

Community Outreach and Education Workshop



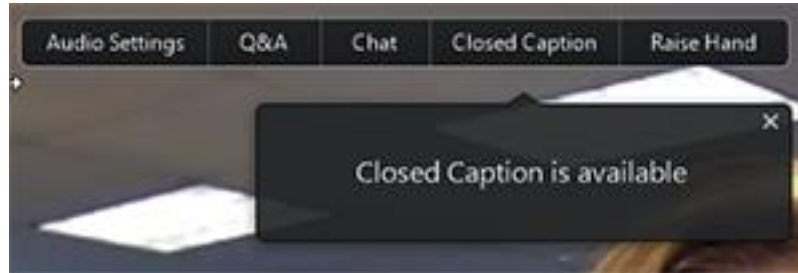
**ADVANCE THE INDEPENDENT LIVING
MOVEMENT: Get Out the Disability
Community Vote!**



Statewide Systems
ADVOCACY NETWORK

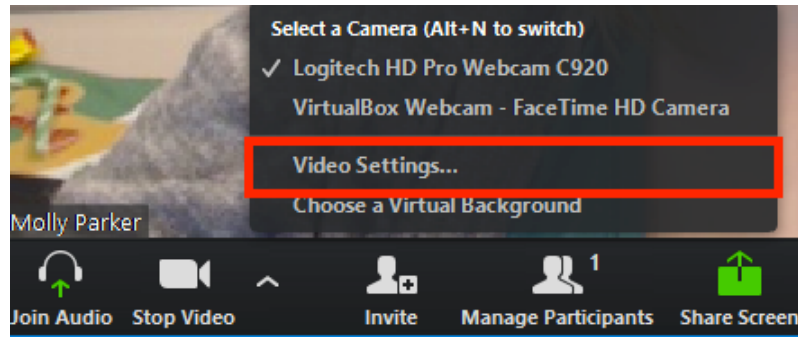
NEW YORK ASSOCIATION ON INDEPENDENT LIVING

Welcome and Overview of Tech Protocol

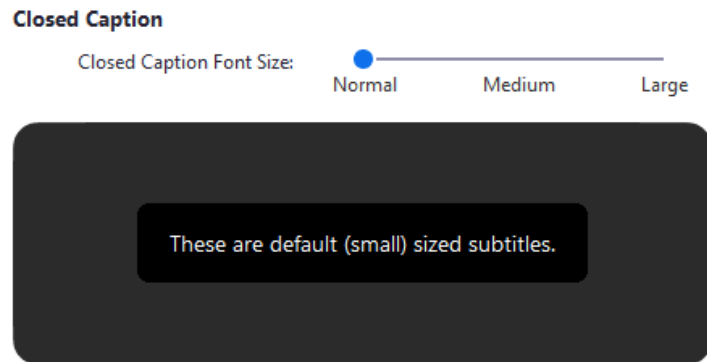


This will appear in the controls at the top of your screen.

After selecting **Closed Caption**, you will see the captioning at the bottom of your screen.



If you need to adjust the caption size, click on the arrow next to stop/start video and choose **Video Settings**.



Click on **Accessibility**.

Move the slider to adjust the caption size.

Advance the Independent Living Movement: Get Out the Disability Community Vote!

The Statewide Systems Advocacy Network (SSAN) was created to support the Independent Living movement in the development of local partnerships and coalitions to engage in community education about issues impacting people with disabilities. The overall goal is to increase knowledge and visibility about the individual and societal importance of Independent Living, resulting in positive change in communities throughout New York State.

SSAN Workshops over the past seven years have trained on community engagement strategies, models for effective community outreach and education, principles for holding and participating in community-based meetings, dealing with opposition, engaging the press, the development of a timely “Save Medicaid!” campaign, how to maintain the personal commitment to advocacy in the face of opposition and issue fatigue, and campaigns for social change.



Why it Matters: Understanding The Impact of the Disability Vote

Helen Charland, Advocate, Disability Rights NY



VOTING

(Almost) Everything You
Need to Know

Voter Eligibility

- US Citizen
- At least 18 years old
- Live at current address for at least 30 days before the election
- Can only be registered at one address
- Not in prison for a felony conviction
 - You can vote while on probation. You may be able to vote while on parole.
 - Check parole eligibility status at: www.doccs.ny.gov/ParoleeLookup/Lookup.aspx
- Only a judge can make the decision that someone is not competent to vote*

Voter Eligibility*

- Guardianship status alone does not determine eligibility status.
- “No person who has been adjudged incompetent has the right to vote, unless later adjudged competent.” NYS Election Law Sec. 5-106 (6)
- “Receipt of services for mental disability shall not deprive persons of the right to register and vote is otherwise qualified.” NY Mental Hygiene Law Sec. 33.01
- “The commissioner shall include rules and regulations...for community residence a statement of the rights of persons living in such residences which shall include...the right to vote’ and the right to participate in activities that educate persons with developmental disabilities in their civic responsibilities.” NY Mental Hygiene Law Sec. 41.41

Voter Rights

- Vote privately and independently
- An accessible polling place
- Use of an accessible voting machine (ballot marking device)
- Get help with voting from a person of your choice (except your employer or union representative)
- Vote by absentee ballot
- Request a provisional ballot

