

Self-Advocacy and The Importance of Voting



Illinois Health Care Coverage Options and
Benefits Conference

The Arc of Illinois

Tuesday, September 1, 2020



The Alliance is proud to be an initiative of the
Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

Meet the Presenters



Amy Foster



Krescene Beck



Self-Advocacy is...

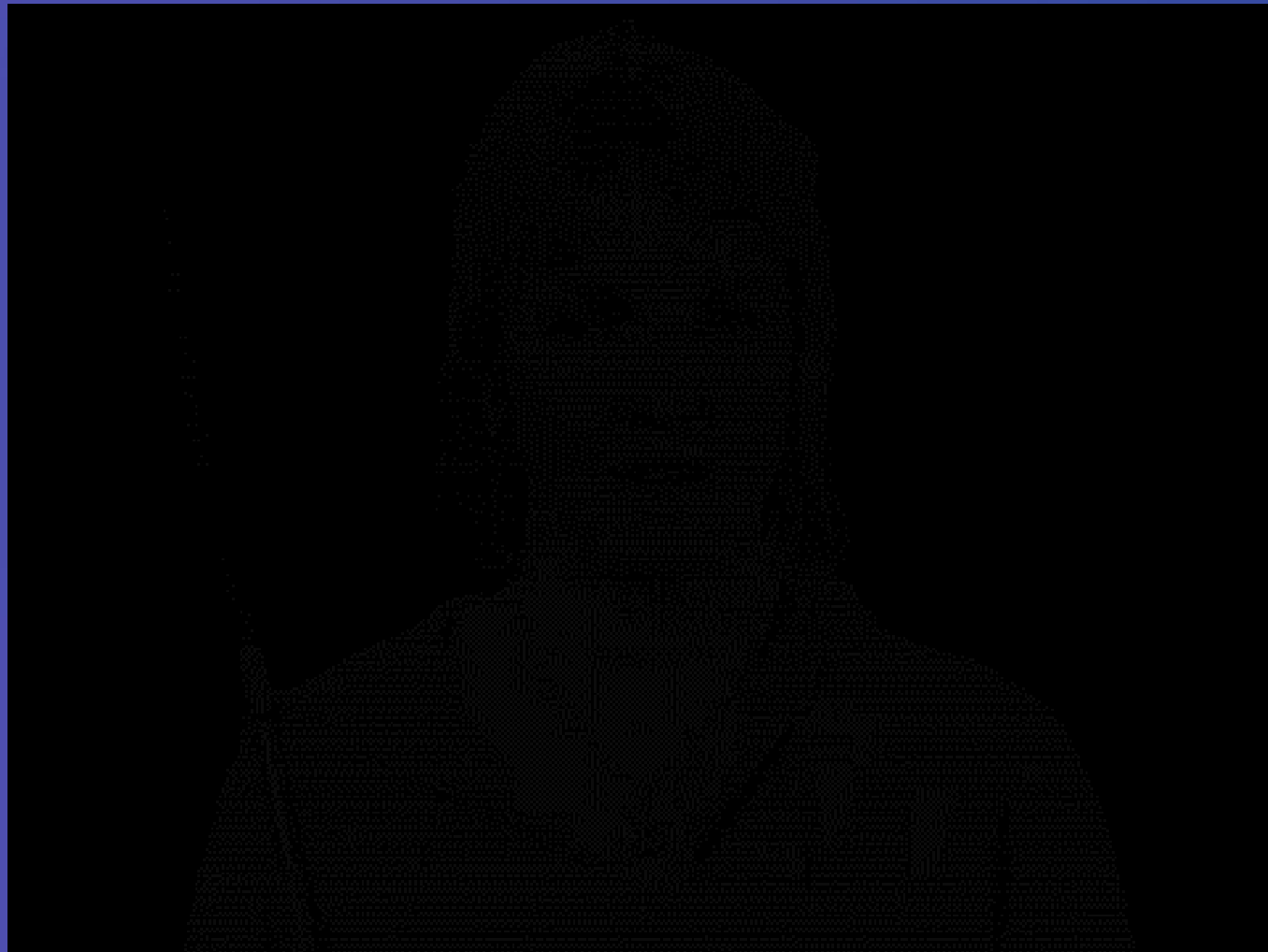
speaking UP and speaking OUT
for yourself and for other people
who can't or don't know how
to speak up for themselves.

GoVoter Project

K, A



"You are the power of the disability vote!"



GoVoter Project

What is important to you?

"You are the power of the disability vote!"





