11:06:35 >> : Thank you for bearing with us in this new technological era. Sometimes we need a little bit more time to get it to cooperate. Thank you so much for bearing with us through that.

11:06:43 Our speakers today hail from Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services.

11:06:54 Noah walker is the voter engagement specialist and Mark Williams is the Director of policy and communication.

11:07:09 They are going to talk to us a little bit about voting and how -- the importance of voting. Voting rights and how to make sure that you are voting safely during the Coronavirus pandemic.

11:07:17 So I'm going to go ahead and turn it over to Mark or Noah. Who is going first?

11:07:29 >> : Let me introduce the our project a little bit, Noah, and then I'm going to ask Noah who is going to do the presentation on voting rights. And then we will answer question.

11:07:31 >>: Yeah.

11:07:41 >> MARK WILLIAMS: Thank you, Tedra, and thanks everyone for joining us. We have a pretty good size crowd here. Thanks for being part of this.

11:07:49 Noah and are we Michigan Protection Advocacy and we are the protection and advocacy agency in Michigan.

11:07:58 One of the things we do is we do outreach and and education and advocacy related to voting rights.

11:08:07 That includes individual advocacy for people with disabilities who are denied the right to exercise the right to vote.

11:08:20 It includes information and assistance for people who want to learn to register to vote. So you can contact us and we will send you information about voter registration.

11:08:28 We do training with people with disabilities on voting rights and becoming informed on voting issues.

11:08:52 We participate with the elections. With stakeholders and other folks to do training, help developing training for election clerks and the training you will see today, that is training design for people in transition, to post school activities and get their information about voting rights.

11:09:12 We provided support for a number of national projects. Including one of the videos that you will hopefully get a chance to see today on, from rights and other groups on access to voting. And featuring people from Michigan.

11:09:31 We do policy education and cosponsor nonpartisan and have one coming up regarding the federal election in October that we're working on with Employer Provider Organization. And we do a lot of hosting on voting rights.

11:09:41 That is part of our work and glad you will get a chance to give you some information today and with that I'm going to ask Noah to take over.

11:09:46 And provide the information to you.

11:09:47 >>: All right.

11:09:49 Thank you, everyone.

11:09:54 I'm going to go ahead and share my screen here.

11:10:14 So I'm going to do that start from the beginning. So my name is Noah Walker and just like Tedra said I am the Voter Education Specialist for the past.

11:10:22 I'm going to go ahead and start this introduction here from Supreme Court case.

11:10:38 It say no right is more precious in a free country that than of having a voice in the election of those who make the laws under which as good citizens we must liver.

11:10:41 live.

11:10:45 This reflects the reasons for supporting the voting right acts.

11:11:15 People with disabilities didn't get truthful access until the Help American Vote Out. Beforehand they had punch cards that people were put inside and filled with numerous problems when it came to accessibility. And that was something and now that it's currently in place since 2002.

11:11:22 People with disabilities have the right to vote privately and independently.

11:11:25 So I'm going to go ahead and move forward here.

11:11:33 So really what we want you to do is to really put your voice out there.

11:11:35 Make informed decisions.

11:11:41 Based on what is important to you and then vote for who and what you want.

11:11:56 I know that sounds kind of hard when there have been a lot of articles that say you must vote for somebody, because the other candidate is dangerous.

11:12:20 Well, I want you to really be more informed I want you to look at which policies are really going to fit with the, you know, who is going to be elected and at the same token. Focus on how these political candidate carry themselves.

11:12:33 And because of the importance of voting it's really important to understand not just policy and platforms but about the agenda what the candidates are speaking to.

11:12:59 What their agenda is and if they especially have like a disability related agenda, whether it's republican, democrat or a third party, I would especially recommend researching that. See if that is really a good idea to kind of get in more contact with that candidate. I think that is a really, really, great idea.

11:13:11 If you're really curious about what kind of political incumbent, political incumbent means someone currently in office.

11:13:22 Usually their website have some kind of news feed where they find any kind of updates, which bills they sponsor and speeches.

11:13:27 And basically why they vote the way they did.

11:14:00 And that is certainly true within the Michigan state government website at Michigan.gov or also in the U.S. House of Representative. If there is the President of the United States with the reasoning of supporting any orders they have and important to check that out.

11:14:25 Checking websites that are non-partisan. Politifact investigating any kind of statement a candidate would say or special interest group. And they have their own independent research teams about whether that is true or false about whether what they are proclaiming.

11:14:27 Whether that is fully true.

11:14:45 If it's like absolutely false to the point where it's probably not going to be worth taken seriously or kind of right in the middle and somewhat true but misleading in some ways or things that have been admitted.

