The Disability Vote in 2020

American Association of People of Disabilities (AAPD)

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Hi

>>: We're ‑‑ we're cohosting and you can share.

>>: Yes I made it so all cohosts can share the screen.

>>: Great, can anyone check captioning turn on and make sure it's working?

>>: (Nods ).

>>: Perfect I'll start. Hello everyone. We're about to get started. So on behalf of the American Association of Disabilities I want to welcome everyone for our first REV UP webinar disability vote in 2020. I'm the REV UP coordinate for the American disabilities or AAPD and I'll be facilitating today. Some logistics for the webinar. We will have two ASL interpreter and pinned already.

And we'll continue to be continue to be pinned with the speakers. Also have presentation slides shared on screen during it the middle of the webinar but the should be on the top or side of the screen

>>: In this webinar also have live captioning or cart and turn on captions by selecting the CC or closed captioning butt phenomenon ton in your menu at the bottom of your screen it should already be pinned for the view. No change yet. Pause real quick to figure this out.

All right. So I'm going to change the view. So one person can see it. Okay. Panelists turn your video off that would be great and keep the ASL interpreters at the top. Sorry thank you so much about that. All right. I'll get back to the introductions I'll start talking about the logistics again.

We'll have two ASL interpreters and should be visible in the webinar. We'll have presentation slides later but as long as the panelists have share panelists turned on the ASL interpreters should be on the top and side of the screen. Sorry about that with the interpreters.

For captioning we have live captioning or CART provided by turning on CC or closed captioning on the menu at the bottom of your screen. And stream text captions are the link in the chat that my colleague Morgan shared and keep sharing that periodically. If you have any questions about connecting the captioners or interpreters we'll pause to make sure that everyone can access both.

So if at any time those are not visible let us know. For tech. support e‑mail events at AAPD cot abdomen and additional support with a zoom platform you can check out support dot zoom dot U.S. and we'll be sharing that in the chat as well. This session will be recorded and currently being recorded and send out the recording and the slides after the meeting along with the transcript it.

Since this is a webinar your video and mic are turned off as an attendee and only people recorded are the presenters and interpreters. Today's remember March is focused on the experience of voters with disabilities in the 2020 election. And for the first twenty minutes of the lecture opening Marx of the Jennifer and member of AAPD board and two REV UP organizers Olivia and [name?] and their experience getting out the disability vote in the 2020 elections.

After that it, we will transition into the main presentation by Dr. Doug and (Indiscernible) and our goal for the webinar is to discuss and learn about how the experience of voters disabilities changed in 2020 and what we as organizers can do with this data to advance the disability vote in the future. If you have questions like our presenters to share during our Q and A session share in it several ways.

You can ‑‑ at RSINGH at AAPZ.COM. And this will also make it's way into the chat.

I want to acknowledge as we meet today for this webinar. There's a deep pain felt by the folks in Georgia yesterday. Six of whom were Asian dissent and the it pain and frustration also felt more Asian, Asian‑American communities and other issues of white supremacy killing people of color. And I sport Asian communities in Georgia and nationally.

And whatever way that you can to fight antiAsian hate educating yourself on the history of antiAsian hate in the U.S. attending a bystander training and the U.S. I'm sure it's weighing heavily on many in the audience today. And I want to take that moment before we again the webinar.

I introduced myself earlier but my name is Lillian and I'm a medium light brown skin woman with dark hair dark eyes and wearing thick gold it hoop earrings and the dark walled with my apartment with postcards hanging up. As I mentioned earlier on the I'm the REV UP campaign coordinator at AAPD.

It's a national cross disability advocating for the over sixty million Americans with disabilities. By promoting equal opportunity, economic power, independent living, and political participation. This webinar is hosted by AAPD REV UP voting campaign. Which was launched in 2016 to advance the power of the disability vote. REV UP stands for register educate vote use your power. And specific engagement and protect the voting rights of Americans with disability its.

So I would now like to turn it over to Jennifer M‑a‑t‑h‑i‑s. She is director of policy and legal advocacy at the Babylon center for mental health law. It's a national non‑profit legal service to protect individuals with mental disables. Her work focuses primarily of the ADA and the Medicaid rights of adults and children with disabilities. Jennifer supervisors the center's policy work and also engages in systemic litigation across the country.

She uses legislative and administrative advocacy as well adds litigation for people with disabilities in community living, employment, housing, and education, and voting, parental rights and other issues. She has been at the Babylon center since 1999 exception of one year to work as a special assistant to commissioner [name?] at the U.S. Equal Opportunity Employment Commission.