Voting Facts

- Many people do not vote because they do not think one vote matters.
- In the real world, only 6 out of every 10 people with disabilities actually do vote.
- If you don't vote, then you are letting other people decide what is best.

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Choices – Decisions – Voting - 1

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- Choices are like decisions. Decisions are just like voting.
- You know what you like and do not like.
- You know how you choose who you are going to trust
- Sometimes you are looking for a person who is like you (honest, trustworthy, hard worker, good values).
- Over time you know who is good or what is worth the money.

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"You are the power of the disability vote!"



Choices – Decisions – Voting - 2

- Sometimes you like things are expensive because they last longer. Sometimes you do not have the money.
- Do your homework and do your research.
- Ask other people.
- What questions do you ask yourself when you are getting ready to make a big decision?

You make the final decision!

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Voting Rights and Responsibilities

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Voting Rights: The Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

(HAVA) is a federal law that makes voting accessible and says states must:

- Make sure that everyone can vote privately and independently
- Set up a statewide system to give people provisional ballots if there is a question about whether they can vote
- Create statewide computerized voter lists
- Makes sure polling places are accessible

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Voting Rights - 1

- You can bring someone you trust to help you vote; poll workers cannot deny you this support person.
- There are some people who cannot help you vote:
 - Your boss
 - A union officer from your job
 - A candidate who is on the ballot



K

Voting Rights - 2

- You can ask for help from election officials from 2 different parties.



- Poll workers can help you with the voting process. Poll workers cannot tell you who to vote for or explain the issues in simpler terms.

Voting Rights - 3

- You can get a new ballot if you make a mistake



Everyone makes mistakes! It is your right to be given a new ballot if you make a mistake on your first one. You can get up to two (2) replacement ballots.

K

Voting Rights - 4

- You can ask for a provisional ballot if you are told that you can't vote for some reason.



It is best to ask the poll worker to show proof of why you cannot vote before asking for a provisional ballot.

Voting Rights - 5

- You do not need to have a disability to use accessible voting machines.



The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) says that every polling place must have an accessible voting booth to help people vote privately and independently.

Voting Responsibilities - 1

- Make sure you are registered to vote
- Know the issues and candidates
- Ask questions if you need some help





Voting Responsibilities - 2

- Be a role model as an informed voter. Get out and **VOTE!**
- Help someone else to learn how to vote
- Celebrate your choice and your voice



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Voting Responsibilities - 3

- Get involved, in other ways, with voting and elections.
- Contact your Election Board to find out where you can register to vote and **VOTE** on Election Day.



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Voting Responsibilities - 4

- Ask a poll worker for voting information in Braille, in large print, or in other accessible formats.



- The League of Woman Voters is available to support you in getting information on candidates and issues. In some states, they make an "easy to read" voters guide.

Voters with Disabilities Helpline



Voice Telephone: 1.800.537.2632
TTY: 1.800.610.2779
E-mail: Voting@Equipforequality.org
Website: www.equipforequality.org

Available from 6am to 7pm



My Vote Jeff Ridgeway



They say I can't vote
They say the decision is not mine
They say I don't understand
I guess they think they are being kind
I wonder what they would say or think
if they only knew

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That when they call the President "Our President",
I want to call him mine too.

If I never get the chance to vote, pulling the lever, punching
the card or writing his name down.

I stay the same, dumb, misinformed, unchanged,
un-empowered.

That is what this world expects me to be.

But I want so much more.

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"You are the power of the disability vote!"

