NATIONAL DISABILITY VOTER REGISTRATION WEEK IN LIBRARIES

How libraries can support the political participation of people with disabilities

July 17 - 21, 2017

a joint library initiative of

AAPD
everylibrary
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Part I – Supporting Disability Voter Registration Through Your Library

National Disability Voter Registration Week
July 17 - 21, 2017

EveryLibrary and the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) encourage libraries to support non-partisan voter registration efforts during National Disability Voter Registration Week (NDVRW) - and throughout the year. This guide for libraries is intended to provide actionable tips and resources for libraries in any community to create or refine educational and informational outreach resources for local disability groups about voter registration, to conduct on-site voter registration events during NDVRW with a non-partisan partner organizations, and - when available under local law - to consider training library staff to become Registrars of Voters to facilitate on-site voter registration throughout the year.

This guide also provides expert briefing materials and a wealth of resources from AAPD’s nationally recognized REV UP Campaign. As a national cross-disability rights organization, AAPD advocates for full civil rights for the 50+ million Americans with disabilities by promoting equal opportunity, economic power, independent living, and political participation. AAPD is an expert in public outreach and education about not only disability rights but also critical voting rights issues like accessible ballot technology and access to polling places. Please look more information about AAPD’s mission and the purpose of the REV UP Campaign later in this guide.

Throughout this guide, we suggest partnering with local non-partisan voter registration organizations as a way to support NDVWR. If library staff are already trained and certified to do voter registration, then your partnerships can be deepened. If your staff are not trained to be Registrars, and that is available under local law, we encourage you to consider adding this civic and government service to your library team skills.

There are four ways for libraries to get involved in National Disability Voter Registration Week. Finding the right one for your library and your community starts with adding your library to the list of partner libraries at http://action.everylibrary.org/ndrvrw.

About EveryLibrary
EveryLibrary is a 501c4 political action committee dedicated to building voter support for libraries. Since 2012, EveryLibrary has provided donor supported pro-bono advising and consulting to 62 library campaigns helping to win over $220 million in stable tax funding.
EveryLibrary’s public facing advocacy and activism page action.everylibrary.org has over 100,000 members of the public signed up and taking action to support libraries of all kinds. Learn more about EveryLibrary at everylibrary.org.

About AAPD
The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) is a convener, connector, and catalyst for change, increasing the political and economic power of people with disabilities. As a national cross-disability rights organization, AAPD advocates for full civil rights for the 50+ million Americans with disabilities by promoting equal opportunity, economic power, independent living, and political participation. Learn more at www.aapd.com.
Idea #1 - Building Awareness and Educating the Public:

If this is your first time supporting National Disability Voter Registration Week, or if you lack the staffing to do an effective on- or off-site voter registration efforts during NDVRW, your library can still have a significant impact educating your community about issues that affect people with disabilities. You can plan and conduct an outreach and awareness campaign to celebrate National Disability Voter Registration Week 2017 in your library and with your community.

1) Identify community-based organizations and partners that work with the disability community to conduct joint outreach and informational activities during NDVRW. Additional information on identifying and engaging potential partners from the disability community are included later in this Toolkit.

2) Work with local government partners to issue a joint proclamation recognizing and supporting NDVRW 2017. A sample proclamation is available here.

3) Feature information about NDVRW partnerships on signage, flyers, and the library website in advance of the week’s events. REV UP graphics and flyers are available here.

4) Contact local news media about the library’s support and partnerships for NDVRW. A sample press release is available here.

5) Create library displays featuring voting and civic engagement themes (on site and online).

6) Add NDVRW to your library community calendar, social media editorial calendar, and newsletter.

Part II of this guide includes AAPD’s REV UP toolkit providing you and your staff with a wealth of information and resources to support your public outreach and educational efforts.
Idea #2 - On Site Voter Registration Event

Your library can host an on-site voter registration event specifically for NDVRW with a local non-partisan organization or by trained staff. This can be a one-day or multi-day project. Many communities have local or regional organizations that conduct occasional or regular voter registration drives. Libraries across the country have partnered with groups such as the League of Women Voters, Rock the Vote!, and Vote.org’s National Voter Registration program to locate trained voter Registrars.

1. Identify a partner organization with the capacity to conduct a day-long or week-long NDVRW voter registration event at the library between July 17 and 21, 2017.

2. Identify partner agencies or organizations that serve people with disabilities to promote the event(s). Additional information on identifying and engaging potential partners from the disability community are included later in this Toolkit.

