:

Signature of Witness _____

Signature of Judge of Elections _____



- You only need to fill this out the first time you ask for assistance. After that it is added to your voter record.

You choose who you want to assist you to vote.

- You can bring someone you trust like a friend, a neighbor, a staff worker, or a family member.
- You can ask someone else at your polling place when you get there.
- You do not have to ask for or accept assistance, if you don't want it.
- It is against the law for these people to assist voters:
 - A Judge of Elections,
 - Your union representative,
 - Your employer, or
 - Any candidate.

Your vote is YOUR vote! It is against the law for any person assisting you to tell you who or what to vote for.

It is **YOUR RIGHT** to understand the information about voting.

- If reading the voting information does not work for you, ask a poll worker for voting information in the way that does work for you. That might be:
 - in Braille
 - in large print
 - in audio format so you can listen to it
 - or in other accessible formats.

It is **YOUR RIGHT** to ask for, and get,
replacement ballots
if you make a mistake.

- Everyone makes mistakes sometimes!
- You have the right to ask for and get up to two new ballots, called **replacement ballots**, if you make a mistake.
- If voting electronically and you make a mistake, ask the poll worker to help you do a new ballot.

It is **YOUR RIGHT** to use an accessible voting booth.

- Help America Vote Act (HAVA) says that every polling place must have an accessible voting booth to help people vote privately and independently.
- You do **NOT** need to have, or tell about, a disability to use these machines.



Make a plan for election day.

- Know your rights!
 - Knowing your rights gives you the power to speak up about what you need to vote.
- Ask a friend, neighbor, family member or other person you trust to go with you to your polling place.
- Go vote as early in the day as you can.
- Get a signature stamp if that works for you.
- Know what to do if things go wrong!

If things go wrong on election day,

- Speak up about your rights with the poll workers at the polling place.
- If the poll workers don't fix it, ask to speak to the Judge of Elections.
 - Sometimes, this is all you will need to do to fix something that went wrong.
- If these don't work, call one of these below right away for voting help that day.
 - Your County Election Office
 - Disability Rights PA Election Day Hotline: 717-839-5227
 - Pa American Civil Liberties Union: 866-687-8683
 - PA Votes: 1-877-868-3772
 - Keystone Votes: 866-687-8683

CALL if any of these things happen to you on election day:

- You need, and can't find, an accessible parking spot.
- You need an accessible path to and through the entrance, and there isn't one.
- You want to use an accessible voting booth, and there isn't one.
- You are asked to show ID even though you have voted at this polling place before.
- You are told you cannot bring someone to assist you to vote.
- You ask for assistance to vote, and the poll workers won't help you.

CALL if any of these things happen to you on election day:

- The way you have to vote is not private.
- You can not get voting information in the way that you need it (braille, audio, etc.)
- Poll workers make you feel uncomfortable or like you are a burden.
- Poll workers don't understand your speech, and won't let a person you bring to support you help, or let you use a communication device, or
- The poll workers ask where your assistant or guardian is.

If you still have problems on election day, ask for a provisional ballot.

- A provisional ballot is a paper ballot for voters when poll workers think the person cannot vote.
- Ask the poll worker how the provisional ballot will be counted.
- The county election office will decide if the vote is valid and send the voter a letter telling them if their vote was counted or not, and why.

Any questions on what to do if something goes wrong on election day?

We've talked about

- Why voting is important,
- Voting rights,
- Registering to vote,
- Building a voting community,
- Learning about issues and candidates,
- Voting by mail-in or absentee ballot,
- Your polling place,
- Your rights at the polling place on election day, and
- What to do if something goes wrong on election day.

SAU1 thanks the thousands of self advocates and families in the past who paved the way for self advocacy, and for the PA DDC for funding this event.



And Thank You!

**KNOWLEDGE
IS
POWER!**

**Use it to
MAKE YOUR
VOTE COUNT!**

**Speak up and share the
Power of Knowledge
you have now!**

**Tell us what YOU
think about our
talk today!**