11:15:00 So another way of finding like any kind of support or opposition to bills, you know, whenever a candidate speaks about what they support or oppose and why.

11:15:27 You can check out Govtrack and Ballotpedia good websites. Basically recording their votes. That way if somebody is being honest or dishonest and you can check on the record, which bills they've supported.

11:15:33 What the language is in the bill and how that is going to impact people with disabilities.

11:15:45 And within our entire state I also really, really, like the Bridge magazine. They talk a lot about the issues that really speak to people in Michigan.

11:15:55 You know the relevant to our entire state and that is why I really appreciate about it it's also very investigative.

11:16:07 So when it comes to political elections and they provide some, really, really, valid information like informing people what's happening.

11:16:12 And then you base your response off of that.

11:16:17 So I'm going to move this topic right here.

11:16:21 It's kind of blocking my slide here.

11:16:55 So when it comes to reviewing the ballot, to really review the ballot, first of all you have to be register, but secondly, there is a website called the Michiganvoterinformationcenter and you type your first and last name and date of birth including the year you were born and then your ZIP code and once you click on it you're register.

11:17:00 There is a button that say simple ballot. Do simple ballot.

11:17:07 And when you click on it should have a slate of candidates one with ballot proposals.

11:17:32 Now, if you're not really sure which candidates you're supporting, I would say that, you know, most people get caught up on who to vote for in the circuit and county judges. People don't really know enough about that because it's not advertised enough. And also ballot can be confusing.

11:17:38 If you have any kind of questions don't feel afraid to ask any of them.

11:17:57 That either know about the candidates or know about the -- especially know about the ballot proposals, because it can be kind of tricky to understand what those definitions about millages or anything like that that can really impact people.

11:18:00 So especially people with disabilities.

11:18:11 >> TEDRA JACKSON: Noah, before we move on can you explain what a ballot proposal is.

11:18:27 >>: Yeah. Normally includes a millage and some kind of proposal some kind of funding. Based off of our tax dollars. And usually what it is.

11:18:38 An example of that, for example, emergency 911 services within Ingham county. Where I live.

11:18:59 A tax mill LAJ and they have a certain level of funding and go into emergency, security cameras, any kind of 911 services and stuff like that. That would be one where it's kind of an example of that.

11:19:33 Another one that has been -- another example of that has been really contentious where I used to live was about, you know, like affordable housing or going for community walk. That is like within Ann Arbor and have a debate to support affordable housing or people's lot, where that would be funded.

11:19:44 So it's all very contentious but eventually people voted for community lot.

11:19:57 There is still discussion about affordable housing within the city, because that has a been a problem lately. That would be two good examples of that.

11:19:58 >> TEDRA JACKSON: Thank you.

11:20:04 >> : We do have a question, if you're willing to take a question from Sarah right now.

11:20:05 >>: Yup.

11:20:11 >> : Go ahead and unmute and ask your question.

11:20:15 Sarah go ahead and unmute and ask your question.

11:20:26 >> : I know that I don't remember what I was gonna ask.

11:20:34 >> : That's okay. If you want to think about it and raise your hand again we can get to you right away.

11:20:35 >>: Yes.

11:20:36 >>: Sorry.

11:20:37 >> : No problem.

11:20:38 >> : That's okay.

11:20:39 >>: Okay.

11:20:41 >> : Definitely, fine.

11:21:01 >>: All right. So to be able to register to vote. You must be a Michigan resident.

11:21:08 And then you must be at least 18 years old and a U.S. citizen.

11:21:25 And in Michigan State of law if you're incarcerated with a felony currently and currently sentence then unfortunately you're not allowed to vote, but once you're out then you're able to vote.

11:21:43 Some people have spread misinformation about people who have left either a jail or prison and they're feed misinformation that they are not allowed to vote, which is false.

11:21:48 If you no longer have a felony then you're still able to vote.

11:21:51 So don't let that stop you.

11:22:00 And then you get to fill out an application by using a driver's license or state ID. That is very common.

11:22:20 That is the most common way to actually get to be able to register to vote, but there is also some alternative options such a bank or utility statements. You can also use a paycheck.

11:22:22 You know, from your employer.

11:22:30 And what is going to happen is that the clerk will send you a voter ID card.

11:22:48 Now from my experience, when I was able to give a voter ID card to my co-worker they weren't really looking for that. They were more looking for like a driver's license or State ID.

11:22:56 Even though we're technically not a strict voter ID state by law.

11:23:00 So please keep that in mind.

11:23:04 And you will receive access to a simple ballot.

