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# VOTING RIGHTS FOR VERMONTERS

Tina Hagen, Senior investigator/ Compliance Officer  
Lindsey Owen, Executive director

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# PRESENTED BY



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Senior Investigator &  
Compliance Officer



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Executive Director

# ABOUT DRVT

Disability Rights Vermont, Inc. (DRVT) is part of the National Protection and Advocacy system. This national system was created by Congress in response to concerns that States were not doing enough to protect people with disabilities against abuse, neglect and serious rights violations. Congress created the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system to increase scrutiny and available resources in order to improve conditions for people with disabilities.

[P&A Video](#)



## WHAT WE DO

Investigate complaints of abuse, neglect, and violations of individual rights.

We promote self advocacy, education, and systems change to benefit individuals with a wide range of disabilities.

Our mission is to promote the equality, dignity, and self-determination of people with disabilities.

DRVT provides information, referral and advocacy services, including legal representation when appropriate, to individuals with disabilities throughout Vermont. DRVT also advocates to promote positive systemic responses to issues affecting people with disabilities. DRVT is dedicated to addressing problems, questions and complaints brought to it by Vermonters with disabilities.

# PROGRAMS

- .PAIMI, PAIR, PADD, PABSS, PABRP, PATBI, PAAT, PAVA, VOCA, STOP, FVPSA\*, FTAP\*, VCSP, STATE, PHWF\*
  - Outreach & Monitoring
  - Training/Consultation (e.g. Disability Etiquette Training)
  - Advance Directives (preparing and training)



\*Time limited grants

# SUB CONTRACTS

- Disability Law Project of Vermont Legal Aid
  - (PADD, PAIR, PATBI, PAAT, and PHWF\*)
    - Special Education
    - Guardianship
    - Healthcare access issues or service-related concerns for people with developmental disabilities, physical disabilities or traumatic brain injuries
    - Assistive Technology
- The Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
  - PAIMI
    - Family Law- divorce and custody cases

\*Time limited grants

# PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR VOTING ACCESS

HAVA - Help America to Vote Act

Registration  
Drives

Polling Place  
Surveys

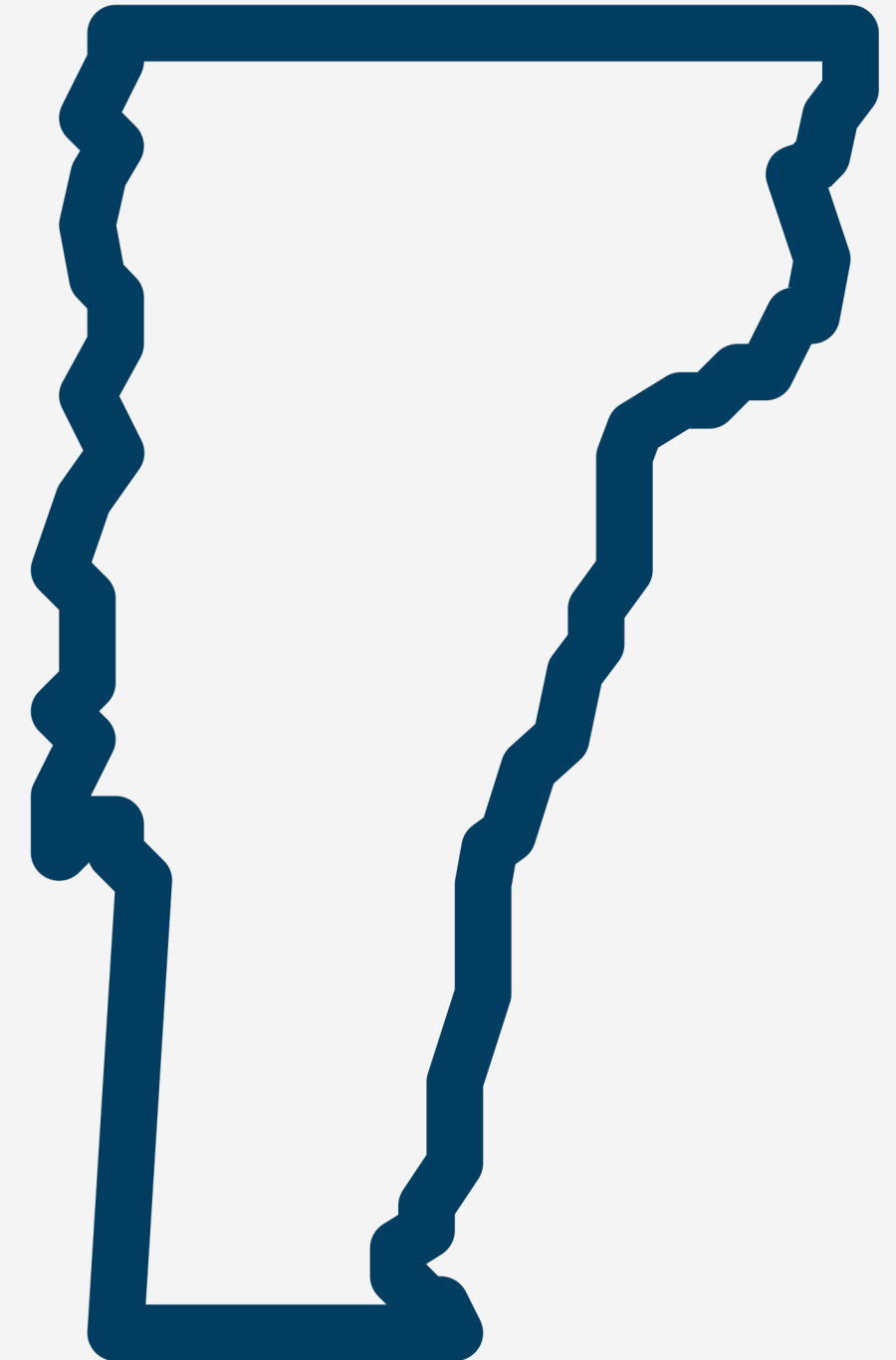
Individual  
Absentee Ballot  
Assistance

