



Alabama Toolkit

Presented by

ALABAMA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY PROGRAM

(ADAP)

Special thanks to The Texas Disability Project for creating the initial Toolkit

The American Association of People with Disabilities

www.aapd.com/REVUP



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Dear Disability Rights Advocates:

In July 2015 we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

We can take great pride in the historic advances we have made in the community integration of people with disabilities of all ages since the passage of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. No matter what the issue— education, housing, transportation, personal assistance services, employment, recreation, adaptive technology, durable medical equipment, or health care, we can see the advances that have improved our lives and moved us closer to true equality.

This has come about by working together and implementing a strategy that has included legislative, legal, direct action, and educational tactics. These tactics are part of our overall goal to bring about the community integration promised in the ADA.

We cannot rest on our past victories. We must build on the past and move forward using the power we have acquired. This power can be exerted if we **Make the DISABILITY VOTE Count!** Policymakers are influenced by large numbers of people turning out to vote in the primaries and the general elections. This reality is why we started the **REV UP Campaign**.

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) is a convener, connector, and catalyst for change, increasing the political and economic power of people with disabilities. The focus of the **REV UP Campaign** is to get more people with disabilities and our supporters registered and voting!

This Toolkit is designed to help you begin organizing in Alabama. Effective REV UP Campaigns will convene state and local disability organizations, such as centers for independent living (CIL) and protection and advocacy (P&A) organizations, to amplify this message and reach more people with disabilities.

If you need assistance getting connected to CILs or P&As in Alabama then contact us at ADAP at adap@adap.ua.edu. If you need assistance getting connected in a state other than Alabama, please contact AAPD at communications@aapd.com. They will be happy to make an introduction.



Register! Educate! Vote!

Use your Power!



Alabamians with disabilities CAN influence the outcome of the November 8, 2016 General Election

'More than any time in memory:

- Elected leaders and political candidates are recognizing the 57 MILLION Americans with disabilities—from birth to advanced age—as a powerful, important constituency
- Issues important to people with disabilities must be part of the platform for any candidate running for public office.

Join thousands of Americans with disabilities in this important and historic effort!

***Don't Mourn...Organize, Register, and VOTE!
Onward to November 8, 2016! Make the DISABILITY VOTE Count!***

For more information:

**Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) (205) 348-4928, Box 870395,
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487, www.adap.ua.edu**

Adap@adap.ua.edu

The Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) is part of the nation's federally-funded protection and advocacy (P&A) system. ADAP provides legal services to Alabamians with disabilities to protect, promote and expand their rights.

ADAP is part of the **National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)**

“Vote as if your life depends on it — *because it does!*”

Justin Dart, Jr., Texan, patriot, father of the ADA.

The November 8th election will be one of the most important elections in over a decade.

The disability community—people with disabilities, family members, attendants, providers, professionals, advocates and supporters—has a major stake in the outcome of this election.

The ***Disability Vote*** can make a difference on issues such as:

- Adequate funding and coverage for Medicaid acute and long term services and supports.
- Waiting lists for home and community services.
- Consolidation and closure of public institutions.
- Integrated employment at no less than minimum wage.
- Accessible, affordable, integrated housing.
- Adequate funding for quality public and higher education.
- Quality Medicaid managed care with strict accountability measures.
- Recruitment and retention strategies for improved wages and benefits for community attendants.
- Implementation and enforcement of the “most integrated setting” requirements in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

REV UP! 2016: A Project of REVUP ALABAMA

The mission of REVUP ALABAMA

WHY? There are approximately 57 million Americans with disabilities. People with disabilities represent 15% of the total voting population.

However, in the 2012 election:

- 57.2% of people with disabilities ***DID NOT VOTE!***
- 30% of people with disabilities said they wanted to vote but were unable to
- 72% of polling places ***WERE NOT ACCESSIBLE!***

HOW? To make participation in the election process as simple as possible, REV UP 2016 encourages individuals to take these steps:

Step 1 Download a *REV UP 2016 Toolkit* from www.adap.ua.edu. The Toolkit includes information and resources to help people with disabilities and supporters register and vote.

Step 2: Make sure YOU are registered to vote and sign the ***REV UP Pledge to Vote!***

Step 3: Distribute information and registration forms to your friends for them to complete to ensure that they are registered to vote.

