

# RI DISABILITY VOTE PROJECT

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Participate, Vote, Succeed

## Disability Vote Action: The Email Newsletter of the RI Disability Vote Project

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Upcoming: Candidates Forums

Dear Friend,

This is the first email newsletter of the Rhode Island Disability Vote Project. This edition gives a brief overview of the Project, and also contains a few time-sensitive notices. Future email newsletters will feature items about events and current issues of importance to the Disability Interest Community in Rhode Island. Please stay tuned for further information on how to submit things for consideration in the newsletter.

The Rhode Island Disability Vote Project is mobilizing the disability interest community through building a nonpartisan and powerful voting bloc of people and organizations interested in disability issues. The Project formed at the end of 2005 when a number of disability groups came together with the American Association of People with Disabilities, with a shared commitment to voting. Today, we have **twenty-four** member organizations that have joined as members of the Project, ranging from development disabilities, to mental health, to physical disabilities (list attached). By working together and increasing our numbers at the polls we will win greater victories for rights and respect for people with disabilities.

The Project is governed by a Steering Committee, and four Managing Directors give day-to-day assistance and direction to the Project. Attached you'll please find a list of Steering Committee members.

**The deadline to register to vote is October 7<sup>th</sup>.** Since that day is a Saturday, City and Town halls will be open in the morning for submitting voter registration forms. You can find out more at [www.sec.state.ri.us/elections](http://www.sec.state.ri.us/elections), and please do not hesitate to call Project Organizer James deBoer if you still have any questions (295-5757). Registering to vote now is very important so that you'll be able to vote in the General Elections on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

On September 12<sup>th</sup> Rhode Island held our Primary Elections. There were several important races on the statewide and local levels decided on that day. Many people with disability interests went out to vote, and many encountered serious problems at the polling place. **If you or anyone you know of was not able to vote (or was not able to vote independently)** because of the Automark equipment or any other reason, please call the Rhode Island Disability Law Center right away, and ask to file a complaint (831-3150 ; 831-5335 TTY; info@ridlc.org). Meanwhile, the Project will be working to make sure that everyone has the right and ability to vote independently on Election Day.

Making informed decisions is at the root of democracy. Therefore, the Project is pleased to announce the following Candidates' Forums. We encourage everyone to attend as many as possible to get to know the candidates, their records, and their visions for our community:

Gubernatorial Candidates Forum on Mental Health  
Sponsored by the Save our (Mental Health) Services Coalition  
Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
6:30 – 8:30 pm  
Gibbs College, Garfield Ave  
Cranston (just off rte 10 by the Stop and Shop)

Civil Rights Round Table Congressional Candidates Forum  
Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 – 8:00 pm  
East Providence City Hall  
145 Taunton Ave, East Providence

Both of these events will have interpreters for the Deaf and CART Services.

Meet the Candidates Nights (all area candidates are invited)  
(Sponsored by the Community Provider Network of Rhode Island)

October 11 Capitol Ridge of Providence  
700 Smith Street  
6 PM – 8 PM  
Towns: North Providence, Providence, Johnston

October 12 Sprague Meeting Room, Narragansett  
6 PM – 8 PM  
Towns: Narragansett, South Kingstown, Kingston

October 17 Warwick Police Department  
6:15 PM – 7:45 PM  
Towns: Warwick

October 17 Westerly Library, Westerly  
Towns: Westerly, Charlestown, Richmond, Hopkinton, New Shoreham

October 30 Fenner Hall (Middletown)  
6 PM – 8 PM  
Towns: Middletown, Newport, Jamestown

To volunteer or make a financial contribution, please contact James deBoer, Project Organizer.

See you soon!

NOTE: This newsletter is also included as an attachment to the email.