

Voting Rights & Pro Tips

For People With Aphasia

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National Aphasia Association: Ask the Expert Panel
October 3, 2024

If you have trouble on Election Day:

[click here for the Election Protection hotline](#)

Our expert team...



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Director of Creative Campaigns
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US VoteFoundation



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guitarist, and an artist.

He has had aphasia for 5 years.



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Voting Rights & Pro Tips

More and more Americans with disabilities are voting*.

- 56% voted in 2016
- 62% voted in 2020

Let's keep building on this trend!

What are my rights?

1. You have the basic right to VOTE!

[Click here for each state's requirements](#)

- Age
- Citizenship
- Etc.

1. You have the basic right to VOTE!

Did you know?

- Only a court can take away your right to vote
 - Family members, workers at the polls, and doctors cannot take away your right to vote
- Even if reading and writing are hard, you can still vote!

2. You can choose someone to help you vote

- ✓ A family member
- ✓ A friend
- ✓ A poll worker
- ✗ Not your boss
- ✗ Not your union leader

[Click here to check your state's rules for helpers](#)

3. You can *refuse help*

- You have the right to vote independently
- You have the right to privacy

4. You have the right to accommodations

To help with voting, you are allowed

- Tools
- Procedures

4. You have the right to accommodations

Tools

- *A plain language ballot,
if available*

[Readability laws for ballot measure language –
Ballotpedia](#)

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- *A screen reader*
reads the ballot out loud to you

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- *A computer touch screen*

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- *A marking device*
like a special digital pen

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Procedures

- *Availability to read entire ballot at home, before you vote*

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- *A plain language ballot, if available*
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Procedures

- *Availability to read entire ballot at home, before you vote*
- *Go to a different polling place to get the accommodations*
→ Must be arranged ahead of time

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- *A plain language ballot, if available*
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Procedures

- Availability to *read entire ballot at home*, before you vote
- *Go to a different polling place* to get the accommodations
→ Must be arranged ahead of time

4. You have the right to accommodations

Click each for more information:

[accessible ballot marking device and screen reader
\(audio ballot\)](#)

[online tutorials](#)

[local election official](#)

Contact now for

- accommodations
- change to another polling place
- practice voting and using equipment

5. You may be able to vote by absentee ballot

Request your ballot here:

[vote from home with an absentee ballot](#)

Some states have rules:

[witness, notary, and signature requirements](#)

Click!



6. If you live in a residence, you can vote there.

For example, if you live in:

- a nursing home
- rehab facility
- assisted living facility

You might vote by:

- absentee ballot
- a polling place at the facility
- an election official coming to the facility to oversee voting

Check ahead
with the
facility!

Folks with aphasia recommend ...

Make a plan!

Tell the
poll
worker
to speak
slowly

Folks with aphasia recommend ...

Make a plan!

Choose
someone
you trust
to help

Folks with aphasia recommend ...

Make a plan!

Choose
someone
you trust
to help

Folks with aphasia recommend ...

Make a plan!

No one
else can
decide
whether
you need
help

It is up to
you

Folks with aphasia recommend ...

Make a plan!

Bring a
list of
your
voting
choices

Folks with aphasia recommend ...

Make a plan!

Take
time to
read

It's ok to
read
slowly

Folks with aphasia recommend ...

Make a plan!

Print out
ballot

Read
ahead of
time

Folks with aphasia recommend ...

Make a plan!

Read
ahead of
time....

And aren't
the ballots
confusing
for
everyone?

Folks with aphasia recommend ...

Make a plan!

Bring
your
aphasia
card

It
explains
aphasia

[Aphasia ID Card -
The National
Aphasia
Association](#)

I have aphasia.



Aphasia is a language disorder that makes it hard to talk or understand what people say. It can affect reading, writing, listening and speaking. It doesn't affect intelligence.

My Name: Marion Leaman


Emergency Contact:
Elizabeth Johnson (202) 888-8888

Tips to best help me:

- Speak slowly and use short sentences.
- Ask me yes/no questions.
- Use drawing/writing/gestures.
- Give me time to respond.

The American Stroke Association is collaborating with the National Aphasia Association to help stroke survivors and caregivers beat aphasia.

 Scan to learn more.

Tengo afasia.

La afasia es un trastorno del lenguaje que dificulta el habla o la comprensión de las palabras. Puede afectar las capacidades de leer, escribir, escuchar y hablar. No afecta la inteligencia.

Mi nombre: Maria Gonzales

Persona de contacto en caso de emergencia:
Sara Gonzales (555) 555-5555

Consejos para saber ayudarme:

- Habla lentamente y usa frases cortas.
- Hazme preguntas de sí/no.
- Usa dibujos/gestos o escribe.
- Dame suficiente tiempo para responder.

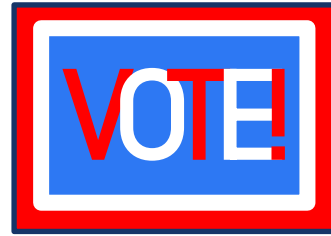
 

La American Stroke Association está colaborando con la National Aphasia Association para ayudar a los sobrevivientes de ataques o derrames cerebrales y sus cuidadores a superar la afasia.

 Escanea para obtener más información.

Carnet de muestra

Folks with aphasia recommend....



5 Pro Tips for Voting

1. Plan “How to Vote”

- Laws may have changed in your state since you last voted.
- This [interactive, personalized voter journey map](#) at us.vote produces a step-by-step plan to vote that you can print out.

2. Check out US Vote's [Resource for Voters with Disabilities](#)



Click!

- More rights
- How absentee ballots are made accessible
- Rules of assistance
- Accommodations available at polling places
- How to prepare to use accessible ballot marking devices
- Who to contact if you have problems voting.

3. Find support online

- *If you have trouble on Election Day:*
click here for the [Election Protection hotline](#)

ALSO,

- [VoteRiders](#) can help you get Voter ID in most states
- The US Vote Foundation [Help Desk](#) can answer questions
- The [National Disability Rights Network](#) can answer legal questions
- The Association of Americans with Disabilities [REV UP](#) Campaign can connect you with groups that help get out the vote in your community

4. Vote early

- Most states will let you vote early
- If something goes wrong, you will have time to try again

5. Build a voting team

- Encourage friends and families to vote when you do
- Choose your assistant if YOU want help voting.
- Contact your local election official ahead of time if you want to request accommodations

Remember that you are not alone!

One in six voters has a disability

