



# The National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center

VIRTUAL  OFFICE  
H  OUR

*Last  
Wednesday  
of the Month*

*August 28, 2024*



**VOTE**



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## Voting Access for Long-Term Care Consumers

Listen on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, YouTube, Facebook, SoundCloud



[theconsumervoice.org/pursuingquality](https://theconsumervoice.org/pursuingquality)

### A Conversation with Gwen Orlowski

Executive Director  
Disability Rights New Jersey



► [Voting-Access-for-Long-Term Care Consumers](#)

## ► South Carolina LTCOP

[https://ltcombudsman.org/uploads/files/support/SCLTCOP\\_Absentee\\_Voting\\_Facilities\\_Flyer\\_NB\\_logo.pdf](https://ltcombudsman.org/uploads/files/support/SCLTCOP_Absentee_Voting_Facilities_Flyer_NB_logo.pdf)

### Absentee Voting at Long Term Care Facilities

#### Reasons to Vote Absentee in Long-Term Care Facilities

- You are age 65 or older
- You are physically disabled (including illnesses)
- State of emergency

#### Persons Who Can Request an Absentee Application

- The voter.
- A member of the voter's immediate family (defined as a spouse, parents, children, brothers, sisters, grandparents, grandchildren, in-laws, mother, father, brother, sister, daughter or son).
- An authorized representative acting at the request of the voter who cannot go to the polls due to illness or disability. The authorized representative must be a registered voter.

For additional information on absentee voting in long-term care facilities, go to [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org) or call your local voter registration office.

Long-term care facility residents and other consumers receiving long-term care services and support retain their voting rights. This fact sheet is intended to provide information for all long-term care consumers on alternative ways to cast their votes during this election season to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

#### Methods to Request an Application

- Call, fax, mail, or email the county voter registration office.
- Download an application at [scvotes.org](http://scvotes.org).
- Authorized representative may make a request using the specialized form.

#### Deadlines for Submitting Absentee Application and Ballot

- Absentee applications should be returned as soon as possible and no later than 5 p.m. four days before the election.
- Absentee ballots must be received at the voter registration office by 7 p.m. on election night. Consider USPS transit times.



## ► South Carolina

### Disability Rights

[https://ltcombudsman.org/uploads/files/support/Scanner\\_20240606\\_133615.pdf](https://ltcombudsman.org/uploads/files/support/Scanner_20240606_133615.pdf)

At Disability Rights South Carolina, we strive to build a society where all people, regardless of type or severity of disability, can **exercise their right to vote** independently and privately.

From general elections to special elections, there are many opportunities to **let your voice be heard.**



★ Learn more about how your vote can shape the future by scanning the QR code or visiting:



[www.disabilityrightssc.org/voting](http://www.disabilityrightssc.org/voting)

Phone: (866) 275-7273

TTY: (866) 232-4525

VOTING IS MY  
★  
**RIGHT** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

#### HOW TO REPORT PROBLEMS

**It's time to break down the barriers to voting.**

##### Disability-Related Voting Problems:

If you have a disability-related voting problem in South Carolina, call Disability Rights South Carolina at (866) 275-7273, or email [info@disabilityrightssc.org](mailto:info@disabilityrightssc.org).

##### Non-Disability-Related Voting Problems:

If you have a non-disability-related problem voting, notify a poll manager of the issue immediately. That way, any necessary actions can be taken by the poll managers to correct the issue so that less voters are impacted moving forward.

