

The *Ninth District Disability Caucus* (NDDC) is excited to present a guide explaining voting options for people with disabilities. We are here to provide you with information about your voting options for the upcoming midterm general election on November 6, 2018.

The NDDC is the first and currently the only disability caucus in the state of Indiana. For this reason, we are thrilled to bring you this guide as our first important initiative and hope that you will use it to exercise your constitutional right to vote. We hope you will stay in touch with us as we work to bring you more resources. Please do not hesitate to send us an email at indisabilitycaucus@gmail.com, follow us on Twitter and Instagram using our handle @indisabilitycaucus, and visit our website at www.indisabilitycaucus.org.

REGISTRATION

If you are registering to vote for the first time or need to update your registration because you moved or changed your name, you can register online at www.indianavoters.com. You will need a valid Indiana driver's license or state ID card and to fill out the required fields. If you need assistance, please contact your county voter registration office. The phone numbers and addresses for these offices are listed online and can also be found by visiting www.indisabilitycaucus.org.

You may also register to vote by hand-delivering or mailing in a state or federal voter registration form to your county voter registration office. Paper registration forms must have an original "wet" signature, so you may not fax or email your registration document! Registration forms hand-delivered to the county voter registration office must be received by the close of business on the date of the statewide registration deadline. Registration forms mailed to the office must be postmarked on or before the date of the statewide registration deadline to be reviewed and processed. If the postmark is missing or illegible, then any registration form received no later than the Monday following the deadline will be processed.

If you are visiting the BMV to renew or apply for an Indiana driver's license or state ID card, you can register to vote during this transaction. The BMV does have voter registration forms available at their branches, though you may not drop off a voter registration form with the BMV staff. Instead, you must mail or hand-deliver the form to your county voter registration official.

You can check your registration status by visiting www.indianavoters.com. The website does require the name you enter be a perfect match to the registration record. If you cannot find your registration online, please contact your county voter registration official

to confirm your registration. Local offices can perform a wider range of searches to validate your information.

After submitting a registration form, a voter acknowledgement card is mailed to you. This card confirms the information you provided on your registration and provides your polling location. If you do not receive this card 3-4 weeks after your form submission, please contact your county voter registration office.

HOW TO VOTE

ABSENTEE IN PERSON

- **Absentee-in-person** (early) voting starts 28 days before each election. You do not need a reason to vote an early absentee ballot in person, but you must present a valid Indiana or federal government-issued ID card like an Indiana driver's license or U.S. Passport. Every county must offer early voting at the county clerk's office during the week and at least the two Saturdays before the election. Some counties make additional "satellite" early voting locations, including "vote centers" available to absentee voters. Check with your county clerk or election board to find out when your county is offering early voting. The first day to vote absentee-in-person for the November 2018 election is **October 10, 2018**, and early voting ends at noon, November 5, 2018.

ABSENTEE BY MAIL

- If you choose to vote **absentee-by-mail**, you mail in your ballot to vote early. Generally, those living with disabilities that limit mobility or who are out of the state will choose to vote by absentee-by-mail. However, any person unable to personally mark their own ballot must vote absentee with assistance of the bi-partisan traveling board (see below). The absentee-by-mail application must be received by the county election board no later than 11:59PM, **October 29, 2018**. Below is a step-by-step process for choosing to vote absentee-by-mail:
 - Submit an application to request an absentee ballot by mail to your county election board office. Please find the application for voting absentee-by-mail on our website at www.indisabilitycaucus.org for your convenience, as there are several types of applications.
 - An absentee application may be emailed, faxed, mailed, or hand-delivered to the county election board, but it must be received no later than the application deadline date. Applications received after the deadline will not be processed.
 - Once the absentee ballot application is processed, the county election board will mail you a ballot on which you can vote for your candidates. For most Indiana counties, the ballot must be received by the county election board no later than

noon on Election Day. Ballots received after this deadline may not be counted. The absentee ballot envelope also requires the voter to sign their name on the space provided; please do not overlook this requirement!

- Failure to fill out the correct absentee form could result in a delay in its processing. Please reach out to the Caucus or contact your county election board if you have any questions.

ABSENTEE BY TRAVELING BOARD

- **Absentee-by-traveling board** may be an option for you if you have a disability and need assistance in voting, or if you may struggle with mobility on election day due to you or your loved one's disability. In addition, a voter unable to personally mark their own ballot must vote absentee with the assistance of the traveling board. The traveling board is made up of two individuals, one each from the Democratic and Republican parties, and will come to your residence and assist you with voting. It is recommended to request a traveling board as soon as possible since appointments are limited, but the final deadline for requests is by **noon on November 5, 2018**. Please find an application for voting absentee-by-traveling board on our website at www.indisabilitycaucus.org.