11:23:16 How to contact your clerk and voting place you're going to need to go to. Whether it's from NPI and legal voters.

11:23:33 Has your voter precent.

11:23:53 >> TEDRA JACKSON: Before you move on we have two questions. Paper ballots are tough on some. Is there ways to make it accessible during COVID-19? I asked him rather to clarify and he said, can you help or provide a vote machine for marking ballots?

11:24:03 >>: Okay. So what we've been advocating for is there should be some in person voting.

11:25:08 Recently during the entire country some states have really reduced a lot of the polling precinct to just one and thankfully in the state of Michigan they out lawed that. You are able to vote within your precinct. For a primary August 4th. You can vote in the same day within the clerk's office and go to your precinct and you can do that and this time it's more that you're going to have to socially distance from other people and really practice safety guidelines, but they should be set up ined

11:25:32 They have to be accessible towards, you know, pretty much every single person with a disability. And it should be universal for co-workers to say whether if anyone wants to be on the touch screen or the tabulator. Like a tabulating machine.

11:25:36 So that is really what needs to happen.

11:25:43 Right now currently we are vote by mail state, which is what I'm going to get into.

11:26:00 >> TEDRA JACKSON: Thank you, Noah. And one more question. From Sue on Facebook. How do we know if our person can cognitively understand the candidate's agenda and ballot proposals?

11:26:39 >> : As far as like kind of like understanding the agenda, well, I feel like if anyone is not sure what the agenda is, feel free to contact people who know about this policy and also kind of like you know, break it down in simple language, that way they will get a better understanding about what that really means so that way they will gain more of a better understanding of what that is all about.

11:26:43 And then they can weigh in whether they support that or not.

11:26:48 >> TEDRA JACKSON: Are there organizations that provide that service, Noah?

11:26:54 >> : Mark, you were about to say something.

11:26:58 >> : I was going to add something else, but go ahead.

11:27:25 >>: Okay. So I would say that a lot of people that, you know, really understand what that issue is, you know, like if you're unsure about that then you can go to any policy expert and specific policy and break it down in simple language.

11:27:48 So whether that's about health care. Whether that's about, you know, economic opportunities for people. Whether if that means about the Coronavirus.

11:27:56 Whether if they are talking about eliminating poverty in the neighborhoods, for example.

11:28:00 Or if it's kind of from a different perspective.

11:28:20 So I think that within certain agency, I would say if there are really active in political issue you're really being confused about then I would recommend contacting them first.

11:28:23 >> : What I was going to add. Thanks Noah.

11:28:53 There is no requirement that you show that you can understand what is going on with an issue or with a candidate as a prerequisite to voting. Many states guardian, we are one of the few states to allow even under a guardianship without restriction.

11:29:04 >> : If you're unsure about a certain issue than don't feel held back by that to prevent you from voting. We don't want that to happen.

11:29:16 What we want you to do is contact somebody who is sort of an expert on that issue. Like a policy expert and then they will break it down for you.

11:29:24 >> TEDRA JACKSON: We actually have one more question from Facebook. Tracy if you want to go ahead and read it now.

11:29:56 >> TRACY VINCENT: Would it be helpful for companies that provide staffing for individual residing in group home to have a political Laison and keep political information on hand and train other staff to be a bias informer for people that need assistance.

11:29:59 >> : I'm sorry, I didn't catch everything.

11:30:26 >> : Would it be helpful for companies that provide staffing for individual who reside in group homes to have a politically liaison there, this liaison would keep facts about local politics and train other staff member about being a nonbias informer for people that need assistance.

11:30:30 >>: Yeah. I would say that definitely recommended.

11:30:43 What I see sort of being as a problem people who live in group homes seem to be unfortunately isolated away from political issue, because typically they've been institutionalize.

11:30:58 So they general have a tendency to having a lot of turn out than those who are not in group homes. Mark, you want to add anything about that.

11:31:16 >> MARK WILLIAMS: The only thing I would add is that you also for an individual who has a person Centered plan. Can include how to become informed about voting.

11:31:26 And how to become a stronger self-advocate by exercising your voting rights.

11:31:49 So it's not just about providing support in a home setting, it's also about making sure that individuals have the ability to grow and as self advocates and grow those abilities to learn about issues and about candidates.

11:31:56 >> TRACY VINCENT: Okay. Thank you.

11:32:00 >> : Are there any more questions or can I continue?

11:32:05 >> TEDRA JACKSON: Not at this time, Noah. Continue.

11:32:14 >> : Okay. So I'm going to continue onto voting by mail, because Michigan is a vote by mail state.

