



Easy Read Edition

Your Vote Counts:
A Self-Advocate's Guide to
Voting in the U.S.

Words to Know



absentee voting

When you don't have to go to a polling place to vote. You can vote through the mail.



ballot

A list of who and what you can vote for.



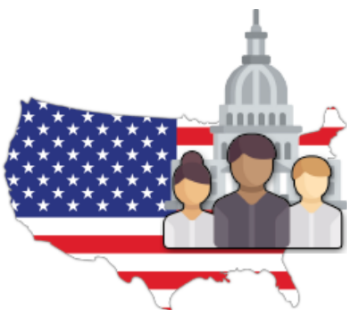
candidate

Someone who is running for office.



closed primary election

A kind of primary election. You have to register with a political party to vote in their primary.



Congress

The part of the U.S. government that makes laws. It has 2 parts: the Senate and the House of Representatives.



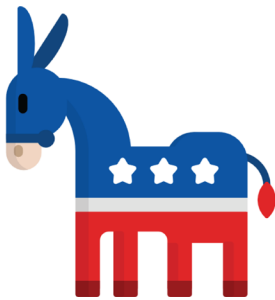
Constitution

A list of the most important laws in America. It says that every American has rights that can't be taken away.



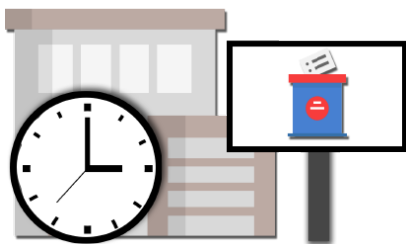
debate

When a group of candidates talk about their ideas to each other. They try and show why they should win the election.



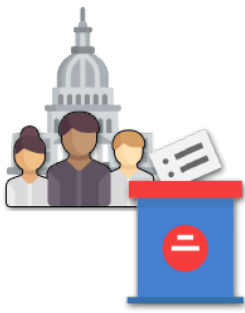
Democrats

One of the two main political parties in America.



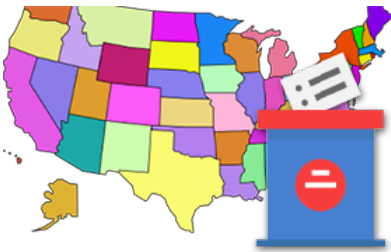
early voting

When polling places open for a while before election day. Not all states have early voting.



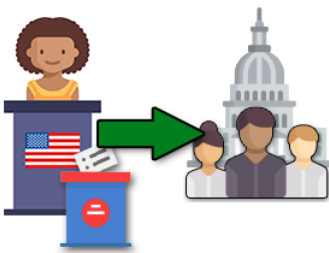
elected official

A person picked by voting to lead a part of the government.



Electoral College

How states decide who becomes the President. Each state has votes in the Electoral College.



general election

An election that decides who will represent all or part of America.



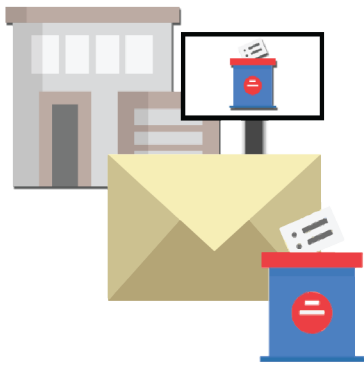
guardian

Someone who makes decisions for a person with disabilities. A judge decides who someone's guardian will be.



Independent

Someone who isn't a Republican or a Democrat.



in-person absentee voting

A kind of early voting where you vote at your polling place before election day. Some states only let some groups of people vote through in-person absentee voting. Other states let everyone use in-person absentee voting.



open primary election

A kind of primary election. Ywhere you can vote without registering for a political party.

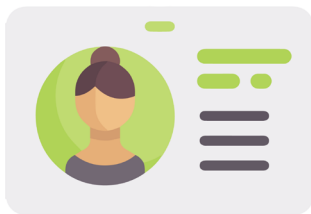


photo ID

A paper or card given to you by the government. It has your picture and other information about you on it.



