# Supporting People With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities During the Voting Process

# Slide 1:

## Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Include:

Intellectual Disability

Formerly Referred to as Mental Retardation

The term of Mental Retardation can be considered offensive and should not be used

Cerebral Palsy

Epilepsy

Autism

Other disabilities needing supports similar to Intellectual Disability

# Slide 2:

## Supports That Often Work Well for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Include:

Tailored Support During All Phases Of the Voting Process

Assistance with Registering

Help with Voting Preparation

Help with Researching Candidates and Issues

Someone Trusted to Ask Questions of Who Will Remain Neutral

Adapted and/or Alternatively Formatted Materials

Help with “Vote by Mail” Materials

Help with Transportation

Assistance at The Polls

This Includes Assistance with the Ballot

# Slide 3:

## Sometimes The “Rules” Do Not Meet Everyone's Needs!

# Many Accessibility Guidelines are Currently Directed at Written and Electronic Formats

# No set of guidelines can meet all people’s accessibility needs

# This also applies to different disability groups

# “Different Folks Different Strokes”

# For Example

# Slide 4:

## PREPARE YOURSELF

Here are some things you can do to help you decide how to vote:

Read the Sample Ballot that is mailed to you

Talk to your family, friends, or neighbors

Read or listen to the news

Talk to disability rights groups or your People First Group

# Slide 5:

## Things That Create Barriers:

Being treated differently due to disability status:

Having voting rights inappropriately taken away

Misperceptions of family, support staff and community

Barriers at Poll site by staff or other voters

Lack of appropriate support

Literacy issues

Lack of transportation assistance

# Slide 6:

## Things That Support the Voting Experience For All, Including People With Disabilities:

All Voters are adults

Focus on including the person in the voting process, and provide voting related support needs

Don’t focus just on their disability status

Talk to and ask questions of the voter not the person with them

It’s OK to acknowledge the other person

Ask questions as appropriate, and needed, then take the persons’ lead

Offer assistance, accommodations and adaptive equipment,

But do not insist on their use

Be welcoming and polite

# Slide 7:

## We Would Be Delighted To Answer Your Questions or Concerns.

Thank You!

You Have Been A Fabulous Audience.