



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
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EAC Promotes National Disability Voter Registration Week

Builds on Efforts to Make Voting More Accessible for Individuals with Disabilities

SILVER SPRING, MD – The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) today extended support for the country’s first National Disability Voter Registration Week (NDVRW) taking place July 11-15, 2016.

The effort is spearheaded by the 2016 REV Up Campaign, which stands for “Register! Educate! Vote!,” a national drive to get people with disabilities registered to vote and raise awareness about disability rights issues and the importance of the disability vote.

Today’s announcement follows several recent EAC initiatives related to voting accessibility. Resources related to these initiatives are available on the commission’s website at [BeReady16](#). These initiatives include:

- [EAC Public Hearing on Accessible Voting](#) to receive testimony from election administrators and voters with disabilities about the progress made since passage of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). HAVA requires that individuals with disabilities be given the same opportunity to vote freely and independently as all other voters.
- EAC released a voting rights card to assist voters with disabilities at the polls, and has since released a [voting rights card in braille](#) and large print to assist voters who are visually impaired and blind as they prepare to participate in the 2016 presidential election.
- EAC jointly convened a [Language Access Summit](#) to provide information to American voters whose primary language is other than English.

EAC Chairman Thomas Hicks voiced the commission’s support.

“We are proud to work with these organizations in this historic effort,” said Chairman Hicks. “The Commission is making resources available on its website for election officials to use to ensure polling places and other election services are accessible for voters with disabilities as part of its [#BeReady16 effort](#),” he said. “The EAC encourages all eligible Americans, including those with disabilities, to register to vote and BeReady16.”

There are nearly 30 million people with disabilities eligible to vote when registered. During National Disability Voter Registration Week, REV Up Campaigns around the country are making a concerted effort to get more people with disabilities registered to vote, educate voters, promote turnout of voters with disabilities across the country, engage the public and the media on disability issues, and protect eligible voters' right to participate in elections.

At a level that has never been achieved before, national and state disability organizations are actively registering voters, educating them about their rights and options for accessing the vote, and getting them excited and engaged leading up to the presidential election this November. These include the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL), #CripTheVote, the DO Network, the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), REV Up Massachusetts, REV Up Texas, the Texas Disability Project, #VoteDisability, and several other state and local disability rights organizations.

For more information on the REV Up Campaign and National Disability Voter Registration Week, visit www.aapd.com/REVUP. The REV UP Campaign offers a host of resources on the 2016 election, registering to vote, ways to drive civic engagement, and a compilation of state-specific resources and events.

To access a broad range of resources and best practices to help election administrators and voters in the 2016 presidential election year, visit EAC's website at BeReady16.

The EAC is an independent bipartisan commission created by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002. HAVA was passed by the U.S. Congress to make sweeping reforms to the nation's voting process, address improvements to voting systems and voter access that were identified following the 2000 election, and to provide federal funding to states for new voting equipment. HAVA mandates that the EAC test and certify voting equipment, maintain the National Voter Registration form, conduct research, and administer a national clearinghouse on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve elections. More information is available at EAC.gov.