11:32:19 All voters are eligible for absentee voting in Michigan now.

11:32:23 And you don't have to provide a reason this time.

11:32:34 You have four reasons where if you're overseas or in the military. If you're an elderly person or somebody with a disability.

11:32:40 Now you don't have to provide any kind of reason and makes it a whole lot more accessible.

11:32:57 That being said there are some valid criticism of vote by mail that include that the regular print, large printed in Spanish are not really always accessible to people who are blind and low vision.

11:33:27 And recently there's been due to a lawsuit that was against the Secretary of State. Under a consent decree blind and low vision voters have an access that has been used for oversea voters and military veteran and electronically submit their ballot on who they vote for.

11:33:35 And that was a big win for the blind community and the low vision and visually impaired voters.

11:33:53 And you can register the same day when you're voting at the clerk's office, like I said before and for deadlines for absentee ballots during the general election is October 19, 2020.

11:33:59 And for the primary, that is going to be in July 20th of 2020.

11:34:08 So if you want to send an absentee ballot you probably want to do that very soon. Sooner rather than later.

11:34:21 So that you will be able to not have to deal with going into the polls in person.

11:34:32 But if you want to vote in person you can bring a driver's license, a state ID, or other documents with a photowith you to polling place.

11:34:52 If you don't have a photo identification that is accepted by poll workers, then you should have the right to sign an affidavit and say your name and address and sign the list of voters.

11:35:06 And a poll worker can give you a bat LOL or if you choose go to electronic ballot marking terminal. They have to be turned on.

11:35:07 They have to work.

11:35:37 So if you see something where the voting ma seen is not at all accessible, please contact us, because we are going to be able, you know, contact the clerk so that way during the next time that you're voting they'll be prepared to be turned on and hopefully won't have any troubles with the machine.

11:36:03 So basically once that is turned on then you fill out the ballot. Put it in a private, secrecy sleeve and take it to the tabulating machine. And you're putting the ballot into the tabulate machine and accepted and get an I voted sticker.

11:36:09 That is basically, like how that really works when you're in person.

11:36:22 And during the Coronavirus, because of the Coronavirus right now they're probably going to have to require you to wear a mask and socially distance from people. At least six feet away.

11:36:27 And they're going to have some specific instructions.

11:36:48 >> : I have two questions about ballot marking terminal, can anybody use the terminal or do you have to be have a disability?

11:37:09 >> : So basically for the electronic ballot marking device, which is a voting machine, basically what needs to happen is that the poll workers need to ask if you need to use the machine or not?

11:37:12 >> : Anyone can use it?

11:37:15 >> : Anyone can use it. Doesn't have to be a person with a disability.

11:37:29 If they only ask people with disability if they want to use them, basically what that is segregated voting. That is what we want to avoid.

11:37:32 >> : Can the clerk force you to use the machine?

11:37:40 >> : They need to ask you if they want to use the machine.

11:37:55 And then you can either say yes or no and then if you say yes, they're gonna have to direct you to the voting machine and, you know have it prepared.

11:38:09 And, if not, they are going to give you traditional paper ballot.

11:38:16 >>: Great. Thank you.

11:38:31 >> : So rights about accessibility includes registration, parking and have been some instances where parking has been a problem.

11:39:15 Physical access in this circumstances. Doors have to be at least wider than 32 inches, but I bet because of the fact that people have bigger wheelchairs I'm hoping they expand beyond 32 inches, because some wheelchairs can't fit around 32 inches. And that was something I realized when I went into Detroit about a year ago, and someone with a disability said that their wheelchair could not fit into a 32 inch door. Hopefully, that will be updated at some point.

11:39:22 Your rights to access alternative marking device when you want to.

11:39:32 You do have the right to get help from others. You also have the right to privacy and independence when voting.

11:39:37 There have been some people with disabilities that had neither of that.

11:39:59 And we've been able to resolve those problems, but later on, but while that was happening that's basically inform of being incident enfranchise and having your vote taken away from you somehow, because you couldn't access it.

11:40:18 You do have the right to absentee ballots and help from others basically your right is to get help from two precinct delegate. And democrat and republic delegate.

11:40:28 >> : Are there any limits on, if you wanted to bring somebody with you to help you with the ballot? Is there any limit on that?

11:40:49 >> : Well, they can't really tell you like any kind of bias when it comes to helping you on the ballot. They need to explicitly use the language that is like on the ballot.

11:41:03 >> : If you wanted to bring like a, you know attendant or member of your family or somebody to help you with the ballot as an accommodation, could you do that?

11:41:09 >> : You could. As long as it's not a union representative or employer.

