EXERCISING YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

√ Will you be 18 years old at the time of the election?
√ Do you want to make your voice heard?
√ Do you want to make an effort to change the world?

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?
To be eligible to vote, you must:

• Be a citizen of the United States of America;
• Be a Vermont resident;
• Be at least 18 years old; and
• Be registered to vote.

WHERE CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE?

• Department of Motor Vehicles;
• Local Town Clerk’s office;
• Vermont Center for Independent Living; or Disability Rights Vermont; or
• Online at the Secretary of State (SOS) Elections Division https://www.olvr.sec.state.vt.us/.
• At the Polls on Election Day
To register you will need a valid photo ID including (driver's license, passport or government issued photo identification) or a current utility bill or bank statement.

You can register up to and including the day of the election!

WHAT IF I CAN’T VOTE IN PERSON ON ELECTION DAY?

Visit the website below to learn about absentee voting: https://www.sec.state vt.us/elections/voters.aspx or call 1-800-439-8683. Your request for an absentee ballot must be received by 5:00PM the Tuesday before the election.

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE
HOW DO I FIND OUT WHERE TO VOTE?

- Call your town clerk’s office;
- Call the SOS Elections Division at 1-800-439-8683; or
- Check online at https://www.sec.state.vt.us/elections/voters.aspx.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

You have the right to:
- Vote even if you are homeless, have a guardian, have been convicted of a felony or are incarcerated;
- To see a ballot in advance;
- Vote early or from home;
- Assistance: you can bring a person of your choice into the voting booth, you can get help marking the ballot, you can bring a magnifying glass or other assistive device;
- You can get a new ballot if you make a mistake;
- You may leave some choices blank on the ballot;
- To vote using Vermont’s new accessible ballot marking system; and
- To ask questions – elections officials are there to help you understand how to vote.

WHAT IF I CAN’T ACCESS MY POLLING PLACE?

Polling sites must be accessible the day of the election. It must have accessible parking, curbside voting and accessible voting equipment. If you have difficulties accessing your polling place, contact the SOS Elections Division at 1-800-439-8683 or Disability Rights Vermont at 1-800-834-7890.

HOW CAN DRVT HELP?

If you have any other questions about Voting Rights, please call Disability Rights Vermont. DRVT can provide information, technical assistance and, in some cases, legal representation.

DRVT publications are available in alternate format, upon request.

Disability Rights Vermont is the Protection and Advocacy System for Vermonters with Disabilities. This publication was made possible through federal funding from the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

This information should not be interpreted as legal advice.

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE
VERMONT VOTER RIGHTS ... in detail!

☑ YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

• If you are a U.S. citizen, a Vermont resident, are at least 18 years old, have registered to vote, and have taken the Voter’s Oath.
• Even if you are homeless, or have a guardian, or have been convicted of a felony, or are incarcerated, or if you need assistance reading or filling out your ballot.

☑ YOU MAY USE THE VT SECRETARY OF STATE’S “MY VOTER PAGE” ON THE INTERNET AT: https://mvp.sec.state.vt.us

• To register to vote, take the Voter’s Oath, and check your registration status
• To request an absentee ballot (vote by mail) and check your ballot status
• To find out where your polling place is located
• To view a sample ballot for upcoming elections

☑ YOU MAY VOTE EARLY OR VOTE FROM HOME

• You may ask for a sample ballot and/or request an official ballot at the town clerk’s office to vote early - within 45 days before General Elections and 20 days before Municipal Elections (in towns that vote by paper ballot).
• You may call your town clerk and ask for an absentee ballot to be sent to you in the mail or you may send an absentee ballot request form to the town clerk. When you receive your absentee ballot, fill it out and mail it back to the town clerk’s office so that is it received by the day before the election, or hand deliver it to your polling place on Election Day.
• Ballots can be hand-delivered to the voter – if you have an illness or physical disability that prevents you from voting in person, you can call your town clerk to request that an early voter absentee ballot be brought to you.

☑ YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO ASSISTANCE

• You may make a request to the town clerk within a reasonable time prior to Election Day for auxiliary aids/reasonable accommodations that you may need to vote.
• If you have a disability or are ill, you may ask the election officials to bring a ballot out to your car at the polling place on Election Day.
• You may bring the person of your choice (except not your employer or union representative) into the voting booth with you to help you vote.
• You can get help marking the ballot. Ask an election official for assistance.
• You may bring a magnifying glass or other assistive device to help you vote.
• You may bring a list of candidates into the voting booth to help you remember who you want to vote for (you must take it with you when you are done voting).
NEW IN 2018: VERMONT’S ACCESSIBLE BALLOT MARKING SYSTEM

• In 2018, the VT Secretary of State’s Office introduced a new accessible voting system. This is a tablet-based system that will mark the voter’s selections onto the same paper ballots used by all voters at the polls, increasing the privacy and independence of the vote for a voter with disabilities.

• At the polling place, the system has three options to choose from for accessibility: a touch pad on the screen, a keypad with braille, or a paddle system, all with an audio reader through headphones. When you arrive and check in at the polling place on Election Day, you can ask to use the accessible system and the polling place official will guide you through the process.

• The system also contains an online-based platform that will allow voters to mark their ballots privately and independently from anywhere they may have access to a computer and printer during the early voting period. You then may return your printed ballot to the town clerk’s office by mail or in person prior to Election Day, or in person to your polling place on Election Day.

YOU MAY GET A NEW BALLOT IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE

• If you give your incorrectly marked ballot to an election official you can get a new ballot to vote. You may receive up to three ballots (only one will count).

YOU MAY VOTE FOR THE PERSON YOU WANT

• You may write-in someone else’s name if you don’t like the choices on your ballot.
• You may leave some choices blank on your ballot. The choices you do mark will still count.
• No one has the right to see how you voted or to ask how you voted.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT

• To use a voting system for all Federal Elections that makes it possible for people with disabilities to vote privately and independently.
• To ask questions. Election officials are there to help you understand how to vote although they cannot help you decide who to vote for.
• To file a complaint if you think your voting rights have been denied.

For more voting information or assistance please call:
Vermont Secretary of State’s Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (8683)
or Disability Rights Vermont at 1-800-834-7890

This informational sheet is provided by Disability Rights Vermont, Inc., the Protection and Advocacy system for Vermont, and is made possible by funding from the Help America Vote Act. (2018)