Individual  
Registration  
Assistance

Education  
(Trainings &  
Voter's Guide)

# TO BE ELIBIGLE TO VOTE IN VERMONT YOU MUST:

- be a citizen of the United States;
- be a resident of Vermont and a resident of the town in which you apply to be added to the checklist;
- take or have previously taken, the Voter's Oath;
- be 18 years of age or older, or will be eighteen on the day of election.





# HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN VERMONT

1 Using the Online Voter Registration System called "My Voter Page"

OR

2 Submitting a voter registration form to your town or city clerk.

The screenshot shows the Vermont Secretary of State's "My Voter Page" website. At the top, it features the Vermont logo and the text "VERMONT Secretary of State" on the left, and a portrait of Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos on the right. Below the header, the page is divided into several sections:

- MY VOTER PAGE:** A central graphic with a ballot icon and the text "VOTE MY VOTER PAGE" over a background of raised hands.
- YOU MAY USE THIS SYSTEM TO CHECK YOUR:** A list of services including: Voter registration status, Absentee ballot status, Mail-In application and ballot status, Poll location, Elected officials, Registration information on file with the town office, Sample ballot for the upcoming election, Challenge letter response, and Take oath.
- SIGN IN INFO:** A form with fields for First Name, Last Name, Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy), Registered Town (a dropdown menu), VT Driver's License/Permit/ID, and Last Four of SSN. There are "or" options between the license and SSN fields. A "Sign In" button is at the bottom right.
- Check Status / Register Online:** Two buttons for users who are already registered or not yet registered.

A note at the bottom states: "Note: My Voter Page provides a web-based search of data extracted from Vermont's statewide voter registration database. It is NOT the official record of your registration, which is retained by the voter registration office in the Town of your residence."

At the very bottom, the footer contains: "© 2020 Copyright 128 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05633 Phone: 802-828-2363 Fax: 802-828-5171 sos.vermont.gov Version 1.9"

You can visit the registration page at <https://mvp.vermont.gov> to find out everything you need to know to register to vote in Vermont and to download a voter registration form.