Step 4: Encourage others to request a *REV UP 2016 Toolkit* and sign the *REV UP Pledge to Vote*.

Step 5: Join REVUP ALABAMA (it's free!) by completing and returning the TDP volunteer form.

Step 6: Use the *Polling Place Survey* (at the end of this Toolkit) when you vote to help us collect information about the accessibility of polling places nationally.

Important pointers for talking to people about voting:

DO:	DO NOT:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage family, friends and others to register to vote and, if eligible, to request a ballot by mail. - Explain and emphasize the importance of the disability vote and the rights of individuals with disabilities to vote. - Encourage friends, colleagues, and family members to request a <i>REV UP 2016 Toolkit</i> from www.adap.ua.edu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommend, endorse, or encourage support for one candidate or party over another. - Tell the people you're registering which party to register under or who to vote for. - Coordinate activities with a candidate or campaign or political party - Target your registration efforts toward any particular ideological group, party, or issue.

Guide for talking to others about voter registration and *REV UP 2016* :

Ask the question, "Are you registered to vote?"

If the answer is NO:	If the answer is YES:
<p>Would you like register? It's easy!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide them with the registration form. - Forms are available for download from the Alabama Secretary of State's (SOS) office. <p>Would you like assistance to complete the registration form?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You may assist them in completing the registration form. <p>You need to mail the registration form to the County Voter Registration Office or submit online.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The address for the County Voter Registration Office is on the voter registration form or available on the Secretary of State website: http://www.alabamavotes.gov - The online registration form is also available at http://www.alabamavotes.gov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You may assist them in mailing in the form. <p>Voter Registration Forms must be sent in to the County Voter Registration Office 14 days prior to election day which would be October 24, 2016.</p> <p>Remind them that general election day is November 8, 2016.</p>	<p>Do you need to apply for an absentee ballot? It's easy!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide them with the information about absentee voting. - Applications can be downloaded from the Secretary of State website. <p>Would you like assistance to complete the application for an absentee ballot?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You may assist them in completing the absentee ballot application. <p>The applicant needs to mail the application to the County Voter Registration Office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The address for the County Voter Registration Office is on the voter registration form or on the SOS website http://www.alabamavotes.gov - Tell them to mail in the form. <p>Voting by mail applications must be submitted to the County Voter Registration Office by November 3, 2016.</p> <p>Ballots must be submitted to the County Voter Registration Office by November 7, 2016.</p> <p>Remind them that general election day is November 8, 2016.</p>

Join the REV UP Campaign

with

REVUP ALABAMA

Together we have the power to change our communities!

_____ Add my name to get information on REV UP ALABAMA

_____ I want to VOLUNTEER TIME, building the REV UP Campaign

- Social Media
- Brochure Development
- ListServe
- Outreach

I want to make the DISABILITY VOTE count! SIGN ME UP!

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Complete the form and return by email to: adap@adap.ua.edu

To return, email adap@adap.ua.edu or mail to:

ADAP
Box 870395
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Questions?

