

Voting and Advocacy Discussion for Pennsylvania DSPs

January 20th and 21st

Agenda

- ▶ Present data on consumer voter registration and turnout
- ▶ Discuss the barriers to voting and introduce a plan to ensure consumers who want to vote are able to do so
- ▶ Briefly present KenCrest's 2021 policy priorities
- ▶ Provide resources on self-advocacy and ways to get involved

Exercising my Rights: People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities on Voting



Consumer Voter Registration and Turnout - November 3, 2020 Election

- **Total Possible Voters – 260**
- **Voted – 62**
- **Did Not Vote – 198**

Chester

- 18 - Voted
- 73 - Did Not Vote

Philadelphia

- 40 - Voted
- 37 - Did Not Vote

Western

- 4 - Voted
- 88 - Did Not Vote

Voting Barriers – Fact & Fiction

- ▶ Not registered ahead of registration deadline
 - ▶ *Registration deadlines are posted*
- ▶ Didn't have a photo ID
 - ▶ *A photo ID is not needed to register or to vote*
 - ▶ *Can register with the last four of consumer's SSN*
 - ▶ [Voter ID for First Time Voters](#)
- ▶ Mail in ballot did not arrive
 - ▶ *Can still vote if this happens, will need to cast a provisional ballot*
- ▶ Not interested in voting as noted in ISP
 - ▶ *Encourage consumers!*
- ▶ Individuals could not wear a mask or house was quarantined
 - ▶ *Mail-in voting is an option for all Pennsylvanians*

Consumer Voting Plan

- ▶ Create a Voting Plan:
 - ▶ Develop a person centered plan
 - ▶ Make sure both you and the people you serve are registered to vote
 - ▶ Ask for family support and supervisory support if needed
 - ▶ Determine if you and the consumer will vote in person or by mail
 - ▶ If by mail:
 - ▶ Request ballot by the deadline, return voted ballot by the deadline
 - ▶ If in person:
 - ▶ Know the polling place location
 - ▶ Reach out to the polling place to assure accommodations are made for physical disabilities and other supports
- ▶ Vote in all elections
 - ▶ Make this a habit every year, not just every four years
- ▶ Know your rights
- ▶ Continue to educate
 - ▶ Have conversations if the individual you support is interested
 - ▶ Read and watch the news (from trusted sources) in the home you support

2021 Election

- ▶ Primary Election: May 18, 2021
- ▶ General Election: November 2, 2021
- ▶ Registration Deadline: TBD
- ▶ Mail-in Ballot Deadline: TBD
- ▶ Who's up for election in 2021?
 - ▶ Row Offices
 - ▶ Row officers include the following: Clerk of Courts, Controller, Coroner, District Attorney, Prothonotary, Recorder of Deeds, Register of Wills, Sheriff and Treasurer.
 - ▶ Judges

Why Vote?

- ▶ The disability community is a powerful voting bloc:
 - ▶ More than 38 million people with disabilities are eligible to vote
 - ▶ 1 in 6 Pennsylvanians have a disability
- ▶ Philadelphia turnout for the 2020 election was the highest in 25 years:
 - ▶ About 66% of Philly's 1.1 million registered voters cast ballots this year — compared to 59% in 2016.
- ▶ Pennsylvania also set a record for number of voters at the polls, with more than 6.9 million ballots cast



Local officials

E.g. school board member

Can create local funding or training programs in addition to what state legislatures approve.

Make decisions on how schools are run, which roads to rebuild, what public transportation to invest in and more.



State Legislature

Represents districts

Decides state budget. That includes the state's share of Medicaid, which affects how much your employer receives to run the organization.

Creates state rules like workplace safety, background checks and more.

Oversees and can ask for or make changes to programs that help citizens, like state healthcare programs.



Statewide Officials

E.g. Governor, State Attorney General, etc.

Has to approve the budget set by the state legislature, which includes Medicaid funding, as well as any laws it passes.

Can also set goals for Medicaid, such as investing in more technology.

Make key decisions on how to run programs that help citizens.



Congress

Represents states and districts

Decides how much to invest in the federal half of the Medicaid program.

Can pass laws to change what is allowed or not allowed across the country – this touches every aspect of your life.



President

Head of the nation.

Has to approve the budget passed by Congress and any laws it passes.

Hires Cabinet Secretaries who make regulatory proposals and decisions about healthcare, housing, education, transportation and other key parts of everyday lives.

KenCrest's Advocacy: 2021 Legislative Priorities

- ▶ **Waiting List:** End the waiting list for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and autism.
- ▶ **Employment:** Support competitive and integrated employment for people with disabilities.
- ▶ **Workforce Crisis:** Reduce pressure on the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce by transitioning to independent living models and increasing access to enabling technology.
- ▶ **Technology:** Advocate for policies that fund and develop the use of technology to increase independence, deliver quality services, and support the DSP workforce.
- ▶ **Early Learning:** Invest in high-quality early learning and child care programs for infants, toddlers, and preschool children.
- ▶ **Early Intervention:** Fully fund early intervention services for the Birth-to-3 program so that children grow up healthy and strong.
- ▶ **Paid Family and Medical Leave:** Advocate for a paid family and medical leave insurance program that would provide paid family leave to all workers.

Resources & Get Involved

▶ We need your help!

- ▶ Ensure that consumers who want to vote are registered and can do so on or before Election Day.
- ▶ Make sure that you are registered to vote and take time to vote on Election Day too!
- ▶ Tell us if you are interested in getting involved with KenCrest's advocacy work. We need DSPs who are willing and able to speak with legislators about their jobs and the individuals they support.

▶ Resources:

- ▶ [Frequently Asked Questions and Myths About Pennsylvania Elections](#)
- ▶ [How Your Vote Can Change Your Work](#)
- ▶ [Disability Rights Pennsylvania – Election 2020](#)
- ▶ [U.S. Election Commission: Resources for Voters with Disabilities](#)
- ▶ [Vote 411](#)
- ▶ [Your Vote Has Power! – The Arc](#)

Questions & Answers

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