# WHAT YOU NEED TO REGISTER TO VOTE

In Vermont

Driver's  
License  
Number

OR

Last 4 digits  
of your SSN

AND

Take the Voter's  
Oath  
(can be self-  
administered)

# In Vermont, you have the right to vote:

- Even if you have a guardian
- Even if you need help reading or filling out a ballot
- Even if you are homeless
- Even if you have been convicted of a crime or are incarcerated
- Even if you are not able to vote in person on Election Day



## You also have the right to:

- Contact your Town/City Clerk to request accommodations.
- Bring a reminder sheet of who you want to vote for.
- Bring a magnifying glass to help you read the ballot.
- If you have a disability or need help with the ballot, you may bring someone to assist you as long as it is not your employer or a union representative.
- Get a new ballot if you make a mistake (maximum of three ballots). Leave some choices blank on the ballot.
- Vote using Vermont's accessible ballot marking system
- Ask questions – elections officials are there to help you understand how to vote.
- Request a sample ballot (to see what you will be voting on before the election).
- Use the accessible vote at home option
- Ask an election official to bring a ballot to your car at your polling place (this is called “curbside voting”)



## Can someone who is homeless register to vote?

Yes. Persons experiencing homelessness can register and vote in all 50 states.

## What should this person list as their home address?

It is recommended homeless registrants list a shelter address as their voting address where they could receive mail. Alternatively, homeless registrants may denote a street corner or a park as their residence, in lieu of a traditional home address. The federal voter registration form and many state forms provide a space for this purpose.

## How can I register to vote if I am homeless?

If you are homeless you may register to vote in the town, and in the district within a town, that includes the place that you consider your principal dwelling place. The definition of residency applies in the same way to someone who is homeless as it does to persons who own or rent their principal dwelling place.

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# ***28 VSA § 807 VOTING RIGHTS***

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who is convicted of a crime shall retain the right to vote by absentee ballot in a primary or general election at his last voluntary residence during the term of his commitment under a sentence of confinement provided the person otherwise fulfills all voting requirements.

# ***VERMONT RESIDENCY FOR VOTING PURPOSES (17 V.S.A. 2122):***



(a) A person shall not gain or lose a residence solely by reason of presence or absence: while in the service of the State or of the United States;

- while in a hospital, nursing home, or other health care facility;
- while confined in a prison or correctional institution;
- while a member of a veterans' home;
- while a student at any educational institution;
- while living outside the United States;
- while certified as a participant in the address confidentiality program under 15 V.S.A. chapter 21, subchapter 3.

(b) A person may have his or her name on the checklist only in the town of which the person is a resident. For the purpose of this chapter, "resident" shall mean a person who is domiciled in the town as evidenced by an intent to maintain a principal dwelling place in the town indefinitely and to return there if temporarily absent, coupled with an act or acts consistent with that intent. If a person removes to another town with the intention of remaining there indefinitely, that person shall be considered to have lost residence in the town in which the person originally resided even though the person intends to return at some future time. However, a person shall retain the ability to vote in a town of former residence for a period of 17 days after becoming a resident of a new town. A person may have only one residence at a given time.

• Current customer profile.

To create your own, choose a topic that interests you.

# **HOW TO ORGANIZE A VOTER DRIVE**

## **TIME & PLACE**

Voter registration drives work well at large public events with lots of people such as music and art festivals, parades, community events, etc. Arrange to have a table!

## **GET FORMS**

Call 1-800-439-VOTE or email [sos.voterregistration@vermont.gov](mailto:sos.voterregistration@vermont.gov) to order voter registration forms or contact your local town clerk.

## **ORDER SUPPLIES**

Order buttons, stickers, flyers, bumper stickers, videos, and other materials: call 1-800-439-VOTE or email [sos.voterregistration@vermont.gov](mailto:sos.voterregistration@vermont.gov). Attach the order form to your email to place your order. Make sure you have all other necessary supplies: pens, clipboards, and volunteers. Don't be shy—have some volunteers standing with clipboards and registration forms in-hand, ready to ask passers-by if they are registered to vote.

## **SPREAD THE WORD!**

There are many ways to get the word out. You may contact the SOS, who can send you a registration poster. Many local radio stations will run free public service announcements, and you can ask governmental, civic, and religious organizations to announce the drive in their bulletins and at their meetings.





