



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES

PRESS RELEASE



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Making their voices heard

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES READY TO CAST THEIR VOTE TUESDAY

Washington, DC—Participants in the day and employment services programs at The Bridges Center in northwest D.C. will head to the polls November 8 well-informed and confident about their choice for the next President of the United States. The Bridges Center supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Husband and wife team Christopher and Deborah West opened the center in 2012 to give people with disabilities a fresh start in achieving self-determined lives. The people they support have learned that one way to make a difference is to vote.

Through mock debates, voter simulations, and watching the debates and news coverage of the election process, people with disabilities have become well-acquainted with what each candidate represents. Some took advantage of early voting, others waiting to cast their vote will do so tomorrow, Tuesday, November 8, 11 am at the Metropolitan Police Department Regional Command, 801 Shepherd Street, NW. Bridges Center staff will accompany clients to the polls.

WHAT: People with Disabilities Casting their Vote in the 2016 Presidential Election

WHEN: Tuesday, November 8, 2016, 11:00 am

WHERE: MPD Regional Command, 801 Shepherd Street, NW

STATS: A recent study conducted by Rutgers University indicated that people with disabilities will account for approximately one sixth of eligible voters in the 2016 election, totaling 35.4 million people.

The report also indicated that there are 62.7 million eligible voters who either have a disability or have a household member with a disability, more than one-fourth of the total electorate.

Nearly 10,000 District residents have developmental disabilities.

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The Department on Disability Services is a dynamic organization serving people with disabilities through the services of was Developmental Disabilities Administration and the Rehabilitation Services Administration. This comprehensive collaborative approach provides innovative high quality services that enable people with disabilities to lead productive lives as vital members of their families, schools, workplaces, and communities. Learn more at www.dds.dc.gov and follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/DDS.DC>.