



Easy Read Edition

They Work For Us:

A Self-Advocate's Guide to Getting Through to your Elected Officials

Part 9: Glossary

Glossary



ballot

A ballot is the official form you use to vote.



Closed (Facebook group)

If a Facebook group is “Closed”, anyone can find the group and see its members. But, nobody can see posts in the group unless they are invited.



Congress

The part of the federal government that makes laws.



constituent

If you’re a constituent of an elected official, that means that you live in the area that the elected official represents.



district

States are split up into different districts. Each Representative in the House of Representatives comes from a different district.



elect

When we “elect” somebody, we vote for that person to become a part of the government.



elected officials

Politicians that we elect to the government are our elected officials. Elected officials listen to the problems that people have. Then, they make laws to fix these problems.



elevator speech

An elevator speech is a short speech that you have memorized in case you get a moment with an elected official. For example, riding the elevator with them.



Facebook group

Facebook groups are places where people can talk to each other about things they are interested in. You can control who is allowed to see posts in the group.



Facebook page

A Facebook page is a public profile for a person or group. For example, a famous person might have a Facebook page to let their fans know what they are up to.



Facebook profile

A private, personal page on the social media site Facebook. You can make posts and add people to be your Facebook friends. Then you can see each other's posts.



faxing

A way to contact elected officials. You type up a message and send it to the fax number of an elected official. Then, the fax machine in the elected official's office will print out a paper copy of your message.



federal government

The government that is in charge of the entire country and is based in Washington, D.C. The federal government makes federal laws.



federal laws

Federal laws are laws for the whole United States.



hashtag

Hashtags are a way to group tweets into categories, using the # symbol. For example, #stopthebees.



House of Representatives

The House of Representatives is one of the two parts of Congress. There are 435 Representatives in the House of Representatives. Every state has a different number of Representatives, based on how many people live in the state.



laws

Laws are rules the government makes that everyone has to follow.



live-tweeting

Live-tweeting is when someone goes to an event and posts on Twitter what is going on at the event for people who can't be there.



local government

A local government is in charge of a smaller part of a state, like a city or a county.



local laws

Local governments make local laws. Local laws are just for people in that small area, not people in the whole state or the whole country.



members of Congress

Members of Congress are the people who have the power to make federal laws.



postmarked

A postmarked letter has a mark from the post office showing where it came from.



Protection & Advocacy Agency

Protection & Advocacy Agencies (or P&As) help protect the rights of people with disabilities. The government funds these organizations.



Public (Facebook group)

If a Facebook group is “Public”, anyone can find the group, see the group’s members, and see the posts in the group.



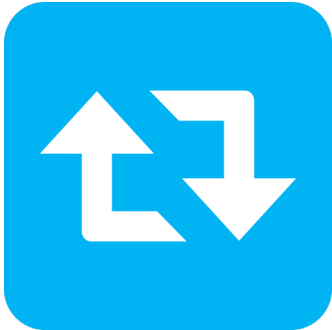
registering to vote

Registering to vote means getting on the list of people who can vote in your state. You have to register to vote before you can vote.



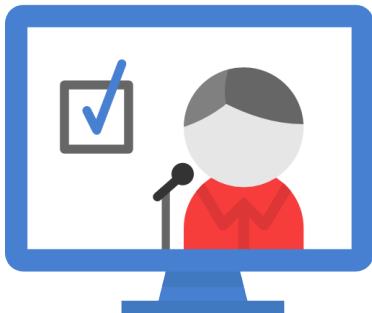
Representatives

Representatives are the elected officials in the House of Representatives.



re-tweet

Re-tweeting something makes the tweet show up on your own Twitter page.



run for office

When someone wants to be an elected official, they need to run for office. When they run for office, they explain their ideas and ask people to vote for them.



Secret (Facebook group)

If a Facebook group is “Secret”, nobody can find the group unless they are invited to join it.



Senate

The Senate is one of the two parts of Congress. There are 100 Senators in the U.S. Senate. There are two Senators for each state.



Senators

Senators are the elected officials in the Senate.



social media

Social media is any place online where people can interact with each other. Some examples are Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr.



state government

State governments are almost exactly the same as the federal government. State governments are just on a smaller scale. State governments make laws that apply to their states.



state laws

State laws are laws only for people who live or work in a specific state.



State Legislature

The State Legislature is the part of the state government that makes laws. Most State Legislatures have two parts, like the U.S. Congress does.



term

How long an elected official can serve in government before another election.



trending

When a hashtag on Twitter is trending, that means a lot of people are using that hashtag at the same time. That hashtag will show up on the front page of Twitter.



tweet

A short post made on Twitter. Tweets have to be 140 characters or fewer. "Tweet" can also be used as a verb.



Twitterbomb

An organized effort by many people tweeting using the same hashtag.

Twitterbombs make it so lots of people see tweets with that hashtag.



vote absentee

Voting absentee means you vote by mail instead of going somewhere to vote.

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