

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

# **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**

# 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

*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**

# 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

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**

General Election  
Tuesday, November 4, 2008  
Wayne County, Michigan  
City of Detroit

**Instructions:** Carefully mark the box next to each name as shown. **DO NOT USE A PENCIL OR BALLPOINT PEN.** If you are unable to mark the ballot, you may have a "marked ballot" if you request it at the polling place. If you are unable to mark the ballot, you may have a "marked ballot" if you request it at the polling place.

**Check for Errors:** Verify the name of the candidate, the number of the race, and the number of the ballot. If you are unable to mark the ballot, you may have a "marked ballot" if you request it at the polling place.

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PARTISAN SECTION	LEGISLATIVE	STATE OFFICES
<p><b>REPRESENTATIVE TO STATE LEGISLATURE</b></p> <p>Vote for six state representatives.</p> <p>Republican Party</p> <p>Democratic Party</p> <p>Green Party</p> <p>U.S. Taxpayers Party</p> <p>Libertarian Party</p> <p>ProLife Party</p> <p>ProLife Party</p>	<p><b>REPRESENTATIVE TO STATE LEGISLATURE</b></p> <p>Vote for six state representatives.</p> <p>Republican Party</p> <p>Democratic Party</p> <p>Green Party</p> <p>U.S. Taxpayers Party</p> <p>Libertarian Party</p> <p>ProLife Party</p> <p>ProLife Party</p>	<p><b>STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION</b></p> <p>Vote for six state board members.</p> <p>Republican Party</p> <p>Democratic Party</p> <p>Green Party</p> <p>U.S. Taxpayers Party</p> <p>Libertarian Party</p> <p>ProLife Party</p> <p>ProLife Party</p>
		<p><b>GOVERNOR</b></p> <p>Vote for one governor.</p> <p>Republican Party</p> <p>Democratic Party</p> <p>Green Party</p> <p>U.S. Taxpayers Party</p> <p>Libertarian Party</p> <p>ProLife Party</p> <p>ProLife Party</p>
		<p><b>COMMISSIONER OF STATE POLICE</b></p> <p>Vote for one commissioner.</p> <p>Republican Party</p> <p>Democratic Party</p> <p>Green Party</p> <p>U.S. Taxpayers Party</p> <p>Libertarian Party</p> <p>ProLife Party</p> <p>ProLife Party</p>
		<p><b>ATTORNEY GENERAL</b></p> <p>Vote for one attorney general.</p> <p>Republican Party</p> <p>Democratic Party</p> <p>Green Party</p> <p>U.S. Taxpayers Party</p> <p>Libertarian Party</p> <p>ProLife Party</p> <p>ProLife Party</p>
		<p><b>PROSECUTOR GENERAL</b></p> <p>Vote for one prosecutor general.</p> <p>Republican Party</p> <p>Democratic Party</p> <p>Green Party</p> <p>U.S. Taxpayers Party</p> <p>Libertarian Party</p> <p>ProLife Party</p> <p>ProLife Party</p>

# **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**

# 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**

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

**Thank You!**

**You Have Been A Fabulous Audience.**

