

# Policy Profile

## Your Vote Counts

**-Submitted by Hanni Raley, Assistant Executive Director-**

No amount of craziness in the world can hold back the upcoming election because Tuesday, November 3, 2020, is Election Day! From local candidates and issues to national representatives, and even the president, the ballot will be bursting this year. Never a better time to cast your election ballot and to be sure that your elected representatives are a true representation of you and your community. Below are some helpful hints to cast your election ballot!

### **What are the voting rights of people with disabilities?**

Voters with disabilities are guaranteed the right to access campaign, rally, and election spaces, and to vote privately and independently as prescribed by federal laws. **Inclusion and access for voters with disabilities is not just good practice; it is the law!** [The Arc of Aurora's](#) social enterprise [THINK+change](#) created a no-cost training offering information to those charged with holding elections to help ensure their processes are accessible to and inclusive of people with disabilities as prescribed by federal laws. Check it out [here](#) and enroll today!

### **What if a person with a disability faces a challenge voting?**

Colorado Elections are ACCESSIBLE, SAFE, AND SECURE. However, if you have trouble voting, if someone tries to pressure you about how to vote, or if you see someone pressuring someone else with a disability about how to vote call Disability Law Colorado at 303-722-0300 or toll-free 1-800-238-1376. Disability Law Colorado can help as they have people trained in disability voting rights.

Another resource if a person with a disability faces challenges in voting is to call the Election Protection hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE. Trained attorneys are available to assist.

### **Curious about the mail-in ballot process?**

Every registered voter in Colorado will begin receiving an election ballot in the mail, to the address they are registered under, starting Friday, October 9, 2020. If you choose to mail in your ballot, you must send it by U.S. mail by Friday, October 30, 2020, for your ballot to be counted. Don't forget to check how much postage you need on the envelope they provide you, you may need 2 stamps.

### **Can I drop off my ballot?**

You can drop off your election ballot any time before 7:00 PM Tuesday, November 3, 2020, at a 24-hour drop off location or your local polling center. To find the nearest polling center or drop box, check your county [here](#).

### **Can I vote online?**

YES! For the first time, voters with a qualifying disability may access and vote using an electronic ballot in Colorado. If you have a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), you are eligible to vote via electronic ballot in Colorado. Visit the [Secretary of State's website](#) to be guided through the online ballot process. When you are finished you will be asked to print and sign the electronic ballot and application form, placing both in an envelope. Make sure you write "Ballot Enclosed" on the envelope. Your ballot and application must be collected at a drop off location or received by mail by 7pm on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, to be sure your vote is counted!

### **Prefer to vote in person?**

After Friday, October 30, 2020, you can go to an in-person Voter Service and Polling Center in your county to register, update your address, drop off your ballot, vote, or solve any election-related issues. To find the nearest Voter Service and Polling Center, check your county [here](#).

## **General questions about the voting process?**

[Just Vote! Colorado](#) is a non-partisan voter assistance project, not affiliated with or promoting any party, candidate, or ballot issue. They are a resource for everyone! Visit [www.justvotecolorado.org](http://www.justvotecolorado.org) to find a statewide list of Voter Service and Polling Stations, register to vote, update your address to receive a mail ballot, locate your nearest drop box, general FAQs, and other relevant info on the election. For more resources, visit the Colorado Secretary of State [Election page](#) to register to vote, review your voter record to make sure your information is up to date, view a sample ballot, and to track your completed ballot.

Lastly, don't forget about The Arc of Aurora! If you have any questions about voting, the election, or your right to vote – contact your Individual Advocate or our main number at 720-213-1420.