Send email to adap@adap.ua.edu or call (205) 348-4928

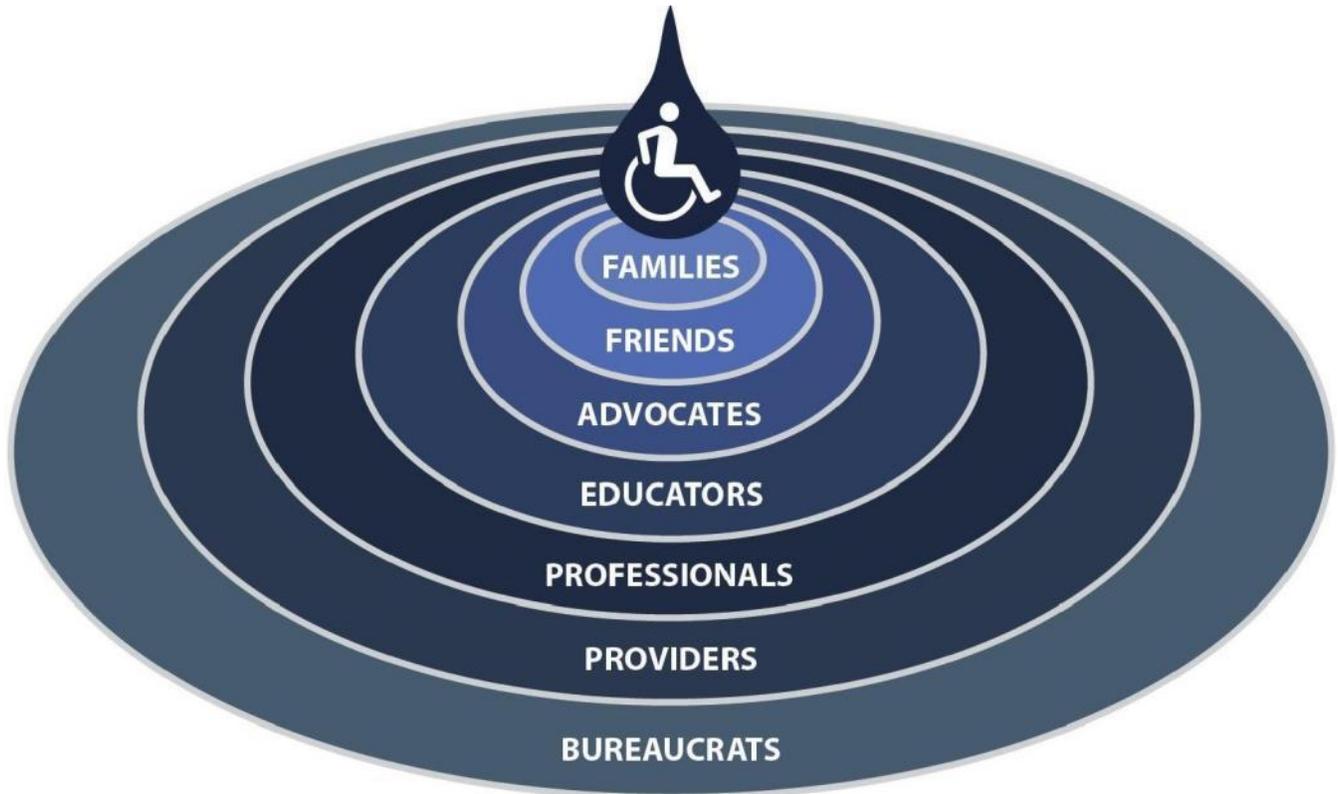
Register! Educate! Vote!

Use your Power!

REV[✓]UP!

MAKE THE **DISABILITY VOTE** COUNT

Ripple Effect of the Disability Vote





Definition of the DISABILITY VOTE:

1. People with disabilities
2. Family members and friends
3. Advocates
4. Educators
5. Professionals
6. Providers
7. Bureaucrats
8. Supporters

Need information about when, where, and how to register and vote?

ADAP recommends the following resources to find what you need. Need more help?

ADAP

(205) 348-4928 or send an email to adap@adap.ua.edu

Alabama Secretary of State's Office

Voice: 334-242-7210

Toll Free: 1-800-274-8683

Fax: 334-242-2444

Physical Address

600 Dexter Ave, Suite E-208

Montgomery, AL 36130

Mailing Address

PO Box 5616

Montgomery, AL 36103-5616

Alabama Department of Public Safety

<http://dps.alabama.gov/Home/DriverLicensePages/wfDLOffices.aspx>

Driver License

P.O. Box 1471

Montgomery, AL 36102-1471

League of Women Voters- Voting Resources

<http://www.lwval.org/>

AAPD REV UP Voting Resources

- www.aapd.com/REVUP
- www.adap.ua.edu

2016 Voting Dates to Remember

NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION

- **October 24, 2016:** Last day to register to vote in the general election
- **September 14, 2016:** Absentee voting begins
- **November 3, 2016:** Last day to apply for Ballot by Mail
- **November 7, 2016:** Last day to submit Ballot by Mail
- **November 8, 2016: Election Day!**

Registration dates will vary depending your state. Rock The Vote provides a resource identifying deadline per state:

<http://www.rockthevote.com/get-informed/elections/voter-registration-deadlines.html>

Your Vote Matters

Information for Individuals with Disabilities

You have the right to:

- Vote by yourself and make your own choices.
- Get help from a person of your choice or an election worker.
- Use a physically accessible polling place and an accessible voting machine.
- Vote if you have a guardian, unless a court determines you cannot.

Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

The goal of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), passed by Congress in 2002, is to make the voting process more inclusive and accessible so that more Americans will become registered voters and participate in elections.

Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) is the protection and advocacy agency designated by HAVA to help ensure accessible voting in Alabama. Specialists on staff can answer questions, respond to legal violations, and troubleshoot problems related to your voting rights. There are no costs for these services.

ADAP provides the following services related to voters with disabilities:

- Educates voters, election workers, and other persons involved in the voting process about the rights of people with disabilities.
- Provides information to people with disabilities about voter registration and the chance to register to vote.
- Provides advice about access to polling places on Election Day.
- Works with groups representing people with disabilities and other organizations in registering voters and surveying polling places for accessibility.
- Represents/advocates for individuals with disabilities who have complaints about the voting process.

Who can register to vote?

Any United States citizen who:

- Is at least 18 years old on Election Day
- Is not in jail for a felony conviction or on parole for a felony conviction.
- Has not had their right to vote removed by a judge in a guardianship hearing.

How to register to vote.

- By mail: Request an application from your local voter registration office.
- In person: At the Department of Public Safety (Drivers License) Office and Board of Registrars.
- Online: Use a computer and go to: <http://www.alabamavotes.gov>

Within 30 days of sending in your application, you will receive your voter registration card in the mail.

Different ways to vote.

In addition to voting in person on Election Day, you can vote in these ways:

- **Regular application for ballot by mail:** Voters with disabilities who do not request an annual ballot by mail application may submit an application for a single election starting January 1, but not later than 11 days before Election Day.

To apply to vote by mail, you may call the absentee ballot manager for your county whose information can be found here:

<http://www.alabamavotes.gov/vb/all.aspx?trgtoffice=Absentee%20Election%20Manager>

or complete the application online at

<http://www.alabamavotes.gov/AbsenteeVotingInfo.aspx?m=voters>

What to bring when you vote.

You must have ONE of the following current forms of identification when you vote:

Valid Driver's License

Valid Non-driver ID

Valid Alabama Photo Voter ID

Valid State Issued ID (Alabama or any other state)

Valid Federal Issued ID

Valid US Passport

Valid Employee ID from Federal Government, State of Alabama, County Government, Municipality, Board, Authority, or other entity of this state

Valid student or employee ID from a college or university in the State of Alabama (including postgraduate technical or professional schools)

Valid Military ID

Valid Tribal ID

If a voter possesses any of these forms of ID, he/she is not eligible to receive a free Alabama photo voter ID card. The voter must bring one of these photo IDs to the polls on Election Day or place a copy of the ID in absentee ballot materials.

A voter who is required to present valid photo identification but who does not do so will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot as provided for by law.

In addition, a voter who does not have a valid photo ID in his or her possession at the polls shall be permitted to vote if the individual is positively identified by two election officials as a voter on the poll list who is eligible to vote and the election officials sign a sworn affidavit so stating.

Voting Rights & Accommodations

Voting Rights

I have the right:

- To vote by myself and make my own choices.
- To get help from a person of my choice or an election worker.
- To a physically accessible polling place and the use of an accessible voting machine.
- To vote if I have a guardian, unless a court determines I cannot.

You Have a Right to Election Accommodations on Election Day:

You can:

- Ask to move to the front of the line.
- Bring someone to help you.
- Have headphones to hear your ballot.
- Have sample ballots in alternative format.
- Have accessible parking.
- Have temporary ramps.
- Use a communication board.
- Access voting machines for voters in wheelchairs.
- Use different colored voting screens.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN ALABAMA

Who may register to vote in Alabama?

Any United States citizen residing in Alabama who:

- Is at least 18 years old on Election Day;
- Has not been finally convicted of a felony, or if a prior felon, has completed all punishment (including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, or period of probation), or has received a pardon; and
- Has not been declared mentally incompetent by a court of law.

How do I register to vote?

- By mail – Just get a registration form, fill it out, and mail it in. It is free.
- In person -- Register at a voter registration agency.

Where can I get a registration form to mail in or register to vote in person?