## **VOTING ASSISTANCE SINCE 2004**

**1456  
PEOPLE  
SERVED**

**1705  
TOTAL  
CASES**

▶ **VOTER REGISTRATION**

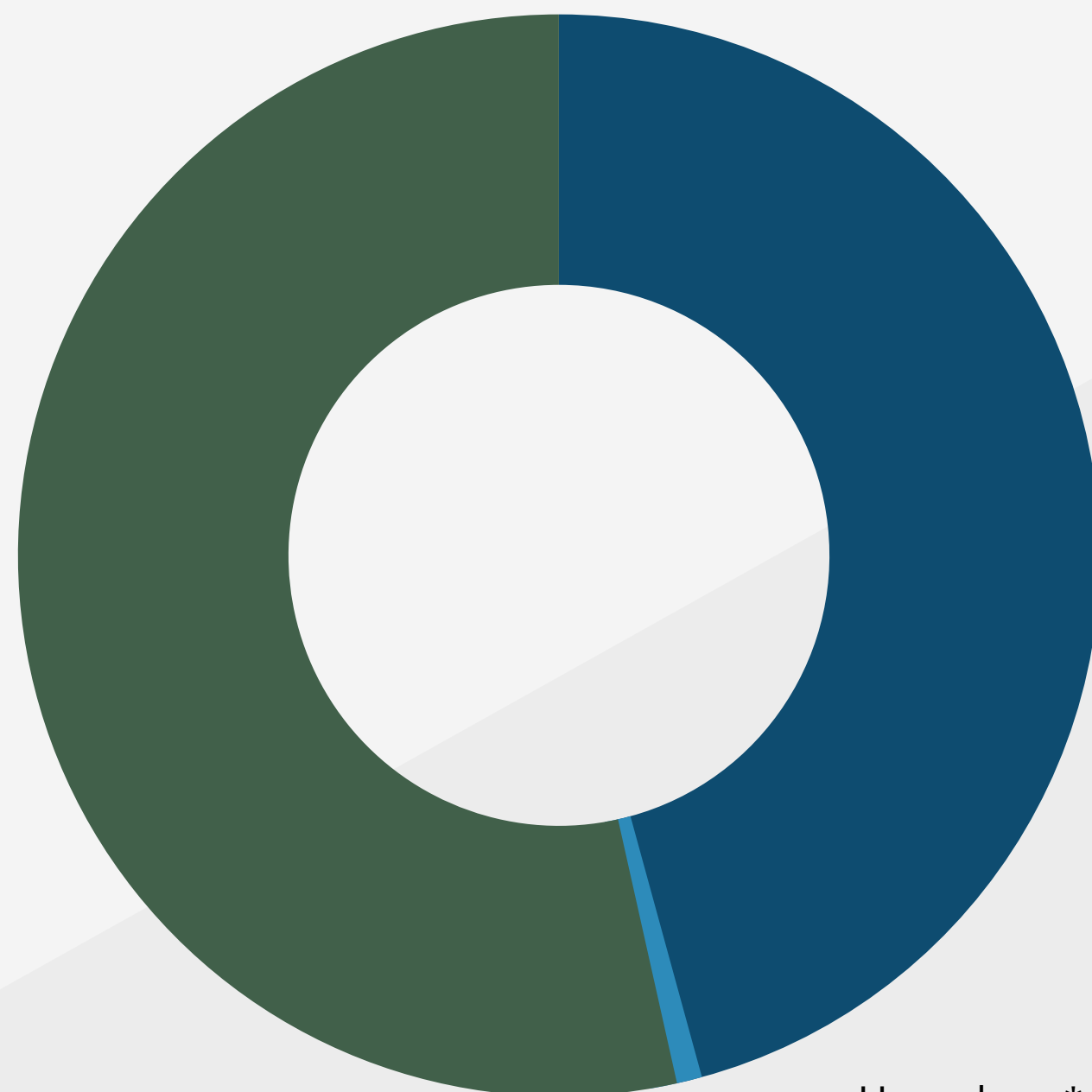
▶ **UPDATING MAILING ADDRESS**

▶ **ABSENTEE BALLOT**

▶ **CONFIRMING REGISTRATION**

▶ **CONFIRMING BALLOT RETURN**

# LIVING ARRANGEMENTS



Correctional  
Facilities  
53.5%

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Since 2004, of the total 1,456 people served, 677 were in the community or other settings, and 779 were in correctional institutions.

