



MEMO

TO: IARF Executive Directors/CEOs
FROM: Josh Evans, Legislative Liaison
DATE: September 20, 2006
SUBJECT: Voter Information

As executives in community agencies, you are well aware of the significant impact your agencies have on persons with disabilities and mental illness, family members, and staff, as well as the economic impact your agencies have in your communities. However, elected officials and the general public may be relatively unaware of the issues that affect the services and supports for persons with disabilities and mental illness. The first step in electing public officials that care about and want to advocate on behalf of community services is registering to vote. The next, and most crucial step, is actually voting. We as a community must make every effort to register and vote to make our voices heard.

It was with these thoughts in mind that the Gubernatorial Platform Workgroup prioritized voter registration as integral to the success of our efforts. Therefore, included with this memo is an informational document on general voter information, including registering to vote, early voting, absentee voting, and health care facility voting, as well as contact information for local election authorities.

This document was created to increase consumers, family members, and staff knowledge on voter registration and the options citizens have when registering and choosing to vote. This information should be helpful in your efforts to ensure every consumer, family member, board member, and agency staff is registered to vote.

Remember, voting is a right we all share as citizens. However, as a constituency whose issues are in desperate need of attention, it is our responsibility to show up and cast our vote to make our voice heard and elect leaders who can affect positive change.

CC: Janet Stover, Executive Director
Matt Keppler, Legislative Director