11:41:10 >>: Okay.

11:41:21 >> : So there -- the state law say that the person can't be a union representative or somebody from your employer, right?

11:41:22 >>: Right.

11:41:24 >>: Okay.

11:41:44 >> : So this video embedded right here is called Voter access. And this is about voting at the polls. And we have two people, one is a Lansing clerk and one person that we helped be able to vote.

11:41:49 And is from Flint, Michigan.

11:42:02 The Lansing, clerk and Flint, Michigan. The Lansing clerk they kind have them be listening to somebody from Ohio, but that is not true.

11:42:05 He is from Lansing, Michigan.

11:42:20 And also somebody from Alabama who, you know, has like her own issues with being able to access the ballot marking devices, but still relevant.

11:42:27 So I'm going to click on this, if you don't mind.

11:42:32 (Video).

11:42:46 >> : Walks down the street. Approaches the candidate. She stops and looks up. And then arrive. At the voting center. Nothing goes to plan.

11:42:48 Can't cast her voice.

11:42:57 >> : The truth of the matter is you can vote for everything and still have -- -- and voter. And access.

11:43:12 >> : The benefits or ADA have been in existence for decades. How can the ADA my student loan.

11:43:35 In addition, to ADA there are several laws the helping American voting act. Voting rights act of 1965. The voting accessibility F for the ELD DERly and and demand that voting with disabilities have the right to accept. However, some voting date this isn't the key.

11:43:37 About the.

11:43:42 >> : I need accommodations that are acceptable.

11:43:54 And when I say accessible when I get there there is a machine there. I'm not able to see what the print is. I would need to know what is on the screen.

11:44:06 >> : On several occasions when I got to a voting. The machine are some what still in the box. Not plugged up. And actually been told they were not going to turn them on.

11:44:16 >> : I had about -- how to use the machine or mark. To get people on the machine when I get there.

11:44:22 And sometimes voters have stand behind me.

11:44:30 >> : Voting with a need for accommodation could be a gamble. Voting to be acceptable.

11:44:34 >> : There are several things that should be considered to be acceptable.

11:44:55 >> : The space should be physically accessible and safe place -- if you have invisible disability and some places have crib side voting. And having inaccessible, but fast and easy to locate.

11:45:01 >> : Accessible voting units allow voters to make selections in a variety of ways.

11:45:04 >> : Machines need to be set up properly.

11:45:15 >> : And use stuff. They should also to be accessible. For example, a voting use about -- -- while information.

11:45:18 >> : Inaccessible more accessible.

11:45:33 >> : I'm city clerk for the city of Lansing. Michigan so different piece of equipment. But (audio is cutting in and out. )

11:45:40 >> : And started getting feedback from a couple of voters and felt discouraged.

11:45:55 >> : Most people are there to assist a voter through the voting process. Don't feel competent or seem competent with with the process or a piece of the equipment and doesn't instill confidence in the voter.

11:46:04 >> : Are inaccessible. There is no outrage or awareness. That trying to vote and accessible.

11:46:17 >> : I was inside a voting location and they said they had the automachine and all they had was that. And did not have the device for me. And that is it.

11:46:19 >> : I'm not going to do it.

11:46:26 >> : Eric -- (audio is not clear).

11:46:35 >> : I was finally able to vote private and independent.

11:46:58 >> : Anyone who wants to vote. We all have to vote in America. If you can contact local officials to ask for assistant. And reaching out to your local protection. Dial 866 our vote. 687-8683.

11:47:01 >>: Hello. I need some help.

11:47:03 >> : It's a hot mess right now.

11:47:07 >> : I Vote For Access.

11:47:10 >> : Vote For Access.

11:47:17 >>: All right.

11:47:29 >> : So that was the presentation. Let me expand here.

11:48:11 So for perspective here for the Lansing City Clerk During the 2018 election there have been some issues with voting machine access. So we were able to provide a training to the poll workers for the 2019 local elections and we basically talk to them about disability competency for people with disabilities.

11:48:18 And being able to universally ask everybody if they want to use the polling machine or touch screen.

11:48:27 And as a result 70 percent of the people in Lansing used a voter machine.

11:48:29 Voting machine.

11:48:33 And they were able to get it prepared and working.

11:48:58 And one of the key aspects of that ambassador to allow, you know, basically lead people to a machine and have it prepared, turned on and working and by far the only issue that they had was that some kind of error within, you know, printing the ballot out.

11:49:01 So that was pretty much like the only issue.

11:49:17 And then in regards to the person from Flint I was able to contact the city and county clerk to resolve the problem that he basically had.