3. Conduct an accessibility review of the library prior to NDVRW and address necessary changes or modifications.

4. Plan to promote the event in your library community calendar, across social media and your newsletter, on the web and in the library. **REV UP graphics and flyers are available here.**

5. Create other programming, resources, or displays that support the goals of NDVRW.

6. Contact local media about the program at least 3 weeks in advance. **A sample press release is available here.**

Every good partnership for NDVRW success should also extend to other parts of local government. We recommend that your library board pass a resolution recognizing National Disability Voter Registration Week 2017 for your library, or that your town, city, or county government do so for the entire community. Our colleagues at AAPD have model resolutions and proclamations available at [www.aapd.com/REVUP](http://www.aapd.com/REVUP).
Idea #3 - Take the library and NDVRW voter registration off-site

One of the best ways to register new voters and to reach new patrons is to host an off-site voter registration / library card signup event at an agency or organization, possibly your local center for independent living. Whether you work with a local non-partisan voter registration group or have staff trained as Registrar run the event, you will build new partnerships in the process.

1. Identify locations or partner agencies that can host a NDVRW event. These can include local Centers for Independent Living.
2. Identify and contact a local non-partisan voter registration organization with the capacity to support an off-site event.
3. Evaluate your library card signup materials and policies to ensure a smooth process.
4. Consider creating or bringing a traveling collection or other resources for the community you are meeting.
5. Plan to promote the event in your library community calendar, across social media and your newsletter, on the web and in the library. Help your partner organization or agency to do the same. REV UP graphics and flyers are available here.
6. Create other informational leave-behinds about the library.
7. Create resources or libguides that support the goals of NDVRW.
7. Contact local media about the program at least 3 weeks in advance. A sample press release is available here.

If you need to create new resources to do this off-site library card and voter registration work, this is a good time to highlight to your Friends group or Foundation ways that they can fund or underwrite the project. Likewise, an off-site NDVRW event can be a great way to build new volunteer support and involvement.
Idea #4 - Train your staff to become official Registrar of Voters

EveryLibrary is proud to partner with AAPD to bring National disability Voter Registration Week to libraries around the country. We have are also a partner for libraries on National Voter Registration Day each September. We’d like to encourage your library leadership and staff team to consider adding Registrar training and services to your library all year. For NDVRW, your team will be ready to provide on-site and partner-facing registration right away. Like our colleagues at AAPD, EveryLibrary believes that lowering barriers to civic participation starts with being registered to vote.

1. Consult your local clerk of elections for rules and regulations concerning voter Registrar services. Directory of state and local election offices.

2. Orient and train your staff team about issues affecting the political participation of people with disabilities. More information and resources are available at www.aapd.com/REVUP and later in this Toolkit.

3. Make a plan to help everyone in your community who is eligible and wants to vote be registered to vote during NDVRW and all year.

Many online resources for voter registration focus only on the federal election cycle and do not contain information about dates and deadlines for local or even state elections. Always consult with your local clerk of elections or state board of elections for the most up to date and accurate voter information for your library service area. Likewise, please note that each state has different laws concerning who can be a Registrar and how voter registration must be conducted. You should consult with your local clerk of elections or state election authority for questions or clarifications.
FAQ - Americans with Disabilities and the Vote

- People with disabilities accounted for approximately one sixth of eligible voters in the 2016 election, totaling 35.4 million people in all (Doug Kruse & Lisa Schur, Rutgers University).
- In 2016, there were 62.7 million eligible voters who either have a disability or have a household member with a disability, more than one-fourth (25%) of the total electorate (Doug Kruse & Lisa Schur, Rutgers University).
- In 2016, the number people with disabilities who were eligible to vote surpassed the number of eligible Black and Latino voters (USA Today).
- The Great Poll Closure report from the Leadership Conference Education Fund is based on a study of 381 of the approximately 800 counties that were covered by Section 5 of the VRA before the Court’s decision in Shelby County v. Holder. According to an analysis of the study, voters in these counties will have at least 868 fewer places to cast ballots in the 2016 presidential elections than they did in past elections, a 16 percent reduction.
- In 2012, 56.8% of people with disabilities voted compared to 62.5% of people without disabilities.
- If people with disabilities voted at the same rate as people without disabilities in 2012 there would have been an additional 3 million votes cast.
- In 2012, 30 percent of people with disabilities reported difficulty in voting, compared with 8 percent of people without disabilities (Lisa Schur, Rutgers University).
- 2012 voter demographic groups (number of active voters)
  - White, non-Hispanic: 98 million
  - Black / African American: 17.8 million
  - Disability: 15.6 million
  - Hispanic/Latino: 11.2 million
  - Asian: 3.9 million
- In 2008, 43 states reported that they required accessibility standards for polling places, up from 23 states in 2000. At the same time, 31 states reported that ensuring polling place accessibility was challenging. (US Government Accountability Office, GAO-13-538SP [2013])
- In 2000, 42% of people with disabilities voted compared to 52% of people without disabilities.