Ing to draft the ADA. She is the board of American Association of People of Disabilities and serves as policy committee and provide some opening remarks. So over to you Jennifer

>>: Thank you so much. I'm white woman with short hair and glasses. And behind me are assorted children's toys and a backyard out the window. So I'm really thrilled to be here part of this webinar highlighting the experience of disabilities during the 2020 election and what we can learn from that in our efforts to harness the power of the disability vote.

I'm really proud of AAPD REV UP project one of the things they have done. And the 2020 election data shows the work of REV UP and the advocacy of the community and access to the vote is having a significant impact. That has we have a lot of work ahead of us. I would say voting has been called the most fundamental of all rights because it is the way to it preserve all other rights.

This is something the Supreme Court said. What they meant is voting is a way you can influence what happened with all your other rights. That's what makes it so incredibly important. The disability community by sheer number it is represents a powerful voting consistency but historically not seen that way.

And part of that is people with disabilities have experienced so many obstacles to exercising their right to vote. And the REV UP project sames to change that. I'd like to highlight points about disability voting and the 2020 election that we'll hear about from Dr. Doug and from that it election. But first a record number of voters over 150 million voters came over so many barriers during the 2020 elections in the middle of the pandemic for many people with disabilities.

The increase of voting option it is like voting by mail and early voting make voting accessible but at the same time other people with disabilities were left out because of remote accessibility and barriers and the fact so many people with disabilities remote voting during the pandemic because row mote voting was unsafe with many people with disabilities which made the problem more significant.

I to the say a word about the program for today's webinar. We'll hear from Gaylon from REV UP Georgia and Olivia B‑a‑b‑i‑s from Florida the work they're doing in their states to advance the disability vote. They'll share the work they did in 2020 to get out the vote, what this experience was like, including it mobilizing voters in the midst of the pandemic.

And after Gaylon and Olivia, learn about the research about Dr. Doug and Lisa who are well known researchers at Rutgers University conducted on the experience of voters with disabilities that research was commissioned by the (Indiscernible) EAC and help advocates experience the trends and voters with disabilities in the last election.

Election too often excludes people with disabilities. So we are grateful for the consistent efforts of Dr. Doug and Lisa conducting this research regularly and happy the election assistance supported this critical research and turn it back over to Lillian to introduce the REV UP organizers. Thank you

>>: Thank you. Jennifer. Thank you so much for setting that context for today's webinar. So I also want to thank everyone for joining us today. Up next two it REV UP organizes to share as Jennifer mentioned. I'll introduce Gaylon first and after that Olivia will talk. G‑a‑y‑l‑o‑n is employed at option center for independent living where he serves as an independent living coordinator with a focus on advocacy.

He also serves as the first vice president for the national federation of the blind in Georgia for the central river chapter of the national federation of the Georgia in Augusta. Also a proud support member of REV UP Georgia strive advocates to register T advocate, and use their power to effect positive change in the election process. Go ahead Gaylon

>>: Thanks Lillian. Thank you for the opportunity. I am a black male medium complected. I have on glasses I have a vest, blue vest, blue shirt and striped tie. Behind me you can see the wall because I am in my office today. I also like to say, yes, I know I have a couple minutes, but I have feeling what Lillian is saying. I'm ally not only sick in my stomach but I'm angry. I'll do what I always do. Advocate for Georgia and the voters.

I'll do the same thing for. This REV UP Georgia, we in Georgia very happy and proud of abled voters. Showed up in record numbers. And REV UP voters were a part of that happening. We had several alliances we dealt. Get out the vote project, disability coalition where we partnered up with ‑‑ several people come in and part of REV UP Georgia. It is important that we in Georgia that it our brand is out there.

REV UP Georgia. Get out the vote project tied us into the grass roots connect us program because the program ‑‑ we recognize in the state of Georgia we're a rural community and have several disabled voters in the community and transportation issues, network support system issues. All of those things are integral part of barriers we face.

What we did is we tapped into this program called grass roots connectors to reach out to disabled bright young voters out in the rural areas. That was a great help. People on the ground doing this and they would call, send postcards, we did all those things. And then we came up with a transportation network. So we could reach out and make sure that people in the rural areas get access to vote.

So the programs and hard advocacy we did like we said after the January run off election here in Georgia. We took great pride that our people showed up in the poles, REV UP Georgia we are a hard working organization. We believe that voting is an a civil right. It's one of the most basic civil rights and we have a community in most cases a marginalized by a lot of barriers that we face.