11:49:24 And that was not getting access with a use the voting machine.

11:49:40 And finally after 20, 21 years able to thankfully get the access to vote for the first time.

11:49:56 So if you have any kind of problems with voting whether it's physically being able to access at one place, if you have trouble with voting absentee, and probably going to be more common.

11:50:22 I would recommend contacting the election Protection Hot Line and again, 1-866-687-8683 and provides the most immediate services for those who have having trouble voting or denied the right to vote.

11:50:34 Another option would be to contact and intake and referral team in our office and we will give you information about that as well.

11:51:18 So most of -- so right below here is our Lansing office phone number. 1-800-228-5923. And our Marquett. 1-866-928-590. And federally servicing Michigan. And we operate under best solutions and self-determination.

11:51:34 And then there is a protection in advocacy agency organization in all of the states and territory and because we're a nonprofit our services are free and confidential. And that should be it.

11:51:36 I'm going to stop the share.

11:51:41 And if anyone else has additional questions, feel free.

11:51:45 >> TEDRA JACKSON: We did have another question.

11:51:55 When I voted for the primary Trump and Biden were on the ballot, why?

11:52:09 >>: Okay. Well, sometimes I believe that was -- are you talking about the like during the March primary?

11:52:10 >>: Yes.

11:52:26 >> : I voted for -- two weeks ago and on the ballot.

11:52:27 >> : That's interesting.

11:52:50 >> : Because in my ballot they didn't have Trump and Biden. They are for the March ballot, for the March election should have Trump or Biden on there. Not during August.

11:53:07 >> : I think that Barb missed a word. When she voted for the August primary Trump or Biden were not on the ballot and why were they not on the ballot for the August primary?

11:53:19 >> : They are not on the ballot, because they already have their primaries, back in March.

11:53:38 And that was like when Biden was facing off against Bernie Sanders and Trump was a nominate or republican party and other people included in that ballot.

11:54:04 During the state primaries it's a little bit different where they basically in the highest level of office that is on the state primary is the U.S. federal Senators and then it goes all the way down to U.S. House of Representatives and the State House. So that is kind of the reason why Trump and Biden were not on the ballot.

11:54:07 >>: All right. Thank you, Noah.

11:54:17 >> : No problem.

11:54:44 >> TEDRA JACKSON: At this time we're just open for any questions that our participants have for either Noah or Mark. You can either unmute yourself and go ahead and ask your question or type your questions in the chat and I wanted to check back with Tracy to see if we had any additional questions or comments on the Facebook live?

11:54:50 >> TRACY VINCENT: No, there are no additional comments or questions at this time.

11:54:59 >> TEDRA JACKSON: Thank you.

11:55:01 >> : So.

11:55:02 >>: Hello.

11:55:04 >> : Can you hear me?

11:55:05 >>: Yes.

11:55:31 >>: Okay. I'm a little concern if we assist my adult son with autism to vote that can be challenged, because the fact is there is some cognitive impairment and frankly we almost feel like we will be telling him who to vote for.

11:55:40 I would rather even not have him vote than get in trouble somehow, what do you say to that?

11:55:44 >> : I would disagree with that.

11:55:51 I don't think that cognitive ability should be a negative factor towards not being able to vote.

11:56:03 It would be really recommended that you be informed about certain issues and simple and plain language as much as possible.

11:56:29 And be able to research the candidates and ballot proposals that can be tricky and have like a policy expert, you know, break it all the way down in simple and plain language. That way down to his sort of cognitive level. That way he would kind of have a better understanding.

11:56:36 And it would be recommended that this person would also have a bit of a simple ballot.

11:56:57 And really in Michigan cognitive, you know, malfunctions are not really an obstacles within the state ofmy towards voting legally. We're going to discourage people therefore from making that being more of a set back, if you would.

11:57:06 >> : There is no legal basis for the clerk to challenge his ability to vote. Right.

11:57:12 >>: Okay. Hi, mark this is Khalilah.

11:57:17 >> : There is no legal basis for the clerk to say he can't vote.

11:57:29 >> : There is a part on the ballot where you sign if you help the person. In the current climate I imagine somehow somebody coming to arrest me or something.

11:57:29 (Laughter).

11:57:30 >>: No.

11:57:32 >> : It's not going to happen.

11:57:36 >>: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, both, so much.

11:57:55 >> TEDRA JACKSON: Noah, there is a question in the chat. Well the flier you posted with the 1-800, the flier you showed with the 1-800 be posted at polling locations?

11:58:21 >> : Well, I can basically put that on there -- are you specifically talking about like the like our office phone number or are you talking about the Election Protection Hot Line.

