

# **NVRA: Expanding Voter Registration Access to People with Disabilities in California**



**Presented by:  
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# **Partnership and Collaboration**

## **Different Levels of Outreach/ Education Campaign**

- Directly to people with disabilities: collaboration with Peer Advocate

# Voting Rights Training to Individuals with Disabilities



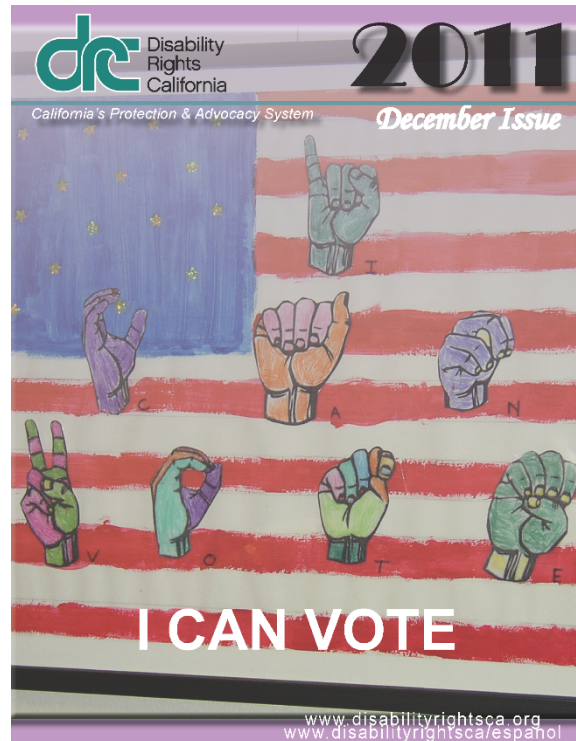
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- Directly to people with disabilities: collaboration with regional center and service provider


# Partnership and Collaboration

Juried Voter Poster Contest for Artists with Disabilities.  
Theme: "Voting: My Right and Responsibilities"



## SPOTLIGHT ON

### VOTER EDUCATION PROJECT ATTRACTS TALENTS FROM SEVERAL COUNTIES



Voter education is the focus of a collaborative project between the Sacramento Regional office, the Developmental Disability Peer/Self Advocacy unit and the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy, Far Northern Regional Center, Area Board II, and We Care A Lot Foundation. The project promotes voter education and registration for consumers living in Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity Counties.

Over 40 entries were received for a juried poster contest and exhibition for consumers on the theme "Voting: My Right and Responsibilities."

On September 12, 2011, the artists' reception opened with comments from Tammy Torum, executive director of We Care A Lot Foundation, who thanked many of the organizations that helped put the project together. The highlight of the reception was the opportunity for attendees to vote for their favorite poster. As part of the project, a voting booth was set up to help consumers participate in the process of voting.

Nina Marie Coker's poster was selected as the recipient of the Award of Excellence and Audience Favorite. Ms. Coker is a 37 year old woman with cerebral palsy, who speaks American Sign Language. It was a proud moment for Nina's father who said, "We are very proud of her. She has a very strong spirit."

"It was very inspiring just to see how people view voting and their right to vote," said Brandi Seater, Vote project coordinator for We Care A Lot Foundation.

Mary Ann Weston, community relations advocacy supports specialist for Far Northern Regional Center, remarked, "It was a success-it was awesome! Entries came from individuals living independently and those who participate in day programs." Among those present were Disability Rights California staff attorney, Tho Vinh Banh and Legislative Advocate, Brandon Tartaglia; and Clients' Rights Advocate, Andy Holcombe; and Area Board II Executive Director, Robin Keehn.

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# Partnership and Collaboration

**Theatre In The Now:** Performance Art by  
People with Disabilities for People with Disabilities.

**"Your Rights, Your Voice, Your Vote"**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=ucUEBRvOuec](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucUEBRvOuec)

# **Partnership and Collaboration**

## **Different Levels of Outreach/ Education Campaign**

- To agencies that provide services to people with disabilities: collaboration with ACLU and SOS**

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## **Different Levels of Outreach/ Education Campaign**

- To public assistance agencies:  
collaboration with ACLU and  
SOS**



# **Rights to Register and Vote**

## **Common misconceptions:**

- If the person has a disability: physical, psychiatric, intellectual, developmental disability, etc.
- If the person is not able to read or write
- if the person uses a wheelchair
- If the person is under a conservatorship

# Rights to Register and Vote

Parent, Conservator, Social Worker, Case Manager, Service Coordinator, Service Provider, etc. do not have the right to decide whether a person with a disability has the right to register and vote.

# Thank You!!

- Election Day Hotline: 1-800-776-5746
- For more information and publications on voting rights of individuals with disabilities:  
<http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/pubs/PublicationsVoting.htm>