They are available in many languages. In Alabama, they are available at the following places: **[Note: there may be some differences from state to state]**

- All Department of Public Safety offices (where you go to get a driver's license)
- All county voter registrar offices (In most counties, the office is part of the county tax assessor-collector's office, but in some counties, it is part of the county clerk or elections administrator's office. You can ask the county courthouse for the office location.)
- The Secretary of State's Office (or call them at 1-800-274-8683)
- Public libraries
- Many post offices
- Many high schools
- On the internet at: www.alabamavotes.gov
- Any state and local government offices when applying or recertifying for Aid to Dependent Children, SNAP, TANF, Food Stamps, WIC, Medicaid, or Rehabilitation Services;
- Any office that provides state-funded programs that help people with disabilities (Department of Aging and Disability Services, Department of State Health Services, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, etc.)

The offices that have the registration forms must also help you complete the forms, unless you refuse assistance.

In addition, political parties, activists groups, and private citizens can give out application forms. If they do, they must help you register, too, whether or not you agree with their politics or point of view.

If I am registering by mail, do I need to send anything else in besides the form?

Registration requests that you send a copy of your valid photo identification along with your registration. In Alabama, you will still have to show valid photo identification at the polls each time you vote as well.

What is the deadline to register to vote for an upcoming election?

- You must register 14 days before an election to be eligible to vote in that election.
- If you are registering by mail, your application form must be postmarked at least 14 days before the election. For the 2016 General Election that date is October 24, 2016.

What if I have a disability and can't leave the house?

- You can either register by mail, or
- If an agency is providing you with services in your home, and if they offer voter registration services, they must provide those voter registration services at your home.

What if I am staying in a hospital or other institution that is not in my home county?

If you reside in an institution, or somewhere else that is not in the same county as your permanent address, you can register to vote by mail in the county where your permanent address is. Then you can vote at your current residence with an absentee ballot. (See handout on Alternative Voting Options.)

What if I need help to register?

Anyone of your choice can help you register. Anyone you choose may fill out the registration card for you, in your presence. If you cannot sign your name, you may have a "witness" sign on your behalf. If you can make a mark of any kind, do so, in the signature line. Have your "witness" sign and date their name under the signature line, to indicate that they acted as your witness.

Is there a way to find out if I am already registered to vote?

You can call the Secretary of State's office at 1-800-274-8683. This is the same number you would call to request an application by mail or to seek answers to any voting related question. You may also look online to determine if you are registered and where your polling place is located. The web address is <https://myinfo.alabamavotes.gov/VoterView/RegistrantSearch.do>

What happens after I register?

Your County Board of Registrars will mail you a voter identification card upon determining that you are eligible to vote in your county. The voter identification card will provide you the name and address of your voting place as well as a listing of the various districts in which you live (state House of Representatives, state Senate, etc.).

How do I make changes to my voter registration?

A voter should immediately notify voter registration officials (your local Board of Registrars) of any changes, such as a change in name and address. The law requires that any voter whose name or address is not correct on the voter list must provide current information before being allowed to vote. The form to update registration information will be available at all polling places on election day. If a voter moves to another county within the state, he or she must reregister in the new county of residence.

Helpful Information for ALABAMA Voters with Disabilities

Take this along when you vote

- 1. To fix a problem at the polls, before you leave the polling place**
 - a) Talk to the head election judge, and if they can't fix it, ask them to contact a county or city election official. If that doesn't work,
 - b) Contact Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) at (205) 348-4928 or by email at adap@adap.ua.edu,
 - c) File a written complaint at your polling place.
- 2. If you are under a guardianship...**
 - a) You still have the right to vote UNLESS your guardianship order says that the court has taken away your right to vote.
- 3. If someone challenges your right to vote, the election judge must**
 - a) Put you under oath and have you swear to tell the truth;
 - b) Ask you whether you are under a court ordered guardianship where the court took away your right to vote;
 - c) If you answer that you are eligible to vote, you MUST be allowed to vote.
- 4. If you cannot sign your name...**
 - a) You have the right to tell the election judge who you are and tell another person to sign your name for you on the roster.
- 5. You have the right to ask for help voting.**
 - a) Any person you choose can go with you into the voting booth – except an agent of your employer or union, or a candidate.
- 6. It is against the law for anyone in the polling place to try to influence your vote.**
- 7. You can ask someone to mark your ballot for you.**
 - a) It is against the law for them to mark the ballot for you if you cannot communicate to them who you want to vote for.
- 8. You have the right to take a sample ballot into the voting booth with you.**
- 9. You have the right to use an accessible voting system such as an Automark machine to help you complete your ballot.**
- 10. If you make a mistake before submitting your ballot**
 - a) You may go back and make corrections, follow the directions on the voting system screen or ask for help from a voting official.