11:58:22 ?

11:58:34 >> TEDRA JACKSON: I believe she is referencing The Election Protection Hotline if not should be.

11:58:38 >> : I think we could, but I'm going to let people get that number.

11:58:46 >> : There is no legal requirement that I know that the clerks post that information.

11:59:12 I agree, it should be. There is no legal requirement that they be posted.

11:59:17 >> TEDRA JACKSON: Are there any additional questions for our presenters today?

11:59:25 >> : This is Angela. I'm joining late, but I did have one question.

11:59:56 So if a person is going to a polling place and they change their mind and suddenly want to have that paper ballot, can they just go right to the clerk and take care of that right there and then. Maybe got the invitation and didn't fill it out and too many people and worried about COVID and quickly change their mind and do the paper ballot right there at the polling place?

12:00:00 >> : Noah, you want me to take a shot at this.

12:00:02 >>: Yeah. Go ahead.

12:00:18 >> : Angela, as I understand it you're talking about somebody who goes to vote. Originally wants to vote in person and then decides they don't want to stand in line and do absentee and vote with the ballot instead.

12:00:30 >> : It's too scary. I like to go in person and suddenly see, oh, my gosh, there is a lot of people there and worried about COVID and suddenly change their mind.

12:00:40 >> : So there is no requirement, you can go to the clerk's office to vote absentee at that point.

12:01:08 There is no requirement they offer the absentee option at the precinct. Might offer it, but no requirement. You would have to then go to the clerk's office and vote absentee at the clerk's office or whatever location the clerk designate as a place you can vote absentee on election day.

12:01:22 >> : Thanks Mark. I think for some people it's going to be another kind of last minute decision for some people. They planned on it, but the secondary challenge can I get to the clerk's office then.

12:01:24 >> : It is a real challenge.

12:01:33 >> : It is a challenge. That is what the legislature added that requirement in after proposal three was approved by the voters.

12:01:48 >> : I would have to say the legislature from the republican party limited to the clerk's office. Personally in my opinion it should be pretty much, you know, there should be more options.

12:01:57 >> : We had advocate the options be available at the precinct, but not what happened.

12:02:21 >> : The other thing to keep in mind at the precinct you can ask for accommodations. If one of the barriers to a person voting there is a line and they need to be able to sit and can't stand for a long period of time, you can ask for an accommodation, they either be allowed to go forward or have a place to sit.

12:02:31 Some of those conditions might lead someone to not want to wait around and vote in person are things you can ask for accommodations to address.

12:02:32 >>: Thank you.

12:02:37 >> TEDRA JACKSON: Mark, we have have another question.

12:03:00 Do professional guardians appointed by the probate court have any responsibility making sure the people they have guardianships over access to voting. I know the mail goes to guardian, so they would have received.

12:03:06 >> : I think the guardians do have that responsibility, but that is just me talking.

12:03:19 Certainly appointed guardian if they have authority and to provide a whole range of support, I think it includes helping the person exercise their rights, which includes the right to vote.

12:03:32 >>: Yeah. Guardians should be able to provide that responsibility. And if they don't then they can risk getting sue by disability organizations.

12:03:46 So it would be kind of imperative for them to be able to help people with disabilities. You know, kind of help them to vote.

12:03:49 You know, just to be on the good side.

12:04:01 But also to make sure that people with disabilities actually that are under guardianship to have that rare opportunity to really voice their opinion in how policy should be carried out.

12:04:06 And that is under support decision making.

12:04:23 >> TEDRA JACKSON: So my question, because I did receive, everyone in Michigan received the applications. Do people with guardians or the public guardians even though they received the ballot application?

12:04:27 >> : It's a good question. I don't know.

12:04:31 >>: Yeah. I'm not the expert on that.

12:04:42 >>: Should.

12:05:04 >> TEDRA JACKSON: And Laura commented back on Angela's question it's her understanding that the only way you can't vote absentee that day would be if the clerk had already received and processed your original absentee ballot.

12:05:06 >>: Right.

12:05:40 >> : You can ask, if you've got an absentee ballot and then you decided you wanted to go to the polling place and vote in person, but you've already cast an absentee ballot. You can't cast more than one ballot. You can if the ballot not been counted and ask the ballot be voided. If you voted before hasn't been processed and voided and given the opportunity to vote again.

12:05:54 If you're not sure about that one thing you can ask for to vote a provisional ballot. So you're not denied the right to cast a vote on election day.

12:06:08 >> : This is Margaret Howard. Thank you so much we're having a voting rally events later on this afternoon for our members as well.