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

- You may vote at a variety of locations on election day, **November 6, 2018**. To find your local designated polling location, please visit <https://indianavoters.in.gov>. Please note that some counties, you may vote in any vote center location within the county, but in others, you may only go to your designated precinct polling location.
- On election day, **November 6, 2018**, the polls are open for 12 hours from 6AM to 6PM, prevailing local time.

WHO CAN HELP YOU VOTE?

- You can ask any person for assistance in completing any absentee ballot application or to seal your voted absentee-by-mail ballot in an envelope. However, the affidavit of assistance must be completed in the space provided on the absentee application or absentee ballot envelope. A voter with disabilities unable to sign the absentee ballot application may have their power of attorney sign the application for them. The power of attorney will need to provide a copy of the Power of Attorney document to attach to the absentee ballot application before it is delivered to the county election board. If a voter with disabilities has not given another person power of attorney, then they can designate any other person who is not their employer, union officer, or agent of both to sign the absentee ballot application on behalf of the voter.

- A person who wants to vote-by-mail must be able to personally mark their own ballot and place it in the ballot envelope. Assistance can be provided by any person to seal the ballot envelope. A person holding a power of attorney may witness the voter making a mark in place of a signature on the ballot. In this case the voter must place a copy of the Power of Attorney in the ballot envelope with the ballot before sealing it. In either case, the affidavit on the ballot envelope must be completed.
- There are a few avenues of assistance when voting absentee-in-person at the clerk's office or satellite location or on Election Day:
 - You can alert the poll workers (or absentee vote workers) an individual is going to assist you with your ballot before entering the voting booth, and a PRE-1 form must be completed before entering the booth. The only limitation on who may assist a voter in state law is that a voter's employer, union officer, or agent of both may not to assist a voter.
 - If a friend or family member did not come with you to the early voting site or poll location, then you may ask poll workers (or absentee vote workers) for help before entering the voting booth. The team will consist of two poll workers (or absentee vote workers), each belonging to opposite political parties.

ITEMS THAT CAN BE USED FOR ASSISTANCE AT THE POLLS

- All counties must have accessible voting equipment available, which may be a ballot marking device for counties using optical scan voting systems or a touch-screen electronic voting device. These devices typically have the flexibility to be placed on a table or wheelchair tray, if requested. The systems will also have an audio-enabled ballot, which may be helpful to voters with low or no vision.
- Magnifiers
 - Some polling places will use electronic voting machines, which may not be as compatible as is ideal with all magnifiers. Some of these machines have a text-to-speech function; other polling places may provide magnifiers for your convenience. Please contact your county election board for more information.
- Tape to hold ballots down
- Chairs for those who are unable to stand for long periods
- Notes or other materials on the candidates you wish to vote, but please be sure to take the materials with you after leaving the voting booth

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Under state and federal law, all voting polls must be accessible. To report an inaccessible polling location OR a violation of rights, please call 1-866-IN-1-VOTE or the Indiana Election Division at 1-800-622-4941 as soon as possible.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES (times are prevailing local time)

- Last day to register to vote in Indiana: **October 9, 2018**
- Absentee Voting In-Person (“Early Voting”)
 - First day to vote absentee in person (“early voting”): **October 10, 2018**
 - Last day to vote absentee in person (“early voting”): **noon, November 5, 2018**
- Absentee Voting by Mail
 - Deadline for absentee-by-mail applications to be *received*: **11:59PM, October 29, 2018**
 - Deadline for absentee-by-mail ballots to be *received*: **noon, November 6, 2018** for most Indiana counties; contact your county election board to confirm
- Absentee by Travelling Board
 - Appointments begin: **October 18, 2018**
 - Deadline to submit application for travelling board: **noon, November 5, 2018**
- Election Day: **November 6, 2018**

STAY IN TOUCH!

Do you want to get involved with the Indiana Ninth District Disability Caucus? Connect with us on Twitter and Instagram @indisabilitycaucus or send us an email at indisabilitycaucus@gmail.com.

If you would like to request more guides, please contact us at indisabilitycaucus@gmail.com.

Note: Information was received and consolidated with the help of the 2018 Indiana Voter Information Guide by the Indiana Secretary of State and the Your Vote is Your Voice provided the by the Count Us IN initiative of the Governor’s Council for People with Disabilities.