

# 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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Dear Members of the Rhode Island Disability Interest Community,

Over the last few weeks, the Rhode Island Disability Vote Project has learned some disturbing news about the new Automark Voter Assist Terminals. The Automark machines will be available in every polling place to assist people with disabilities to vote (includes people who are blind or low vision, people with limited mobility, people with dyslexia). These machines are critical to making voting as independent and accessible as possible for everyone.

However, the Board of Elections does not believe that these machines should be turned on at the beginning of the day and properly tested. They argue that the cost of the ink cartridge (\$40) is not worth it for making voting easy and reliable - they would rather wait until someone comes in who asks to use it before setting up the machines for use. But we believe that the ink cartridges must be installed at the beginning of the day and tested, and the machines ready for use, so that any problems can be taken care of at the beginning of the day and nobody has to wait.

Please take a look at the attached petition and circulate it if you believe that this is important. Already, we have collected over 200 signatures!! You could also sign up online at: <http://www.petitiononline.com/automark/>

Please pass the word along on this very important matter.

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Meet the Candidates Nights:

There are two more to go! On Thursday, October 19th, from 6-8 pm, is the Statewide Meet the Candidates Night at CCRI Warwick Campus, in the lower commons.

And on Monday, October 30th, Fenner Hall in Middletown will host a Meet the Candidates Night serving Middletown, Newport, and Jamestown.

These Candidates Nights are sponsored by the Community Provider Network of Rhode Island, all candidates for statewide office and local state legislative office are invited, and everyone from the public is welcome to attend free of cost. Please take advantage of these exciting opportunities to educate yourself about the candidates!!

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Also attached you'll please find a press release relating to the film "Canvass" which addresses topics relevant to mental illness. Max Zapata, of the National Alliance on Mental Illness - Rhode Island, has asked me to forward this on.

As always, if you have events or issues that are coming up, please inform me and we will include them in this newsletter.

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If you would not like to receive this email newsletter, or if you know of someone else who would like to be added to the list, please email Lee Strauss. Her email address is **ampersand1@cox.net**.

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