12:06:56 I was wondering based on the conversation the guest asked a few minutes ago about her son voting. Would there be any scenario that you can tell us that would be inappropriate designation for a person to be able to vote as far as their cognitive skills being challenged, et cetera? Would there be any situation you can share with us -- I have heard that question before. People are afraid to assist now. Mostly because of the climate of the country. Not so much Michigan, but could you give ucen

12:07:08 Where a person's cognitive skill had the ability to vote, would there be any such scenario that you can describe?

12:07:12 >> : In Michigan, no.

12:07:14 >>: Yeah. Not in Michigan.

12:07:34 >> : The only scenario would be if a person tried to register and currently incarcerate in a prison for a felony. Or if they brought an employer or union representative with them then we're going to proceed to try to help them vote.

12:07:35 >>: Right.

12:07:37 >> : Those are really the two limitations.

12:07:40 >> : There is no competency test.

12:08:07 >> : Some of the other states actually do discriminate against people with disabilities when it comes to incapacity and that means that they're basically people who are melly incompetent, but that is a way of people with disabilities to be discriminate against for not being able to vote.

12:08:11 Therefore disenfranchising them.

12:08:24 >> : So if you run into that circumstances at a polling place, say a clerk or somebody else is trying to tell you that a person has to have some level of competency to vote, that is worth a complaint.

12:08:31 Because essentially they're trying to discourage people who have the right to vote from voting.

12:08:47 >> : That's good to know. And with the absentee ballot the same way and assist and sign they won't be challenged to prove any further competency, et cetera, is that what you're telling us?

12:08:49 >>: Should be.

12:09:02 >> : Thank you so much. Comes up quite frequently in the last few weeks. Thank you.

12:09:20 >> TEDRA JACKSON: Any other questions? And that is one of the reasons this was an important topic for us to cover just because there are so many unanswered questions and people think one thing, but really the law is on the side of the people with disabilities.

12:09:22 At least in our state.

12:09:30 Are there any other questions for our presenters today?

12:09:37 Noah, do you want to talk about the Go Voter Webinar.

12:09:54 >> : So Go Voter Webinar are going to be based off of -- they're going to be for go voter survey and presentations.

12:09:59 The first one is going to be about registering to vote.

12:10:09 The second one is basically about how to basically vote during the current laws that we have in Michigan.

12:10:19 And the last one is going to be about basically how to get through any kind of challenges that people with disabilities have.

12:10:27 And the first webinar is going to be on the 21st at 1 p.m.

12:10:37 And the second one is going to be on the 28th. That is at 1 p.m. And the last one is going to be July 30th at 1 p.m.

12:10:46 And both myself and Sarah Carmany are going to present the entire PowerPoints.

12:10:55 If anyone has any questions then please feel free.

12:11:03 And those are the links to the webinar right below.

12:11:07 >> TEDRA JACKSON: Thank you, Noah.

12:11:29 So for the folks at Detroit Wayne Integrated Health this might be a good opportunity for you to pass on the people that are going to be participating in your, whatever you're doing on Friday. So they can get a little bit more opportunity, especially, if there is new voters.

12:11:35 >>: Yeah. I think one person wants to -- for us to share that flier.

12:11:41 So we should be able to do that.

12:11:42 >> : This is Sarah.

12:11:45 >> : We will pass it along. Thank you.

12:11:48 >>: I'm sorry.

12:11:56 >>: Yes. Can I get a copy of the flier?

12:11:57 >> TEDRA JACKSON: Absolutely.

12:12:05 >>: Okay. I'm sorry.

12:12:26 >> TEDRA JACKSON: Are there any other questions for today for our presenters? Seeing none.

12:12:35 I would like to thank Mark and Noah for both being with us today and taking time out to present on this very important topic.

12:12:46 Noah, can you remind us when the absentee, has the absentee ballot applications deadline passed for the August primary?

12:12:51 >>: No. The last day you can do that is July 20th.

12:12:55 >> : And that is next week. Monday.

12:12:58 >> TEDRA JACKSON: Next week Monday. You do still have time.

12:13:09 I believe if you go onto the website, that we posted earlier the voter information center, you can make the request online.

12:13:23 There is online application, however, you do have to print it and sign it. If you don't sign the application you won't receive a ballot in the mail.

12:13:32 So if there are no other questions, thank you all for joining us and we will see you next week. Next Thursday at 11.

12:13:33 >>: Right.

12:13:35 >> : Thanks, everyone.

12:13:35 >>: Bye.

12:13:36 >> : Go vote.

12:13:41 >> : Thanks Mark and Noah. You did a good job.

12:13:42 >> : No problem.