How To Learn About Candidates

- Ballotpedia.org
- VoteSmart.org
- Vote411.org

VoteSmart.org – Vote Easy

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the logo "My VOTESMART" and buttons for "SIGN UP" and "LOGIN". Below this is a quote: "Vote Smart is a bright light in an often desultory civic culture." - Bill Moyers. The main content area features a search bar, a "I SPY" section with a magnifying glass icon and the text "40,000 POLITICIANS, MILLIONS OF FACTS", and a row of folder icons labeled "BIO", "VOTES", "POSITIONS", "RATINGS", "SPEECHES", and "FUNDING". At the bottom, there are three large buttons: "POLITICAL GALAXY" (Any Politician, Any Issue), "VOTE EASY" (Find your political soulmate), and "ON POINT". The "VOTE EASY" button is highlighted with an orange border, and three yellow arrows point upwards towards it from the bottom of the page.

VoteSmart.org – Vote Easy

Wondering who to vote for this election?

Vote Smart

We're here to help you find out
which candidates are most like you.

Choose your election

PRESIDENTIAL

CONGRESSIONAL

VoteSmart.org – Vote Easy

ABORTION BUDGET CAMPAIGN FINANCE DEFENSE ECONOMY EDUCATION ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT GUNS HEALTH CARE IMMIGRATION NATIONAL SECURITY TRADE

Simply click on any candidate's sign and find their positions on key issues OR select an issue and give your position. Each additional question you answer will be averaged to find the person most like you. ([more details](#))

Donald Trump - Republican	Joe Biden - Democratic
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You may vote for one Presidential candidate in this election


VoteSmart.org – Vote Easy

Education ✕

Do you support requiring states to adopt federal education standards?

Yes
 No

i



Education ✕

Do Yes

i Yes: Supporters generally argue for additional funding and/or standardized testing from the federal government, claiming that it will boost student performance and hold under-performing states accountable.
No: Opponents generally argue for states and local school districts to have more decision-making power, are against standardized testing, and argue for "local control" over education standards.

Ballot Marking Devices (BMD)

Accessible Voting Machines

- Established by HAVA (Title III, Sec. 301)
- Federal elections only
- Accessible voting machine designed to mark a ballot
- Private and independent vote
- Any voter can use the BMD, regardless of disability

Ballot Marking Devices by County



ES&S AutoMark

Albany, Schenectady, Erie, Rockland,
NYC, and Nassau Counties



Dominion ImageCast (or ImageCast Evolution)

All other counties

Alternative Accessible Voting Options

- Not necessarily private and independent, but voters choice
- Assistance from a trusted person
- Help from poll workers
- Absentee ballot

Ways to Get Involved

- Become a poll worker and encourage clients to become poll workers
- Learn how to use the ballot marking device and encourage others to use it
- Host a ballot marking device demonstration
- Host a voter registration drive
- Celebrate civic holidays
 - National Disability Voter Registration Week (7/13 – 7/17)
 - National Voter Registration Day (9/22)
 - Vote Early Day (10/24)
- Build a relationship with local self-advocacy groups (SANYS)

Thank You!



Questions?



Helen Charland



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TAKE 5





Absentee Voting in New York State Today and Recent Litigation

Christy Asbee, Director, Disability Rights NY



Accessible Absentee Ballot Litigation

Hernandez v. NYS BOE

How was the Absentee Ballot Inaccessible?

- Must mark on paper with pen
- No Braille or large print absentee ballots available
- Inaccessible to individuals who are blind, low vision, other print disabilities, or have dexterity issues

Why Litigate?

- Prompted by COVID-19, but has been a long-standing issue
- Forcing voters with disabilities to choose between voting in person during COVID-19, or denying them the right to a private and independent vote
- DOJ complaint could not resolve issue quickly
- Saw successful litigation in other states (Michigan)

Hernandez et. al. v. NYS Board of Elections et. al.

- Disability Rights New York, Disability Rights Advocates, and Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP
- Filed on behalf of named Plaintiffs and DRNY, National Federation of the Blind of NYS, American Council of the Blind of NY, and Center for Independence of the Disabled NY
- Emergency Relief: Parties came to agreement but only applicable for June 23 election (Phase 1)
- Case continues to make accessible absentee ballot as accessible as possible for November 2020 and beyond (Phase II)

Hernandez et. al. v. NYS Board of Elections et. al.

What does the June 23, 2020 Stipulation look like?

- Submit an accessible absentee ballot request form to CBOE by June 16
- CBOE mails voter oath envelope and return envelope (with postage)
- CBOE e-mails voter an accessible absentee ballot (fillable PDF)
- Voter **must print** completed ballot
- Voter signs oath envelope, places in return envelope, and mails to CBOE

Thank You!



Questions?



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REV UP: Making the Disability Vote Count!

Wednesday, July 15 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Keri Gray, Senior Director of Stakeholder Engagement and Strategic Communication, American Association of People with Disabilities



GOTV: The Time is NOW

Wednesday, August 19 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Andy Lee, League of Women Voters of Albany County

NYS Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara

Round Table of Independent Living Leaders