Community  
Settings  
45.7%

We appreciate this opportunity to share our work with you, as you can see the homeless population could better utilize our voting services

Homeless\*  
0.8%

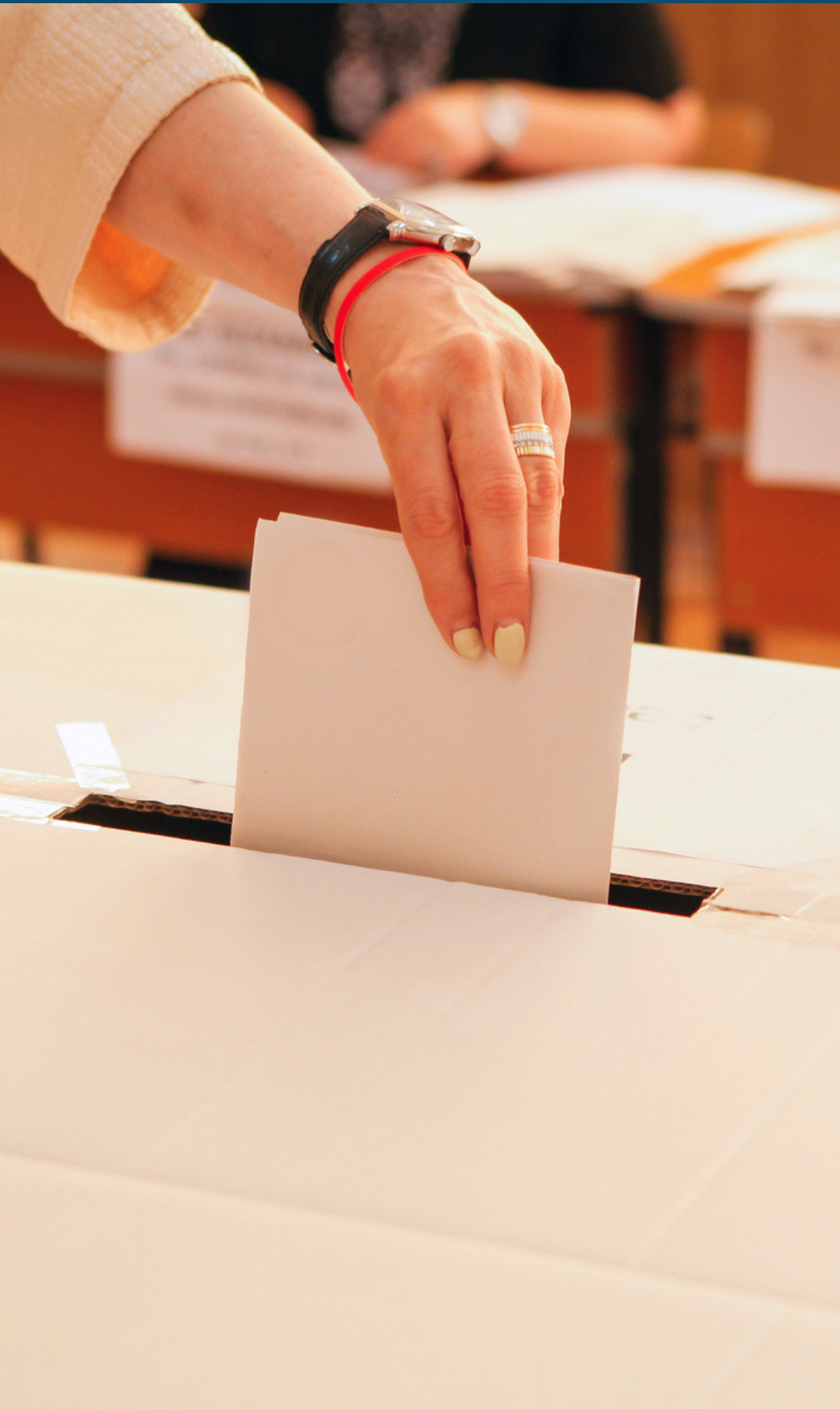
# ***BARRIERS?***

What are  
the  
barriers?

How can  
we help?

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What are the barriers and possible solutions to that individuals experiencing homelessness are facing in regard to voting?



# FEEDBACK FROM THE PRISON POPULATION

1

"I received very little support from DOC staff and felt as though they didn't want me to vote. Almost like I didn't have the right. Most people I asked didn't know they could vote and the staff did not announce when and if (you were) coming. Maybe to the point of being called prejudice."

2

"Thank you, it felt good to be involved with a thing as great as an election, it really made me feel as if I played a part in something productive and positive. It's the small things that make us bigger. Thanks again."

3

"I had never heard about the "Voters Guide for People with Disabilities" until your agency was here helping people register to vote, but would like to thank you all for putting forward the effort to help all of us through this election while incarcerated."

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# THANK YOU

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