

Monthly tips and resources for young adults, their families, and supporters who are exploring options for life after high school in Indiana.

Shape the Future: Vote

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The Importance of Voting

Voting is one of the most powerful ways young adults can impact the world they live in. Your voice matters, your experiences matter, and your perspective matters. When you vote, you help decide who makes the laws in your state and for the whole country.

Why Your Vote Matters

Your vote is a statement about the future you want. Young adults with disabilities often face unique challenges in education, employment, transportation, healthcare, and community access. Elected leaders make decisions that directly affect these areas. When you vote, you help choose leaders who understand your needs and who will fight for accessibility, inclusion, and equal opportunity.



Some people believe their vote doesn't count, but that's simply not true. Many elections are decided by very small margins, sometimes by just a few votes. When more people with disabilities vote, it sends a clear message that your community is paying attention and expects to be heard.

Your Voting Rights

You have the right to vote privately and independently. Federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), require polling places to be accessible. This includes making sure that there are audio ballots, tactile buttons, or large print available. It also includes making sure the physical space has accessible entrances, ramps, elevators, and wide doorways.

You also have the right to receive assistance if you want it. You can bring someone you trust to help you vote, or you can ask a poll worker for assistance. If getting to the polls is difficult, absentee or

mail-in voting may be available in your state. These options exist to make sure every eligible voter can vote.

Taking the Next Step

Voting also helps you stay informed and engaged. It encourages you to learn about important issues, ask questions, and speak up. You have a valuable perspective that many policymakers don't have. Your vote helps bring that perspective into the decision-making process.

You don't have to be an expert to vote. You just need to take the first step, register. After that, you can explore candidates, learn about issues, and decide what matters most to you. Your voice is powerful. Your vote is your tool. And your participation helps build a more accessible, inclusive future for everyone.



Resources

- [Governor's Council for People with Disabilities: Your Vote is Your Voice](#)
- [Indiana Disability Rights: Hoosiers Vote](#)
- [Indiana Disability Rights: Know Your Rights at the Polls](#)
- [Vote.gov: Register to Vote or Update Your Registration](#)

What's Next? is a project of the Center on Community Living and Careers.

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