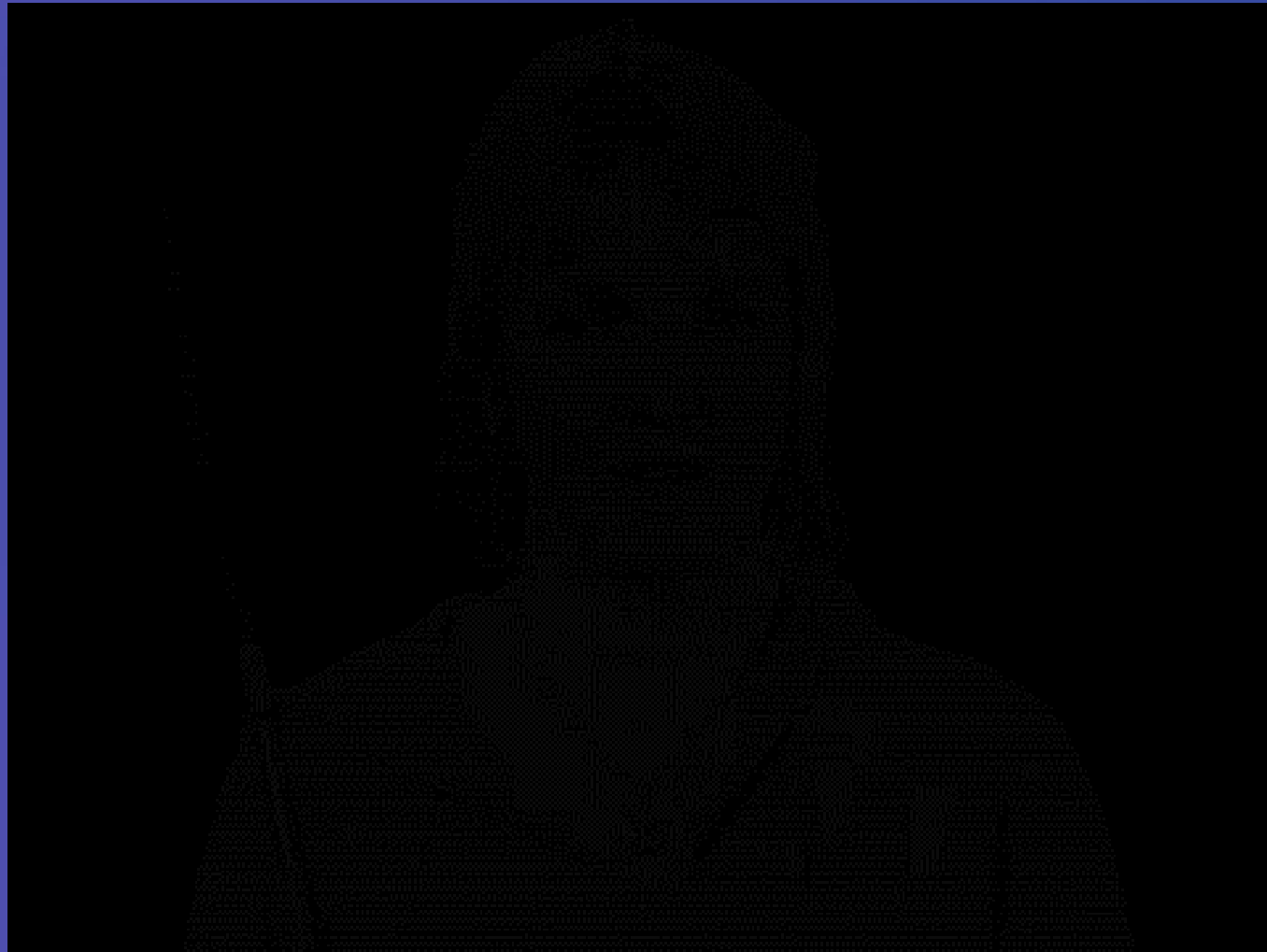
I want to be the most educated, the most informed, the most totally changed, the most totally empowered person that I can be when I vote.

I can make a difference and then I can say with pride,
“Not yours, not theirs, but my President,
because I put him there.”

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"You are the power of the disability vote!"



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What is important to you?

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Make Your Voice Count!

Go Vote!

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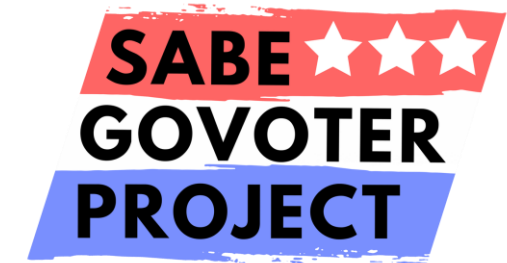


"You are the power of the disability vote!"

SABE (Self Advocates Becoming Empowered) GoVoter Project

Voter Education Toolkit

- How Voting Fits Into Your Life
- Registering to Vote
- Rights and Responsibilities
- How Do You Vote
- Ways to Learn About Candidates and Issues
- Ways to Get Around
- Civic Engagement
- Building a Voting Community



www.sabeusa.org/govoter/

Email:

info@selfadvocacyalliance.org

Website

<http://selfadvocacyalliance.org/>

Facebook

[www.facebook.com/IllinoisSelfAdvocacyAlliance
/?ref=bookmarks](http://www.facebook.com/IllinoisSelfAdvocacyAlliance/?ref=bookmarks)



Illinois Self-Advocacy
Alliance



[Person with pink skin, short brown hair, raising right hand in fist. Person is wearing purple shirt with the words 'Ask Me About The Alliance' written in white.]

In partnership with the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities. This project was supported, in part by grant numbers 19/2001ILSCDD-02, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.