



Questions About Absentee Ballots or Voting Issues?

Disability Rights Ohio is a Resource!

You may already know that **Disability Rights Ohio (DRO)** is the federally mandated protection and advocacy system for the state of Ohio. And you may know that our mission is to advocate for the human, civil and legal rights of people with disabilities in Ohio.

But did you know that **DRO is a key resource for voters with disabilities?** We're here to answer questions, provide information and referrals, or try to help resolve problems or issues that could prevent voters from casting a ballot.

For example, we're available to provide advice about and help with things like:

- **Requesting an absentee ballot.** If you cannot or do not want to vote in person, you have the right to request an absentee ballot. For the 2020 general election, your county board of elections must receive your request for an absentee ballot by 12 p.m. on Saturday, October 31. Even so, you should request your ballot sooner to avoid delays.
- **Voting, even when you have been unexpectedly hospitalized before Election Day.** If you or your minor child are unexpectedly hospitalized before Election Day, you still have a right to vote, even if the hospital is in a different county from where you are registered to vote.
- **Getting assistance completing an absentee ballot.** You have the right to get help from the county board of elections to complete your ballot, if you need assistance because of your disability. Local boards of election and precinct officials are considered "personnel who are necessary to the operation of" nursing homes. So if you live in a nursing home but the facility does not otherwise allow visitors, it should allow local boards of elections and precinct officials on site to help you complete your absentee ballot if you request this assistance. Other facilities, like hospitals, may still have visitor restrictions. If your facility does not allow visitors inside, then it may deputize building staff as poll workers to help you complete your ballot.

Contact DRO for assistance navigating these and other complex issues that may arise. You can reach us before Election Day by:

- **Calling DRO's Intake Line at 614-466-7264 or 800-282-9181.** Note: due to the ongoing pandemic, our advocates are primarily working remotely, so please leave a voicemail with your concern and we will call you back.
- **Completing our online Intake Form**, found at: <https://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/intake-form>

DRO will also operate a Voter Hotline from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Election Day, November 3, 2020. Just **call 614-466-7264 or 800-282-9181** and follow the prompts to reach our hotline.