A Basic Guide to Polling Place Accessibility

This is a basic guide to accessibility to assist in identifying barriers and potential solutions to ensure access to voters with disabilities. Election officials should try to select fully accessible polling places and conduct the full Department of Justice accessibility survey.

Parking and Drop-Off Areas

- If parking is provided, at least one accessible parking spot that is nearest to the accessible entrance must be provided for every 25 regular parking spaces.
- The first accessible spot should be van accessible with an access aisle at least 8ft wide.
- Accessible parking spots should be relatively level and not have loose gravel or dirt.
- If drop-off area is provided, it should be level and have an access aisle that is at least 5ft deep and 20ft long where people can access entrance (near ramp if necessary).

Solutions: Traffic cones can be used to mark accessible parking spaces and access aisles. Heavy duty mats can be used to level out uneven surfaces.

Paths of Travel

- There must be an accessible path from parking spot to entrance and voting area.
- Path must be at least 36 inches wide and free of steps or level changes more than ½ inch.
- If accessible path crosses traffic, a marked crosswalk should be used.
- Where path crosses curb, a curb cut or temporary ramp should be used.
- Ramps can't be steep. For every 1 inch high, a ramp must be at least 12 inches long.

Preventing Obstructions for Voters Who are Blind or Have Low Vision

- People who are blind can easily run into objects that hang from above (ex. tree limbs), are open beneath (ex. staircases), or protrude from the side (ex. trophy cases).

Solution: Place a barrier within 27 inches of the floor so cane can detect the obstruction.

Entrance to Polling Place and Voting Area

- Doorways must be at least 32 inches wide.
- Threshold must not be more than ¾ inches high at door and must be beveled on each side.
- No heavy doors.
- No slick, round door handles.

Solutions: If door is too heavy to open easily, adjust door closer, disconnect operating arm, or prop door open on Election Day. If smooth round handles are on door, use temporary hardware or prop door open. If threshold is too high, use temporary threshold ramp on each side that is too high.

Voting Area

- An accessible voting machine on wheelchair accessible booth should be located along an accessible path in a location that ensures privacy.

Visit www.866ourvote.org or call 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683) if you have any issues or concerns related to Election Day.



Polling Place Survey

The REV UP Campaign would like to know if your polling place is accessible. Providing us information on the accessibility of your polling place may help resolve accessibility issues in the future. If you are interested in filling out this survey, please indicate the county and precinct information. You can also provide your contact information, although it is not required.

Thank you!

State: _____

County: _____

Precinct: _____

Polling place address: _____

Your Name (optional): _____

Your Phone/Email (optional): _____

Parking

- | | | | | |
|----|--|-----|----|-----|
| 1. | Was there at least one accessible parking space? | Yes | No | n/a |
| 2. | Was the accessible space marked by a visible sign (other than on the asphalt)? | Yes | No | n/a |
| 3. | Was the accessible parking area paved? | Yes | No | n/a |

Entrance

- | | | | | |
|----|--|-----|----|-----|
| 4. | Is the walkway from parking to accessible entrance free of steps? | Yes | No | n/a |
| 5. | If there are steps or curbs, are there ramps provided? | Yes | No | n/a |
| 6. | Was there at least one accessible entrance? | Yes | No | n/a |
| 7. | Could you open all doors with a closed fist? | Yes | No | n/a |
| 8. | Were all doors wide enough for a wheelchair to pass through (32 inches)? | Yes | No | n/a |

Voting Area

- | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|----|-----|
| 9. | Was there at least one accessible voting system provided? | Yes | No | n/a |
| 10. | Were you able to easily use the voting machine's accessibility features? | Yes | No | n/a |

If no, please explain: _____

- | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|----|-----|
| 11. | Were you able to cast your vote privately and independently? | Yes | No | n/a |
| 12. | Were you asked to show a PHOTO ID instead of/or in addition to a voter registration card? | Yes | No | n/a |
| 13. | If assistance or accommodations were requested, were poll workers helpful? (example: curbside voting, person of assistance, headphones) | Yes | No | n/a |

If no, please explain: _____

14. If your eligibility to vote was questioned, how did the poll worker handle the situation?

15. What, if any, voter education or training have you received?

16. Any other comments:

Please return this survey to:

