

P&A TiDBITS

LEGAL NEWS & other

Disability-Related info

July 2018



ADA TURNS 28!

In 1986, the National Council on Disability recommended enactment of an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and drafted the first version of the bill which was introduced in the House and Senate in 1988. The final version of the bill was signed into law on **July 26, 1990**, by President George H. W. Bush. It was later amended in 2008 and signed by President George W. Bush with changes effective as of January 1, 2009.



In February 2018, the House of Representatives voted to pass the amended version of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Education and Reform Act of 2017, otherwise known as "H.R. 620." This bill is considered by many disability-related groups to weaken the ADA, which is a law that ensures people with disabilities, including mental illness, have equal access to all areas of public life. Intended to discourage the so-called "drive-by ADA lawsuits," the legislation would require a notice and opportunity to cure, before a person may file a complaint with the DOJ or in Federal Court.

HAPPY

FOURTH OF JULY

FROM ALL OF US

at



OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON
WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 2018.

ELECTIONS 2018

July 16-20, 2018

is National Disability Voter Registration Week!

The REV UP Campaign coordinates National Disability Voter Registration Week (NDVRW) each year to increase the political power of people with disabilities while also engaging candidates and the media to recognize the disability community. REV UP stands for Register! Educate! Vote! Use your Power! The link is: <https://www.aapd.com/advocacy/voting/national-disability-voter-registration-week/>.

P&A assists in educating county clerks and other officials regarding voter accessibility for persons with disabilities. A feature of the training is legal obligations for physical accessibility at voting polls and with voting machines. that should be met and demonstrations with voting machines especially tailored for persons with disabilities. For the general public, community programs with clients who are persons with disabilities, guardians, the focus is upon the rights guaranteed by Federal and State law. Training also is available for other groups upon request.

REV UP! REGISTER TO VOTE

In Wyoming, a person may register to vote when he or she goes to a polling place to vote on election day.

Otherwise, the important dates to register in person or by mail with your county clerk and Voter Registration Closes:

Pre-Primary: August 6, 2018

Pre-General: October 22, 2018

(Voters may still register in person and cast an absentee ballot: October 23 - November 5, 2018) Absentee ballots may be requested at any time in 2018 prior to the day of an election.



THEY'RE VOTING. ARE YOU?

KNOW WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE, WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO



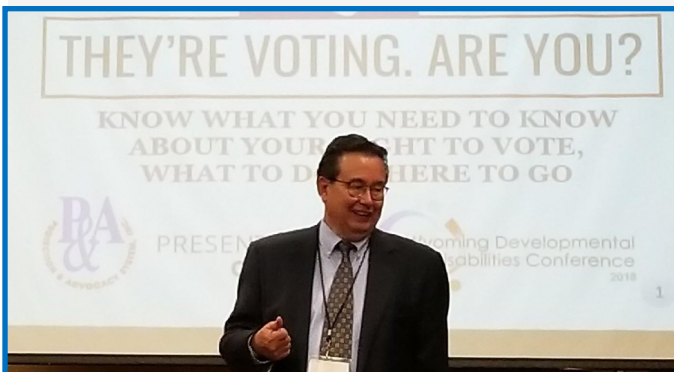
PRESENTATION at



P&A PRESENTS!

P&A was busy in June with providing training at the Wyoming Developmental Disabilities Conference — formerly known as MEGA — with two important topics. As this is an election year, Bob Walters followed up on the voting rights of persons with disabilities guaranteed by both the U.S. Constitution and Wyoming Constitution as well as several Federal laws including the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The training focused upon sources of voting rights and what they mean, the voter registration process (which in Wyoming can be done when a person goes to a polling place to vote at both primary and general elections), the opportunity to vote by mail, and common accessibility issues.

The ADA requirements for physical accessibility was a key topic when Bob along with Lori Regnier made a presentation to the County Clerks at their annual meeting in Cody. It is also important the voters themselves are aware so that they can meaningfully vote and use the available assistive technology in accessible voting machines, in which under HAVA at least one are required to be present at all voting polling places. Polling places also should accommodate service animals, which are limited to dogs and miniature horses under the ADA. County voting officials and their staff along with volunteers should be available to provide needed assistance. However, a voter, including a person with disabilities, should not be told how to vote.



P&A Staff Attorney Bob Walters giving presentation at 2018 WDDC on voting rights of persons with disabilities



The second topic presented by Andy Lemke and Carolyn Yeaman was about exploitation issues faced by persons with disabilities. Tune into next month's issue of Tidbits for more details.

MORE INFO

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2018



Wyoming Voter's Guide

Wyoming Secretary of State's Office



2018 Key Election Dates

Primary Election: August 21, 2018
General Election: November 6, 2018

A good resource for voters from the Secretary of State's Office is the "2018 Wyoming Voter's Guide." It provides useful information about voter registration, absentee voting, county clerks, offices that are up for election, and more. You can download from link below:

http://soswy.state.wy.us/Elections/Docs/2018/2018_Voter_Guide.pdf

Another document you can download is the "2018 Key Election Dates," which has important deadlines for registrations:

http://soswy.state.wy.us/Elections/Docs/2018/2018_Key_Election_Dates.pdf

Wyoming Secretary of State
Election Division
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Statewide Offices on the Ballot

2018 General Election

Source: http://soswy.state.wy.us/Elections/Docs/2018/2018_Offices_Up_for_Election.pdf

P&A also offers a number of important documents about the Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA) program, and brochures pertinent to voting, such as the "Wyoming Voting Guide for Persons with Disabilities" (cover depicted on right). This brochure identifies sources of rights, the registration process and assistance P&A can provide. Ask for yours!

P&A has a hotline that goes from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on election days. The number is:

(877) 249-6167

WYOMING VOTING GUIDE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



MISSION STATEMENT
Establish, expand, protect, and enforce the human and civil rights of persons with disabilities through administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies.