

Resources

Protection & Advocacy System, Inc.

(P&A)



Cheyenne:

7344 Stockman Street
Cheyenne, WY 82009
1-307- 632-2682 (Voice or Relay)
1-877- 249-6167
(Assistance Requests Only)
1-307-638-0815 FAX
wypanda@wypanda.com

Lander:

P.O. Box 58
195 South 5th Street
Lander, WY 82520
1-307-335-8268 (Voice or Relay)
1-877-670-8366
(Assistance Requests Only)
1-307-332-2842 FAX
wypandl@wypanda.com

www.wypanda.com

This publication was made possible by funding support to P&A from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. These contents are solely the responsibility of the grantee and do not necessarily represent the official view of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Disclaimer!

P&A does not advocate the election or defeat of any particular candidate or political party.

Voter assistance and information are available regardless of a voter's political preference.

This publication is paid 100% by federal funds and is available in alternative formats.



The Right to Vote

Everyone's vote counts equally. The Constitution gives every American citizen of majority age the right to vote, without regard to property ownership. Only two events restrict a citizen's right to vote: (1) conviction of a felony, and (2) being judged mentally incompetent by a court. There are ways by which felons may have their rights restored.

Many people with disabilities still retain the right to vote. A vast majority of persons with mental illness, even serious illness or intellectual disabilities, have not been "adjudicated mentally incompetent" by a court and therefore retain the right to vote.

Voter Registration

In Wyoming, voters, including persons that are homeless, with or without mental illness or intellectual disabilities, can register to vote in several ways:

- ◆ If you voted in a prior general election and have not moved out of the county, you are automatically registered to vote in the next election;
- ◆ Filling out a form at the County Clerk's office not less than 14 days prior to the election;
- ◆ Filling out a form & mailing it in (contact your County Clerk to request a mail-in form)
See: <http://soswy.state.wy.us>;
- ◆ At the polling place on election day.

Being Homeless does not Limit the Right to Vote

Being homeless should not affect the right to vote. To vote a person must be a resident of Wyoming and the precinct in which you register. Wyoming voter registration statutes define a person's residence as the place where a person has "a current habitation and to which, whenever he is absent, he has the intention of returning." This could be a shelter, public housing, or even a street location.

Participation in the Election Process = Power

Ending discrimination based upon mental illness, intellectual disabilities or homelessness, lies in the exercise of voting rights. By exercising the right to vote, persons that are homeless, whether because of mental illness, intellectual disabilities, choice or other circumstances, can make a difference.

Some States Make it Clear

Some states have laws making it clear that persons who are homeless are entitled to vote. In Wyoming, persons living in shelters or on the street are entitled to register, if qualified. A specific mailing address is not required.

If you become aware of voter discrimination based on a lack of a mailing address or fixed residence or have any questions, please contact one of the listed resources.