Additional Resources

- Projecting the Number of Eligible Voters with Disabilities in the November 2016 Elections – Rutgers University, School of Management and Labor Relations
- A political Profile of Disabled Americans – The Pew Research Center Fact Tank
- Disability and Voter Turnout Statistics – Rutgers University, School of Management and Labor Relations
- Voting Accessibility for People with Disabilities – Ruderman Foundation
- ADA Checklist for Polling Places - US Department of Justice
Part II - AAPD’s REV UP Guide

What is REV UP and history of the Campaign
The REV UP Campaign is an initiative of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD). AAPD is a convener, connector, and catalyst for change, increasing the political and economic power of people with disabilities.

The REV UP Campaign, which launched in early 2016, engages in nonpartisan activities to increase the political power of the disability community while also engaging candidates and the media on disability issues. REV UP stands for Register! Educate! Vote! Use your Power! REV UP helps organize the disability community at the state and local level to get more people with disabilities registered to vote and involved in the political process. It also raises the national profile of the disability community as an influential voting bloc. The disability community was incredibly engaged during the 2016 Presidential Election and gained attention at the national level – we’re building on that momentum by organizing in every state to make the disability vote count!

In 2017, we are building state voting coalitions around the country. These coalitions consist of state and local disability organizations, and other allies, and aim to increase voter registration and political participation among the local disability community. These coalitions also seek to engage candidates for public office and the media to raise the profile of issues that are important to people with disabilities.

Visit www.aapd.com/REVUP to learn more and access resources
Goals and objectives of REV UP

Our intent is to grow the REV UP Campaign to increase the political power of people with disabilities and influence election outcomes and policy decision-making at all levels of government.

In 2017 and beyond the REV UP Campaign aims to:

- Establish REV UP State Voting Coalitions, composed of state and local leaders representing the cross-disability community, to lead the effort to increase the political participation of people with disabilities across their state. Representatives from each REV UP State Voting Coalition will connect with one another via conference calls and other opportunities organized by AAPD to share resources, strategies, and ideas with one another.

- Advocate to protect and expand voting rights to ensure voters with disabilities are not disenfranchised.

- Work with protection and advocacy agencies to utilize funding from the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) for their voter engagement activities.

- Lobby Secretaries of State across the country to get disability status included in the demographic data collected as part of the voter file.

- Target a specific state or local election in 2017 with direct voter registration and Get-Out-The-Vote efforts to measure and demonstrate the disability community’s organizing impact.

- Build out the REV UP website to better share information about state resources and events.

- Host recurring conference calls (monthly or quarterly) to connect advocates across the country to share information and resources.

- Arrange in-person meetings at various national disability conferences to connect advocates across the country to share information and resources.
National Disability Voter Registration Week

July 17-21, 2017

The REV UP Campaign coordinates National Disability Voter Registration Week each year to increase the political power of people with disabilities while also engaging candidates and the media to recognize the disability community. REV UP stands for Register! Educate! Vote! Use your Power!

This year, AAPD is pleased to announce a partnership with EveryLibrary to bring National Disability Voter Registration Week 2017 to libraries across the country. Libraries in over 40 states have signed on to promote the goals the July 17 -21, 2017 National Disability Voter Registration Week (NDVRW) through programming, outreach, public education, and voter registration partnerships or on-site services. Learn more about the AAPD and EveryLibrary partnership.

National Disability Voter Registration Week

July 17-21, 2017

www.aapd.com/REVUP
Ways to Get Involved with REV UP

How you engage with REV UP is up to you and the needs of your community. Here are a few ideas to consider:

- Participate in National Disability Voter Registration Week (July 17-21, 2017)
- Host a voter registration and education event
- Hold a press event or conference with local partners to announce national and local efforts to get new people with disabilities registered to vote, educated on disability issues, and committed to get out the DISABILITY VOTE. Download a press release template here.
- Organize a rally of voters with disabilities and disability advocates to promote the REV UP message and the power of the DISABILITY VOTE.
- Host a town hall meeting with state/local elected officials or candidates for office
- Host an educational meeting or workshop with local election officials
- Utilize your mail, email, and social media networks to provide information on voter registration and relevant disability issues in your area while also encouraging people to commit to vote on Election Day. View sample social media posts.
- Send letters to candidates about the issues that are important to people with disabilities in your community
- Include REV UP and voter registration tables at upcoming events (especially any events around the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26).
- Write letters to the editor or Op-Eds and engage local radio or TV stations on the growing efforts by the disability community to become an influential voice in electoral politics this November and beyond.
- Make your organization a polling place (Resources: How To Serve As A Polling Site and ADA Polling Place Checklist).
- Go to your Governor, City Council, County Commissioner, State Senator, State Representative, etc. to get the week of July 17-21, 2017 declared National Disability Voter Registration Week (sample Resolution here).
Engaging the Disability Community