##### Additional Questions:

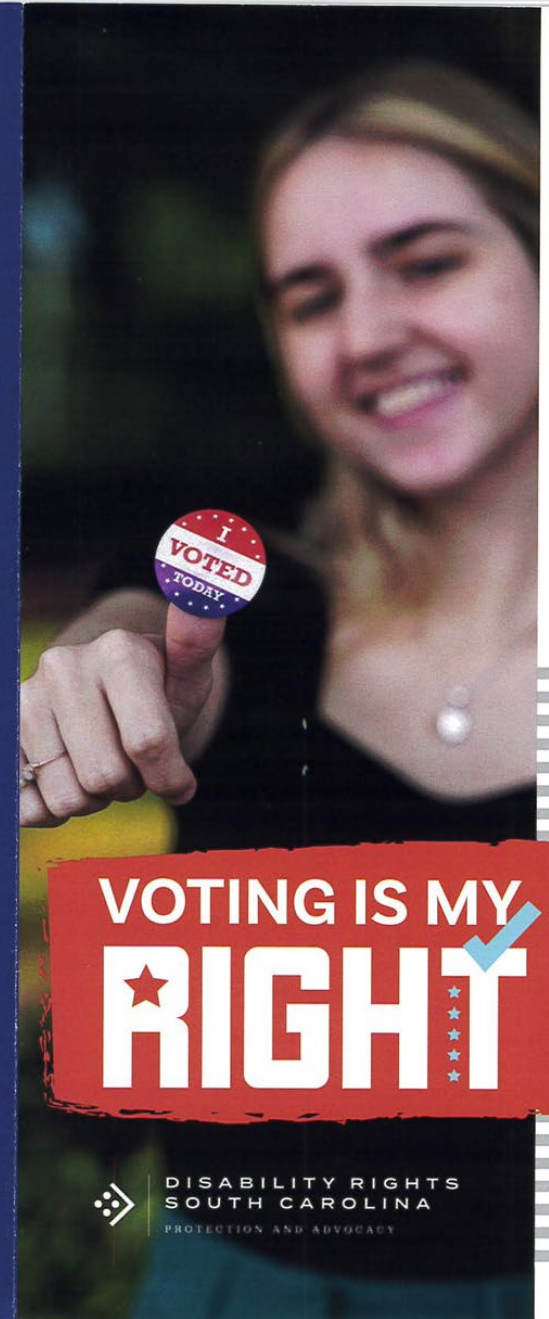
Voters can also contact Election Protection at (866) 687-8683.



★ **Voting is a right, not a privilege. Let's make it accessible to all.**

★ Learn more at:

[www.disabilityrightssc.org/voting](http://www.disabilityrightssc.org/voting)



VOTING IS MY  
★  
**RIGHT** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



DISABILITY RIGHTS  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

# ► South Carolina

## Disability Rights

### VOTER REGISTRATION

You can register at any time throughout the year, but to let your voice be heard during a specific election, you must register at least 30 days before that election.

You can register online, by mail, email, fax or in person. To register, you must:

- ★ **Be 18 years old**, or be turning 18 on or before the next election.
- ★ **Have a current, valid photo ID, or a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or government document** showing your name and address in your county (students can provide the address to their campus housing or the address they intend to return to while not in the college/university community).

### TYPES OF ELECTIONS

#### General Elections

General elections are meant for state-wide or national elections and are not limited to voters in a particular party or a specific locality.

#### Primary Elections

Primary elections give voters the opportunity to decide who from a pool of candidates should be nominated by a political party to run in the general election.

#### Special Elections

Special elections occur at a time between general elections. Special elections are frequently used to fill openings in offices or for a legislature to place a referendum before the public.

*\*A referendum is a direct vote by the electorate on a proposal, law or political issue.*

### HOW TO VOTE:

There are many ways to cast your vote:

**1.**

In person on  
Election Day at your  
polling place.

**2.**

In person on  
Election Day using  
curbside voting.

**3.**

In person at a  
voting center  
during early voting.

**4.**

Absentee voting  
by mail.



#### Voting in Person on Election Day

The design of the voting machine makes it easy to customize for your specific needs:

- ★ Tabletop placement for wheelchair accessibility.
- ★ Full-color touchscreen display with zoom functionality and a high-contrast mode.
- ★ Audio-tactile keypad.
- ★ Headphone jack.
- ★ Input for Sip-and-Puff Device and other assistive switches.

*Need assistance? Notify a poll manager. Voters with disabilities and voters who are blind or unable to read or write may receive assistance in voting.*

#### Voting in Person on Election Day via Curbside Voting

- ★ Curbside voting is available on Election Day and during the early voting period.
- ★ Upon arrival, park in the designated curbside voting parking space. Once parked, a poll worker will bring a curbside voting machine to your vehicle when it is your turn in line to vote.

#### Early Voting

- ★ Early voting allows for all registered voters to vote in person prior to Election Day.
- ★ During early voting, voters can visit any early voting center in their county, present their photo ID and vote using the voting system like they would at their polling place on Election Day.