ADAP
Box 870395
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

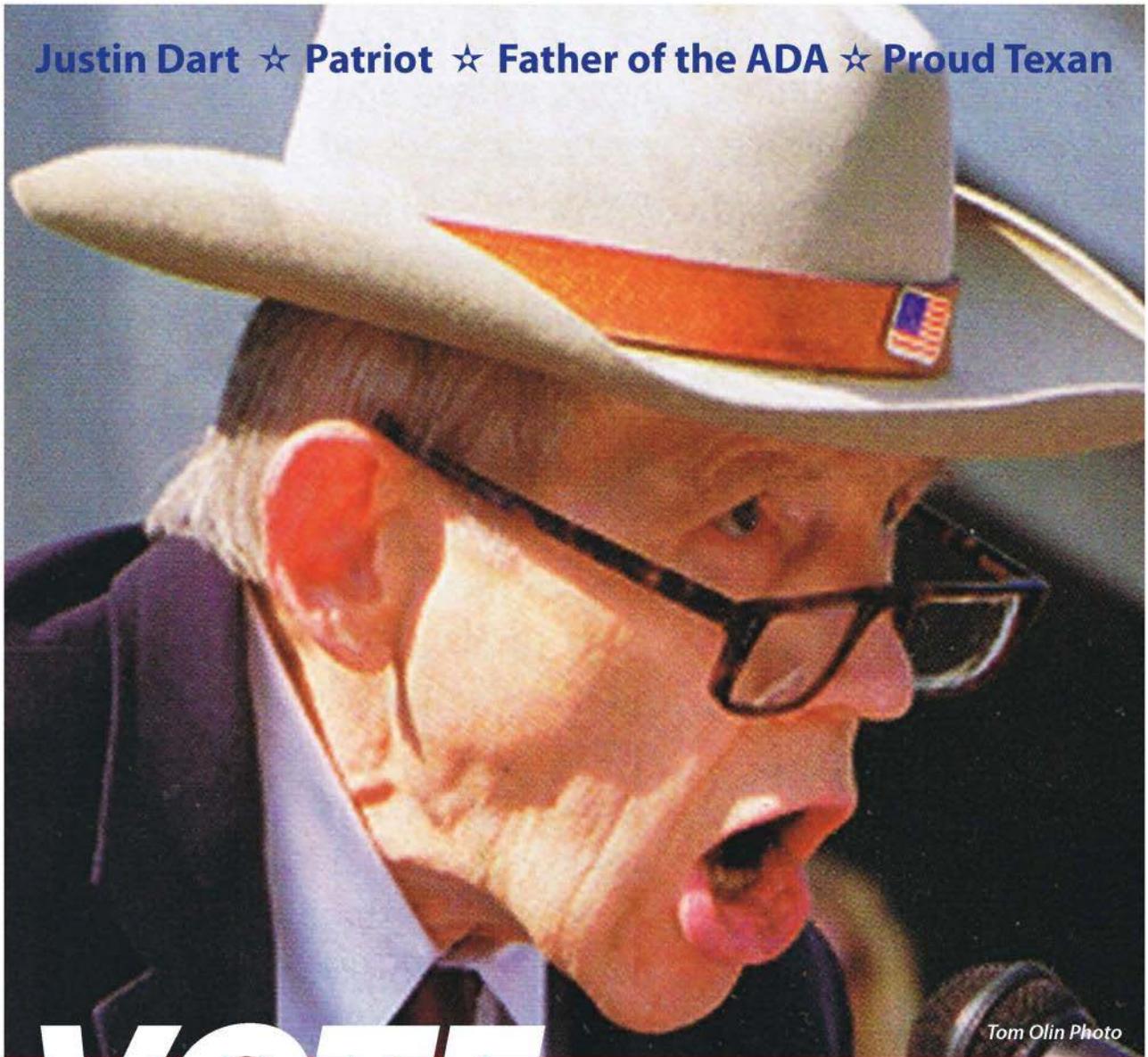
Or

adap@adap.ua.edu

**If you have questions about your voting rights,
or want to report a violation,**

Visit www.866ourvote.org or call 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683)

Justin Dart ☆ Patriot ☆ Father of the ADA ☆ Proud Texan



Tom Olin Photo

VOTE

as if your life **DEPENDS** on it—

Because it DOES!