

MICHIGAN



MP&As

**PROTECTION & ADVOCACY
SERVICE, INC.**

*"PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES"*

Voting Policy and Informed Voting

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Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service, Inc.
(MPAS)

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Barriers to Voting

A 2012 study found that **35 million** potential voters have disabilities but vote **12%** less often.

Rutgers University, 2012

A **2014 survey** of voters in five states found that one of the greatest barriers reported by voters to a good voting experience was their own lack of education on candidates and issues (**25%**).

Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), 2014

Barriers to Voting

Some voters with disabilities had issues with:

- filling out an absentee ballot
- getting transportation to the polls
- casting a private ballot
- using accessible voting equipment
- navigating polls in wheelchairs
- getting fair treatment by poll workers



SABE, 2014

Policy Issues

- New voting machines
- Absentee voting reasons and accessibility
- Voter registration – online registration, pre-registration, verification of voter rolls
- Voter IDs
- Cybersecurity, immigration, politics

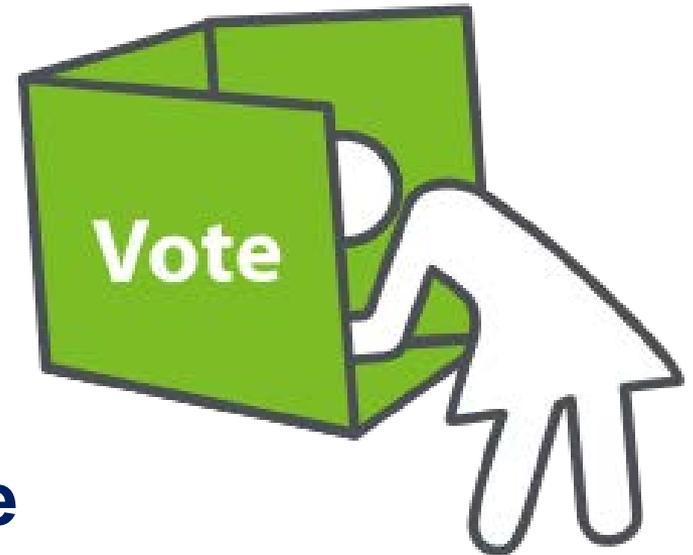


Access Resources

- U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Guides,
https://www.ada.gov/ada_voting/ada_voting_ta.htm
- American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) Voter Resource Center and REV-UP Campaign,
<https://www.aapd.com/advocacy/voting/voter-resource-center/>
- Election Protection Hotline,
<https://www.866ourvote.org/>

Informed Voting 101

- Review the ballot
- Understand policies
- The informed vote
- Candidate forums
- Local voting
- National voting
- Isidewith.com
- **Vote your conscience**



Review the Ballot

- Where to get a sample ballot (Michigan SOS website and County Clerk's websites)
- Read your sample ballot
- It can be confusing – ask questions
- Research the issues



Understand Policies

- What will people gain or lose?
- Research who supports the policy
- How will the candidate vote?
- How will this policy affect
 - You
 - Family
 - Neighborhood
 - Community



The Informed Vote

- Research policy platforms
- Visit your legislators website
- Fact check websites (non-partisan)
 - Politifact
 - Govtrack
 - Ballotpedia
 - Bridge Truth Tour



Candidate Forums

- Engage the candidate
- Ask questions if
 - You wonder how a policy will be carried out
 - They support a policy you oppose
 - Their voting record does not agree with their words



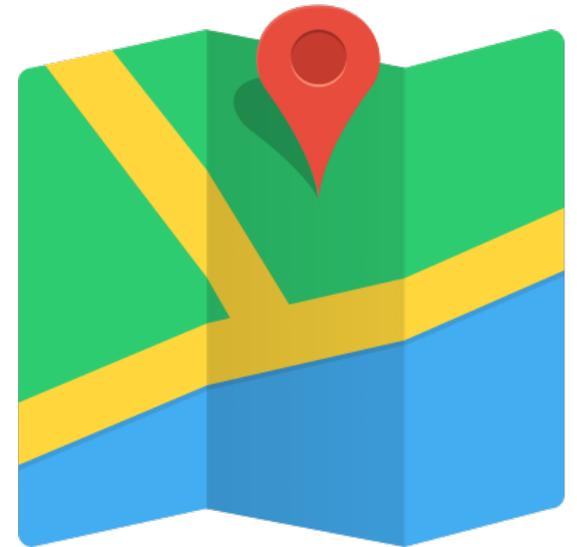
Candidate Forums, Cont'd

- Ask “how or “why” questions
- Listen carefully to candidates answers
- Weigh the pros and cons



Local Voting

- What is affecting your community
- Candidates ties to your community
- City Hall meetings
- Pros and cons



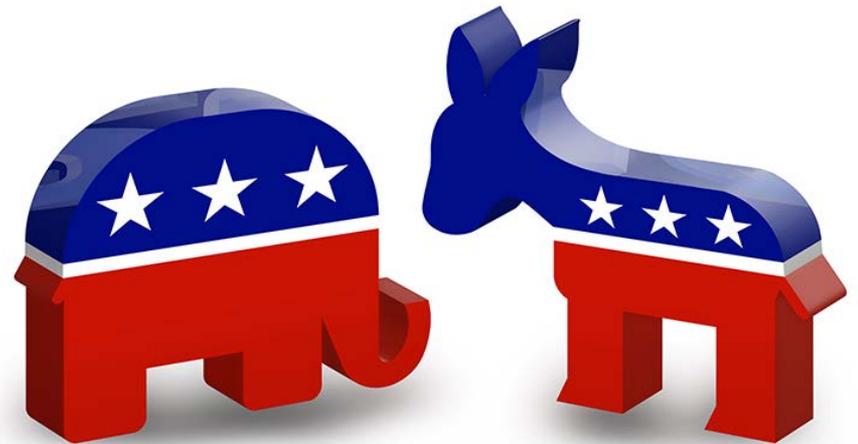
National Voting

- Identify national issues that will affect you
- National Politics are more partisan.
- What does the Presidential or congressional candidate propose?
- Do your research



Isidewith.com

- Not tied to any party
- Provides a quiz to learn about political positions
- About the quiz



Vote Your Conscience

- You have a voice
- Make informed decisions
- Vote for **who** and **what** you want



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SERVICE, INC.

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE





Who We Are

- MPAS is the protection and advocacy agency serving all of Michigan
- There is a protection and advocacy organization in every state and territory
- We provide information and referral, facility monitoring, direct representation, systemic advocacy, and training
- Services are free and confidential
- We receive over 6,000 calls per year





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