

A large orange circle is partially visible on the left side of the slide. Overlapping its right edge is a solid blue square. The text 'Voting For Students in Transition' is written in white, sans-serif font within the blue square.

# Voting For Students in Transition

- James Ziegler
    - Staff Attorney
    - Disability Rights Center-NH
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- A decorative yellow dashed line consisting of several short, curved segments is located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

# Disability Rights Center

- Who we are
- What we do
- Contact DRC-NH:
  - (603) 228-0432
  - [mail@drcnh.org](mailto:mail@drcnh.org)

# Topics we Will Discuss



New Voting  
Registration Law



Why is Voting  
Important?



What to Expect when  
Voting



How to ask for  
accommodations

# Why is voting important?

- Express your feelings about issues you care about
- Chance to elect a candidate who will represent how you feel about issues
- What issues are important to you?
  - Education
  - Health Care
  - Gun Safety
  - TikTok

# New Voting Education Law

- Schools must now discuss voting with transition-age students
- Applies to all students 17 or older who have an IEP or 504 plan
- Helps students with disabilities become more active citizens.

# How Schools Can Help

- When teams meet to review or develop an IEP or 504 plan, they need to talk about voting with student and their family.
- Provide information about voting and how to register to vote, if the student is interested.
- If accommodations are required, team should develop a plan to help.
- Registering to vote can be added as a “short-term” goal in IEP or 504 plan

# Why is this law important?

- Young people are much less likely to be registered.
- Encourages community participation and civic engagement.
- Increases the rate of voting for people with disabilities.
- Helps make the voices of the disability community heard.

# How Can DRC Help?

- Provide advice to students and their families
- Answer questions that educators may have
- Don't hesitate to contact us
  - Educators can contact us, too!
  - Call us at (603)228-0432



# Basics of Voter Registration

# Registering to Vote – Requirements

- Must turn 18 before the next election
  - Citizen of the United States
  - Reside in the town or city where you will be voting
- 
- NOTE: You can vote even if you have a legal guardian!

# Documents Needed to Register

- **Proof of Age**
  - Driver's license or non-driver ID (government issued)
  - Birth certificate
- **Proof of Citizenship**
  - Birth certificate
  - Passport /Naturalization Papers
- **Proof of Residency/Domicile**
  - Call your town/city clerk with any questions

# Registering to Vote

- You must register before you can vote!
  - **2 weeks before the election** (town/city hall)
- OR
- Same-day registration (polling place)
  
- Absentee Ballot:
  - **Requests** can be made until **the day before** election
  - Must be **returned by 5 p.m.** on election day

# Having a Disability Doesn't Prevent You From Voting!

- “No person shall be deemed incompetent...**to vote**... Solely by reason of his or her developmental disability” - NH RSA 171-A:14
- A guardian cannot take away your right to vote!
- Voters with communication disabilities, too!

# 2 Ways to Vote in New Hampshire

- 1. **In-Person** on the day of the election
- 2. **Absentee Voting** – Cast your ballot before the election.

# Absentee Voting

- If you are unable to vote in person, you can vote with an absentee ballot **before the election**
- You can register in person and vote absentee in one trip to your local Town Hall
- **You must ask for an absentee ballot. It will not be automatically sent to you!**

# Using an Absentee Ballot

1. Fill it Out
  2. Mail it Back **OR** Drop it off at the Clerk's office
- Absentee ballots must be returned before 5 p.m. on election day
  - Late absentee ballots will not be counted!



# What to expect on Election Day

- Expect a crowd
- Bring your ID
- Give your name and show a photo ID
  - May need to register first
- Fill out ballot in private booth
- Hand it to poll worker/machine for counting

# Accommodations

Help Filling Out Your Ballot  
Architectural Accessibility  
Communication  
Mistakes



# Private and Independent Voting

- You have a right to vote privately
  - You don't have to tell other people who you chose
- You have a right to vote independently
  - No one needs to help you vote

# Accessible Location

- Every polling place in New Hampshire is required to be physically accessible
  - Parking lot & entrance
  - Voting machine, lower tables, and larger booths for people in wheelchairs



# One4all Accessible Voting System

- One4all is a tablet-based system designed to help people with disabilities exercise their right to vote
- Vote by either using keyboard or touch screen
- Your choices are printed on the same ballot used by other voters
- Try it on Election Day

# One4all Accessible Voting System

- Reasons to use the one4all
  - Promote awareness of the need for accommodations
  - Easy to use
  - It's fun!
- Currently used for federal elections.



# Filling Out Your Ballot

- You are allowed to have someone help you fill out the ballot
  - Family or friends can help
  - A poll worker can also help you
- Ask for help if you need it!

# Mistakes

- You **are** allowed to have your ballot replaced if you make a mistake
- If you make a mistake, tell the moderator. He or she will give you a new ballot
- You only get **3 chances** to mark your ballot correctly, so be very careful when you are filling out a replacement ballot



# What If You Need Help?

- If you have a problem voting, or if someone is denying your right to vote, here are some people you can call:
  - New Hampshire Secretary of State:
    - (603) 271-3242
  - Disability Rights Center-NH:
    - (603) 228-0432



# Pro Tips and Best Practices



# Preparing to Vote

- Remember to bring your ID
- Vote in every election-
  - Local elections are important too!
- Research the candidates
- Make a plan to vote
- Voting Tool Kit



# Research The Candidates

- It is important to research the candidates to figure out who you will be voting for
- Lots of available resources online
  - Ballotpedia contains lots of information about many specific candidates
  - Be careful about **ads** and **social media posts**
- Talk to candidates, they want to hear from you!

# Make a Plan to Vote

- Get Registered
- If you are voting absentee, request your ballot now (or when you register).
- If you are voting in person, make sure you know where you vote and how you will get to the polling place.
  - Transportation options

# Voting Tool Kit

- Available for free online ([drcnh.org](http://drcnh.org))

Easy to understand

Explains the voting process

Your voting rights

Contact information for help

# Any Questions???



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