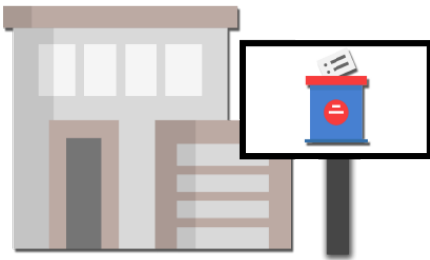
political parties

Groups of elected officials that believe the same things and work together.



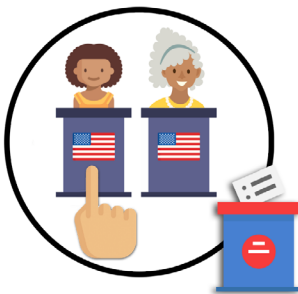
poll workers

People who work at polling places. They help others vote.



polling place

Somewhere people go to vote. Schools and community centers are two kinds of polling places.



primary election

A vote for who should represent the Democrats or Republicans in the general election.



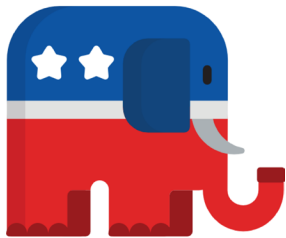
Protection and Advocacy

A group that helps disabled people when they have problems with the law. Every state has one.



recount

When votes get counted again if an election is very close or if something goes wrong.



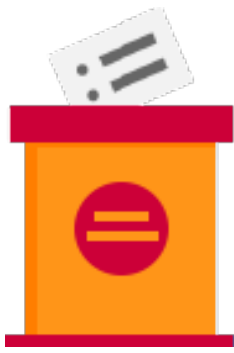
Republicans

One of the two main political parties in America.



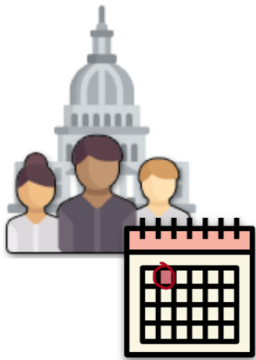
runoff

Doing an election over again because it wasn't clear who won.



special election

An election that happens when an elected official has to quit. It chooses a new elected official at a different time than other elections.



term

How long someone is allowed to be an elected official before they have to run for office again.



voter suppression

Unfair laws and other tricks that keep people from voting.

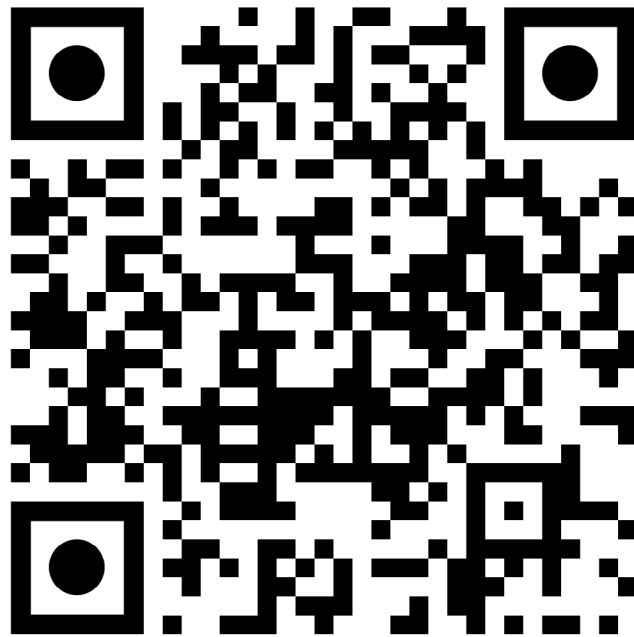


voting

A way to make decisions. It gets used to choose elected officials, pass laws, or making other kinds of choices.

Want to share your thoughts on
this toolkit?

Take our survey!



Scan this code with your phone
to go to our survey.

Or, go to

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/
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