Check-in with AAPD for local partners

When you are ready to begin organizing a REV UP Campaign for your area reach out to AAPD to express your interest. AAPD can help connect you to other advocates in your area and share resources.

Please contact Zach Baldwin, Director of Outreach, at zbaldwin@aapd.com or 202-521-4310.

Identify Potential Partners

Successful state REV UP Campaigns engage a plethora of partners to share resources and information and amplify impact. Potential partners to consider engaging include:

- **Centers for independent living**
  The term "center for independent living" means a consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential private nonprofit agency that is designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities and provides an array of independent living services. ([Independent Living Research Utilization](https://www.IndependentLivingResearchUtilization.org))

- **State protection and advocacy agency**
  There is a Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agency in every state and U.S. territory as well as one serving the Native American population in the four corners region. The P&A network is the largest provider of legally based advocacy services to people with disabilities in the United States. ([National Disability Rights Network](https://www.NationalDisabilityRightsNetwork.org))

- **Councils on Developmental Disabilities**
  There are 56 Councils on Developmental Disabilities (DD Councils) across the United States and its territories. The DD Councils receive federal funding to support programs that promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion for all people in the United States with developmental disabilities. ([National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities](https://www.NationalAssociationofCouncilsOnDevelopmentalDisabilities.org))

- **Chapters of these national disability organizations**
  - ADAPT
  - The Arc of the United States
  - Easterseals
  - United Cerebral Palsy
• United Spinal Association
• Autistic Self Advocacy Network
• Epilepsy Foundation
• National Federation of the Blind
• Special Olympics
• American Council of the Blind
• Little People of America
• Mental Health America
• National Association of the Deaf
• National Down Syndrome Society
• National Multiple Sclerosis Society

• Chapters of non-disability national organizations
  • League of Women Voters
  • NativeVote
  • The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
  • State Voices

Convene a Meeting

Once you have identified potential partners in your state schedule a meeting. In person meetings work great to kick-off a joint collaboration like REV UP, but partners can also convene through a conference call. If you would like someone from national REV UP to join your meeting or to assist with planning it please contact Zach Baldwin at zbaldwin@aapd.com or 202-521-4310.
Important pointers for talking to people about voting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DO:</th>
<th>DO NOT:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Encourage family, friends and others to register to vote and, if eligible, to request a ballot by mail.</td>
<td>• Recommend, endorse, or encourage support for one candidate or party over another.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Explain and emphasize the importance of the disability vote and the rights of individuals with disabilities to vote.</td>
<td>• Tell the people which party to register under or who to vote for.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Encourage friends, colleagues, and family members to request a <strong>REV UP 2017 Toolkit</strong> from <a href="http://www.aapd.com/REVUP">www.aapd.com/REVUP</a></td>
<td>• Coordinate activities with a candidate or campaign or political party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Target your registration efforts toward any particular ideological group, party, or issue.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ask the question, “Are you registered to vote?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the answer is NO:</th>
<th>If the answer is YES:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Would you like register? It’s easy!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Do you need to apply for a ballot by mail? It’s easy!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide them with the registration form.</td>
<td>• Provide them with the information about voting by mail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Forms are available from your state or local elections office.</td>
<td>• Applications can be downloaded from the state or local elections office or completed online.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Some states allow online voter registration.</td>
<td><strong>Would you like assistance to complete the application for a ballot by mail?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Would you like assistance to complete the registration form?</strong></td>
<td>• You may assist them in completing the absentee ballot application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• You may assist them in completing the registration form.</td>
<td><strong>Voting by mail applications must be submitted must be sent in to the state or local elections office in advance of the voter registration deadline. Check with your local or state elections office for more information.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Voter Registration Forms must be sent in to the state or local elections office in advance of the voter registration deadline. Check with your local or state elections office for more information.**
Questions and Contact Information
Additional information and resources are available at www.aapd.com/REVUP. If you have any questions or would like to discuss a strategy to REV UP your library, please reach out to either contact below:

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