

# PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR VOTING ACCESS (PAVA)

TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE RIGHTS  
OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES,  
THROUGH EMPOWERMENT AND ADVOCACY



THE PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM FOR INDIANA  
MEMBER NATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS NETWORK

# What is IPAS?

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IPAS is an independent state agency separate from all other state agencies and programs. IPAS was established in 1977 in response to federal requirements for a program to advocate for the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities. Since then, more programs have been added to serve the advocacy needs of specific groups of individuals with disabilities.

Like the rest of America, Indiana obtains great strengths from the diversity of our people. The advantages of diversity can be seen all around us, through people who share differing abilities, experiences, traditions, and ideas that enrich our lives and our culture. The Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services Commission defends the rights of citizens with different abilities and extend equal opportunity and empowerment to people with disabilities.

In October, 2003, in compliance with the Help America Vote Act, funds were appropriated to IPAS to ensure full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities.

# Some of Your Rights as a Voter Are...

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- The Constitution of the United States of America says I have the right to take part in my civic life.
- If I am registered to vote in Indiana and have valid identification, I have the right to vote in this election.
- I have the right to vote by myself or with help. I can select who I want to assist me.
- Even if I have a guardian, I have the right to vote, unless a court specifically said I cannot.
- I have the right to make my own choices when I vote.
- I have the right to get help if someone tries to stop me from voting.
- I have the right to be shown how to make my choices on my ballot.
- If I am waiting in line when the poll closes, I must be allowed to vote

Remember, to vote in Indiana you must present a government-issued photo identification. If you do not have a photo ID, you can get one free of charge from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

For more information on HAVA, please visit the Federal Election Commission's Web site: [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov)

For more information on Indiana's plan for the implementation of HAVA, please visit the Indiana's Secretary of State's Election Division Web site: [www.sos.in.gov](http://www.sos.in.gov)

# Every Polling Place in Indiana Must Be Accessible to People with Disabilities

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The following are some of the things you have the right to expect from your polling place:

- The site should have clearly marked, accessible parking.
- If the main entrance is not accessible, there must be a clearly marked accessible entrance.
- You should be able to enter the site without difficulty.
- The path from the entrance to the voting area should be level and free of obstacles.
- At least one voting machine should be accessible for people with disabilities.
- If you are blind or have low vision, accommodations should be available to allow you to cast your ballot privately.
- If you use a wheelchair or cannot stand for long periods of time, accommodations should be made to allow you to sit while voting.
- If you need assistance to vote, you must be allowed to designate a person to assist you, provided that person is not your employer or union representative.
- Each state must provide for provisional ballots to ensure that every voter is able to cast his or her vote if there is a question of eligibility. There must also be a system developed to notify the voter if his or her ballot was or was not counted, and if not, why not.
- Each state must develop a system that allows voters to check for errors on their ballots and make any corrections privately and independently.

# Voter Registration and Required Identification

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- In order to vote in any May or November primary or general election, you must be registered to vote and be able to provide a valid Indiana driver's license, identification card, Military I.D. or U.S. Passport to the people serving as election staff at your polling place.
- It is required by State law that you register to vote for an upcoming election at least twenty-nine (29) days prior to the date of that election.
- You may register to vote through the County Clerk's Office in your county of residence or through any Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) License Branch. You may complete the voter registration process either by mail or in person at the County Clerk's Office or in person at the BMV. There is no cost to register to vote.
- You may get an appropriate State of Indiana identification card through any Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles License Branch. The BMV will provide you with a list of the documents they will need from you in order for them to issue you a state identification card. There is no cost or fee associated with getting a state identification card for the purpose of having voter identification. See [www.photoid.in.gov](http://www.photoid.in.gov), or call the Indiana Secretary of State's office at (866) 461-8683, for more information on the process of getting a valid identification card for voting purposes.

# If You Think Your Voting Rights Have Been Violated

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Anyone who believes their voting rights have been violated may file a complaint with the Indiana Secretary of State. There is a toll-free grievance line available on Election Day from 6 AM until 7 PM. The number is:

866-IN1-Vote (866-461-8683)

## **IF THE GRIEVANCE LINE CANNOT FIX THE PROBLEM, YOU CAN FILE A WRITTEN COMPLAINT.**

The complaint must be in writing, signed, and notarized. The complaint must include the following:

1. The name and mailing address of the person who caused the problem with voting. (If all you know is the address of the polling place that will be sufficient.)
2. If you filed a complaint about this issue with the local county election board, be sure to include this in this complaint.
3. What happened, or you think will happen, to cause you or someone else to not be able to vote.

The Indiana Secretary of State's web site has forms that can be printed free. These forms can be used to file a grievance. To print a copy of the form visit [www.in.gov/sos/elections](http://www.in.gov/sos/elections).

Mail your complaint to:

INDIANA SECRETARY OF STATE  
HAVA DIVISION  
INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER SOUTH  
302 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, ROOM E-111  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

# If You Think Your Voting Rights Have Been Violated

(continued)

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## **IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY AND HAVE QUESTIONS OR WANT TO FILE A GRIEVANCE:**

IPAS can help you by giving you other forms, information, and/or help you with the voter registration process. IPAS can also give you information about your rights as a voter and information about how to file a grievance if you have problems with voting. State Law requires voter grievances to be filed with the Indiana Secretary of State's Office or with the local county election board. IPAS can help to file and follow-up with grievances filed for people with disabilities who have been denied the right to vote based on a disability. You can contact IPAS at:

(317) 722-5555 OR (800) 622-4845

TTY: (317) 722-5563 OR (800) 838-1131

# Statement of Funding

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You may acquire a copy of the IPAS established priorities by calling the phone number or writing to the address on the next page.

# Contact IPAS:

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INDIANA PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SERVICES  
4701 N KEYSTONE AVE # 222  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46205

**VOICE:**

317.722.5555  
800.622.4845

**FAX:**

317.722.5564

**TTY:**

317.722.5563  
800.838.1131

**WEB:**

[WWW.IN.GOV/IPAS](http://WWW.IN.GOV/IPAS)

## An Equal Opportunity Employer

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Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer and provides services to all individuals with disabilities within the guidelines set forth by federal legislation regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, ancestry or disability.

Any concerns regarding the agency's compliance with these nondiscrimination efforts may be brought to the attention of the Executive Director at the address or telephone listed above.

A grievance procedure is available to clients who believe that they have not received adequate service from Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services.