

# Resident Voting Rights

## What Residents Can Do

### Ask for help!

You can request assistance from your family and the community in which you live to vote, obtain a ballot, and register.

### Request a Voter Registration Card

A registration card can be mailed to you or printed from the internet.

### Request a Ballot

You can vote several weeks before the election by mail if you are at least 65 or homebound.

### Contact Candidates

Ask candidates to come speak about the issues in your community and take the opportunity to ask questions.

### Stay informed!

Contact VOYCE or other local organizations for more information on local initiatives and legislation.

## What Communities Can Do

### Assist with Registration

Hold registration events well before the election to ensure everyone who wants to vote, can vote.

### Provide Unbiased Information

Post election dates and resident rights around the community.

### Encourage Residents

Make voting fun; Host debate watching parties and schedule election-related events. Contact VOYCE for more ideas.

### Invite Candidates to Speak

Invite candidates from both parties.

### Practice!

Distribute practice ballots prior to the elections.

### Assist with Voting

Help residents with mail-in ballots.

### Become a Polling Place!

Or arrange transportation for residents.

## What Families Can Do

### Assist with Registration and Voting

At the request of a resident, you can request an absentee ballot, help with registration, and assist in voting.

### Advocate in Communities

Ask the long-term care community to post election information and host election events for residents.

### Discuss Voting with your Resident

Voting is an empowering experience for residents. Get your loved one excited to vote!

### Bring your Resident to Vote

If your resident is voting in-person, help transport them to their polling location.

### Keep Track of Voting Documents

There is a lot of paperwork involved with voting. Help your resident keep track of his or her paperwork and identification.

## Residents of Long-Term Care can still vote!

### Step 1: Register

- To register to vote you must:
  - Be a United States Citizen
  - Be older than 18
  - Never have been convicted of a felony
  - Not have a guardianship order stating you cannot vote (most guardianship orders still allow you to vote!)
- Make sure you have a state-issued ID, such as a driver's license, to register.
- Your community and family can help you get registered! You can also have a registration card mailed to you. Both can also request an absentee ballot for you.
- Make sure to register in the county in which you plan to vote.

### Step 2: Prepare

- Start thinking about how you want to vote!
- Ask your community about holding debate watching parties, inviting candidates to speak, and posting important election information.
- Ask staff at your community and your family about getting to the polls. Staff might arrange transportation; your family may drive you; or your community might be a polling place!

### *Did you know?*

*If 10 or more residents of a long-term care community want to vote, the Election Board will send a bipartisan election team to your community to set up polls!*

### Step 3: Vote!

#### **By Mail:**

- First, request your absentee ballot (see Step 1)
- Fill out your ballot! Your family members, staff members at your community, or a non-partisan election committee member can help you fill out your ballot. Remember, no one is allowed to try to influence your decisions, even if they are helping you.
- Mail your ballot back. Ballots must be received by 5 pm the Wednesday before the election.

#### **In Person:**

- If your community is a polling place, you may vote there.
- If traveling to a polling place, pollsters can help accommodate wheelchairs, or come to your car to help you vote there.
- Don't forget to bring your ID!