



**Rhode Island  
Disability Law Center**

The Designated Protection and  
Advocacy System for Rhode Island



**The Alliance for Better Long Term  
Care: Office of the Rhode Island State  
Ombudsman for Long Term Care**

In preparation for the 2018 Mid-term Elections, the Alliance for Better Long Term Care, Rhode Island's Long Term Care Ombudsman Program and the Rhode Island Disability Law Center, Rhode Island's Protection and Advocacy agency for people with disabilities are pleased to provide you with information about voting rights and voting resources to assist you in fulfilling your duty to support the voting rights of your residents.

Residents with the right to vote may vote if they are registered to vote, want to vote and can make choices about how to vote. They may need assistance or assistive technology to complete the registration form, an application for a mail ballot, or the ballot. Unless a court has specifically determined that they lack the capacity to vote, if they meet the registration requirements, your residents have the right to vote. **We are jointly promoting that you offer all residents the opportunity to vote unless a court has specifically determined that they lack the capacity to vote.** We recognize that questions may arise regarding some residents' capacity to vote, particularly if they have a legal guardian, or have cognitive limitations due to Alzheimer's disease, another dementia, or another disability. However, the right to vote is a fundamental right protected by the Constitution. Therefore, the right to vote cannot be taken away except by a court that specifically finds after notice and hearing that the individual lacks the capacity to vote. Absent such a court order, all residents who meet the registration requirements have the right to vote and should be offered the opportunity to vote.

You and the residents may call the Rhode Island Disability Law Center (RIDLC) if you have disability-related questions about voting rights. RIDLC maintains a Voting Rights Hotline during business hours and when the polls are open. We are also enclosing information about voting rights, registration requirements, photo ID requirements for people who vote at the polls, voting deadlines, and copies of the Mail Ballot Applications for the Statewide Primary Election and Statewide General Election. The Mail Ballot Applications may also be found on the RI Secretary of State's website at <https://vote.sos.ri.gov/ovr/info/publications>. We hope you will disseminate the enclosed information to your residents by posting the flyers or providing a copy to each resident. Please contact us if you would like to request electronic copies of these enclosures or a Voting Rights training.

With this information and the enclosed resources, we hope you will take pride in supporting the voting rights of your residents and play an active role in promoting electoral participation during this election season. Please contact us with questions.

Sincerely,

Kate Bowden  
Rhode Island Disability Law Center  
Tel:401-831-3150

Lorrena Nardi  
Alliance for Better Long Term Care  
Office of the Rhode Island State Long Term Care Ombudsman  
Tel: 401-785-3340