#### Absentee Voting

- ★ Absentee voting allows qualified voters to cast their ballot before Election Day.
- ★ You can request your absentee ballot as early as January 1 of the election year.
- ★ To vote absentee, you must request an application, complete it and submit it to your county voter registration office.
- ★ Once you receive your paper ballot, you can return it to your county voter registration office or an early voting center either by mail or in person.

# Rhode Island activity

[Supporting Rhode Island Nursing Home Voting Instructional Packet](#)

Training Video:

[https://youtube.com/watch?v=gDjjC6VlvsA&si=\\_RqYAdM5Ok\\_bPrkS](https://youtube.com/watch?v=gDjjC6VlvsA&si=_RqYAdM5Ok_bPrkS)



## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF ELECTIONS

2000 Plainfield Pike, Suite A, Cranston, RI 02921

phone: 401-222-2345 | fax: 401-222-3135 | web: [www.elections.ri.gov](http://www.elections.ri.gov)

Dear Administrator,

Greetings from the State Board of Elections.

As you may know, there is a Primary Election scheduled for September 10, 2024, followed by a General Election on November 5, 2024.

Voting is a precious right that our older Rhode Island population should continue to engage in as many of the issues being addressed by our elected officials directly affect this population. In many instances, voters in care facilities cannot access a polling location and have difficulty obtaining and completing the required paperwork to receive a mail ballot.

As some of your residents may be interested in voting in both the Primary and General Election or only in the General Election, we have created a packet that you may use to assist these voters in receiving a ballot. In most facilities, this process is conducted by the Activities Director or Social Worker but knowing that many facilities are short staffed we felt it was necessary to send these instructions to Administrators as you may want to assign this to a specific staff member.

# Alaska activities

- ▶ During election years – local, state, and national cycles we typically do the following:
- ▶ Send a letter to the administrator reminding them of residents right to vote  
[Alaska Voting Rights letter to administrators 2024.pdf](#)
- ▶ Create flyers for residents – encouraging them to make a plan to vote and highlighting deadlines
- ▶ We have held virtual forums for residents educating them on Alaska's new voting system (rank choice voting)
- ▶ Post social media blasts about voting rights
- ▶ This year, we are doing a virtual educational forum for residents about *Residents Rights* in October. We will also talk about voting rights.
- ▶ Stephanie Wheeler, State LTC Ombudsman

# #LTCVotes Campaign

PDF: [LTCVotes General Outreach Poster](#)

Word: [LTCVotes General Outreach Poster editable](#)

- ▶ The Live Oak Project and Gray Panthers NYC have been working with other long-term care professionals to launch a national voting rights campaign, **#LTCVotes**.
- ▶ The aim of the campaign is to identify barriers long-term care residents face when trying to exercise their right to vote and then connect residents and leadership in long-term care communities to tangible community-based resources to help mitigate those barriers.

# #LTCVotes



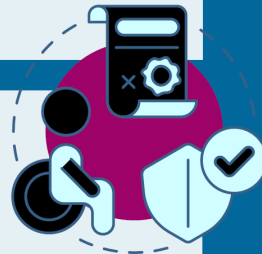
#LTCVotes is an apolitical grassroots campaign that is working to support LTC Residents' Right to vote by identifying barriers and providing resources to residents and providers.

We have created this campaign to raise awareness and provide resources to help all those who live and work in LTC promote and protect Residents' Right to vote.

## Residents retain to their right to vote

Ref: QSO-21-02-NH October 5, 2020

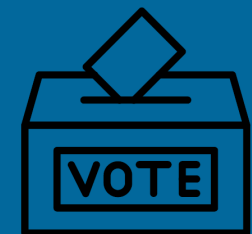
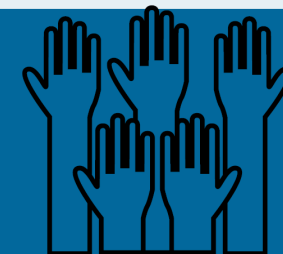
LTC residents have the right to exercise their rights as a citizen or resident of the United States and to do so without interference, coercion, discrimination or reprisal. The facility must ensure that the resident can exercise these rights.



