

Disability Pride Month Collab Video

0:00

Disability Pride Month is a reminder of the power disabled people hold, honoring the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a law that was passed because we took up space and fought for our future.

0:09

As we honor how far we've come and look forward to the fight ahead, one of the most powerful ways to continue shaping our future is by making our voices heard at the ballot box.

0:17

But people with disabilities are less likely to vote than people without disabilities and are three times more likely to experience difficulty with voting.

0:23

Accessibility barriers play a major role in this and closing the disability turn out gap could help as many as 2,000,000 more people particularly participate in our democracy.

0:31

Knowing your rights as a disabled voter is one way to help close the gap.

0:34

So let's review.

0:35

Polling places are required by the ADA to be accessible to voters with disabilities, but you don't have to vote in person.

0:41

Many voters with disabilities are eligible to vote by mail and every state provides absentee voting options, though the rules vary by state.

0:48

And last month the Supreme Court issued a ruling in the case Watson VRNC.

0:52

It upheld states authority to count mail in ballots that are postmarked by Election Day, even if they arrive after Election Day.

0:58

Before Election Day, you can check state's voting rules, deadlines and accommodations at vote411.org.

1:04

This is especially helpful because there are still hurdles to mail in ballots in some states.

1:09

13 states Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia require you to provide a reason to request an absentee ballot, and in each of those states, having a disability counts as a valid reason.

1:24

11 states require you to notarize or witness absentee ballots Alabama, Arkansas, Alaska, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Wisconsin.

1:34

If you want to vote in person, you have the right to request accommodations that you need in order to vote.

1:39

This could include large print materials, an audio ballot, someone to help you vote, an accessible voting device, an ASL interpreter, and more.

1:46

You can contact your local election office before Election Day to ensure that your polling place will have the accommodations you need.

1:52

So check your registration, find your polling place, and make a voting plan at vote411.org.

1:57

Disabled folks have shown time and time again how powerful we are, and at a time when our rights are under attack, we need to use every tool we have to fight back and take pride in the long disability tradition of resistance.