

ABILITY TO VOTE 2008

What is it?

Ability To Vote 2008 is an effort to encourage, support and get the word out that persons with a disability can, should and do vote. It is also working to ensure that barriers do not prevent individuals with disabilities from voting in the upcoming election. Ability To Vote 2008 is a coalition of organizations and individuals who are supporting the rights of persons with disabilities to vote. Our goal is to *“make sure every person who wants to cast his/her vote does”*.

The Ability To Vote 2008 Workgroup is developing plans for a variety of educational and rally type activities. The Workgroup is developing an inspirational/educational DVD about voting that will be available soon.

The Ability To Vote 2008 Workgroup is also tackling barriers such as accessibility, attitudes and lack of transportation to the polls. The Workgroup is looking for community partners that will help transport individuals to the polls to vote. We plan to have a database that will match up persons needing a ride and individuals willing to provide a ride.

What can you do?

Encourage someone you know who has a disability to vote. Start a conversation with someone you know about the upcoming election. Encourage them to register and vote. Be open to having a conversation with them about the voting process, candidates, and issues. Remind them it is every citizen's right to vote including theirs. Help someone get to the polls to vote – you're going anyways why not take someone with you. Join us. Your small effort could have big results.

To find out more about how you can be involved or on our transportation database list contact Debbie Wisser at (248) 858-0929 or wisserd@occmha.org.

ABILITY TO VOTE 2008 COALITION MEMBERS

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority
Community Living Services
Community Network Services
Easter Seals – Michigan
Macomb Oakland Regional Center
Training & Treatment Innovations
Clubhouse Inspiration – Oxford
Ryan Gray
Richard Covington
Milo Jones
Calvin Anthony Brooks
David Dewitt Taylor
Barbara Taylor
Justin Rankin
Daniel Burleigh
Jackie Heller
League of Women Voters
Disabilities Today with Roger McCarville
UCP of Metropolitan Detroit
The Arc of Oakland County, Inc.
AMORC
New Gateways, Inc.
New Horizons
JARC
Capability Resources

As of June 9, 2008