Supporting People With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities During the Voting Process
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Include:

Intellectual Disability
Formerly Referred to as Mental Retardation
The term of Mental Retardation can be considered offensive and should not be used

Cerebral Palsy
Epilepsy
Autism

Other disabilities needing supports similar to Intellectual Disability
Supports That Often Work Well for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Include:

**Tailored Support During All Phases Of The Voting Process**
- Assistance with Registering
- Help with Voting Preparation
- Help with Researching Candidates and Issues
- Someone Trusted to Ask Questions of Who Will Remain Neutral
- Adapted and/or Alternatively Formatted Materials
- Help with “Vote by Mail” Materials
- Help with Transportation
- Assistance at The Polls
- This Includes Assistance with the Ballot
Sometimes The “Rules” Do Not Meet Everyone's Needs!

Many Accessibility Guidelines are Currently Directed at Written and Electronic Formats

No set of guidelines can meet all people’s accessibility needs

This also applies to different disability groups

“Different Folks Different Strokes”

For Example
PREPARE YOURSELF

Here are some things you can do to help you decide how to vote:

• Read the Sample Ballot that is mailed to you

• Talk to your family, friends, or neighbors

• Read or listen to the news

• Talk to disability rights groups or your People First Group
Things That Create Barriers:

Being treated differently due to disability status:
- Having voting rights inappropriately taken away
- Misperceptions of family, support staff and community
- Barriers at Poll site by staff or other voters
- Lack of appropriate support
- Literacy issues
- Lack of transportation assistance
Things That Support the Voting Experience For All, Including People With Disabilities:

All Voters are adults
Focus on including the person in the voting process, and provide voting related support needs
Don’t focus just on their disability status
Talk to and ask questions of the voter not the person with them
It’s OK to acknowledge the other person
Ask questions as appropriate, and needed, then take the persons’ lead
Offer assistance, accommodations and adaptive equipment,
But do not insist on their use
Be welcoming and polite
We Would Be Delighted To Answer Your Questions or Concerns.

Thank You!
You Have Been A Fabulous Audience.