# #LTCVotes

## Ways you can help

- **Reach out to local long-term care communities**  
Identify the local long-term care communities (Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, Intermediary Care Communities) in your area and reach out to provide them with your resources and how you can help folks exercise their right to vote.
- **Be creative!** host an event or activity and share it on social media.
- **Share local resources** The voting process varies from state to state, share any local or state resources related to voting using the hashtags
  - #[mystate]votingresource
- **Share ideas, events, and relevant information using these hashtags:**
  - # LTCRightToVote
  - #LTCVOTES
  - #RightsRestored
  - #RegisterEducateVote
  - #Myvotematters





## FACT SHEET

### Residents' Right to Vote and Ombudsman Program Advocacy

#### Right to Vote and Ombudsman Advocacy

As advocates, Ombudsman programs support all residents' right to vote and advocate on behalf of residents to ensure that they have the opportunity to participate in the electoral process.

Federal nursing home regulations ensure residents have the same rights as any other citizen or resident in the United States. This includes the right to vote.

**§483.10(b) Exercise of Rights. The resident has the right to exercise his or her rights as a resident of the facility and as a citizen or resident of the United States.**

§483.10(b)(1) The facility must ensure that the resident can exercise his or her rights without interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal from the facility.

§483.10(b)(2) The resident has the right to be free of interference, coercion, discrimination, and reprisal from the facility in exercising his or her rights and to be supported by the facility in the exercise of his or her rights as required under this subpart.

Examples of how Ombudsman programs can support residents' right to vote:

## Long-Term Care Resident's Voter Guide



Election season is an exciting time that offers a renewed opportunity to shape public policy. If you live in a nursing home, federal nursing home regulations emphasize that you have the same rights as any other citizen of the United States – **this includes your right to vote!**

[voter-guide.pdf \(theconsumervoice.org\)](https://theconsumervoice.org/voter-guide.pdf)

### What do the Federal Regulations say?

*§483.10(b) Exercise of Rights. The resident has the right to exercise his or her rights as a resident of the facility and as a citizen or resident of the United States.*

*§483.10(b)(1) The facility must ensure that the resident can exercise his or her rights without interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal from the facility.*

*§483.10(b)(2) The resident has the right to be free of interference, coercion, discrimination, and reprisal from the facility in exercising his or her rights and to be supported by the facility in the exercise of his or her rights as required under this subpart.*

# Resources

NORC website: <https://ltombudsman.org/issues/voting>

Consumer Voice website: <https://theconsumervoice.org/issues/other-issues-and-resources/voting-rights>

[ACL voting-resources-older-americans-and-people-disabilities](#)



National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

SHARE:  

October is **Residents' Rights Month**, an annual event designated by Consumer Voice to honor residents living in all long-term care facilities and those receiving care in their home or community. Residents have the right to self-determination and to use their voice to make their own choices. This year's Residents' Rights Month theme, [The Power of My Voice](#), emphasizes self-empowerment and recognizes the power of residents being vocal about their interests, personal growth, and right to live full, enriching lives.

## The Resident's Voice Challenge

Creative writing and artistic expression are meaningful and compelling ways to highlight the importance of residents' rights and how these rights can be carried out in all long-term care settings. Residents are encouraged to [get creative](#) in demonstrating the power of their voice.

**Resident's Voice Challenge  
due September 1**

Long-term care consumers, get inspired:

1. What makes you feel empowered?
2. What types of interests, hobbies or activities enrich your life?
3. How do you use your voice to empower yourself and others?



Consider using a unique medium to share your voice – make a video or audio recording describing what makes you feel empowered or what enriches your life, read a piece of original poetry or a short story, play original music or sing a song, show and tell us about your artwork, etc.

## How to Submit

1. Read the full [Resident's Voice Challenge Criteria](#) before submitting.
2. Email submissions to [info@theconsumervoice.org](mailto:info@theconsumervoice.org).
  - Include a mailing address with your submission for residents to receive certificates of participation.
  - Submissions featuring photo or videos must include completed [release forms](#) for each resident.



The National **Long-Term Care**  
**Ombudsman** Resource Center

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# Connect with us!

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 [ltcombudsman.org](https://ltcombudsman.org)

 [ombudcenter@theconsumervoice.org](mailto:ombudcenter@theconsumervoice.org)

 The National LTC Ombudsman Resource Center

 @LTCombudcenter



Get our app! Search for "LTC Ombudsman Resource Center" in the Apple Store or Google Play

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