In our community today there's talk of more voter (Indiscernible) because of an alleged broken system that we know is not broken. But we have to push on with our agenda which is to get our people registered, educated, and be able to vote. In this upcoming year, we're going to have to focus more on making sure that we're not locked out of the absentee ballot process. Not locked out of the process to get to the poles in rural areas.

We'll continue to build alliances. Again, we're happy with what we did but we're not satisfied because (Indiscernible) on the voting rights which again affect marginalized more people more than anybody else. We're working, we're avid about what we're trying to do. But yes we had a great turnout and I know it's because of the work of REV UP Georgia did through alliance and partnerships.

What do we see for the future? We see hard Alaska advocacy. We have to be part of the conversation right now. REV UP Georgia will be moving forward pushing for the change we want to it see. And we thank you for the opportunity.

>>: Thank it you so much Gaylon and I it hear what you're saying with the audience. Asking questions. Bills going through state legislatures trying right now restrict voting rights and making harder to vote and that will continue to be a priority for the whole REV UP network.

>>: (Indiscernible).

>>: Thank you so much.

>>: Thank you.

>>: And pass it onto Olivia Babis. She is the analyst for disability rights Florida. Coordinates voting rights work including facilitating the meetings and events for Florida REV UP chapter for access the vote chapter. Over to you Olivia.

>>: Thank you I am Olivia Babis. I a white women that's back in a ponytail. Wearing black headphones and glasses and sitting in my home office on my boyfriend's desk where we share our office. We are in a group for two years now. I took over facilitating the meetings I guess it's been almost a year now. We started out ‑‑ when I started at disability rights Florida. It's about five people and phone calls and grown to thirty or more so attendees who attend our meetings.

Around that hundred people or so on our e‑mail lists that it receive our monthly e‑mails and we're really proud of the work we did in the 2020 election. It was an a rough year with COVID and had big plans for all types of in person forums and demonstration events we weren't able to do. Made use of technology and had a very successful election, successability summit P. Some of our supervisor election it is joined for that.

And we gave presentations on equipment demonstration through some of the SOE offices. We gave a demonstration on a new program that we have here in Florida that was a pilot program for to t 2020 for accessible vote by mail. Five people involved with that so it's a platform we will democracy live and gave a summit and presentation and in the SOE office that is it were participated in that it program joined us to talk about the implementation of that program and their specific Counties.

And had a discussion on election security versus accessibility because oftentimes these two it communities are pivoted it against each other. We drafted candidate questionnaires for our state candidates running for house and senate and we actually got a see sent response from that (Indiscernible) candidate endorsements. We were proud of the number of respondents we had for that. And put it on our Web site.

At the last minute with a gracious grant we received from AAPD worked with our C3 state voices chapter to coordinate a phone bank on one of our concerns here in Florida with that supervised voting which is voting program where the supervisors of elections will go into nursing homes and (Indiscernible) and this is people that need assistance with voting and people that won't want assistance from staff members.

And those programs were suspended because of visitation bands and due to the COVID outbreak. So we used that phone bank to call into those facilities to make sure those voters in the facilities weren't being disenfranchised given the limitations placed on us during COVID. We're doing a lot to grow our group even more we have parties pants an I cross the State from independent living it join us.

(Indiscernible) which is the Florida it association for independent living and regularly on a call (Indiscernible) independent living council and the DDC (Indiscernible) Florida disability independence group really helps start the REV UP chapter here, access the vote Florida. Disability Florida has helped to host and maintain a Web site to access the vote.

So our chapter has grown very strong and have people that participate in our calls from Miami up to Tallahassee and Jacksonville and everyone in between. We have add written blogs on various voting issues on vote by mail to poling sites. So we're really looking forward to expanding our candidate questionnaires and holding another summit and helping the (Indiscernible) accessible vote by mail.

Which is across all of Florida's 67 counties in the next election T. Know how to access it and use that program and fully implement it. So we're really excited for a decent election year. Happy when we made those phone calls into the facilities to find out (Indiscernible) it gotten to vote in the Presidential primary and the primary August. Most of those it issues have been resolved by November and voters able to vote in the general election.

So we were glad to see they were weren't disenfranchised for the general election as well. And pushing reforms for our legislative section and several bills. There's an attempt to restrict vote by mail here in Florida even though that was a popular program over ‑‑ I think it's 57 percent of voters used vote by mail chaired to the 30 percent or so that normally use it and in any given election year.

So there was is an increase and disappoint today curtail people from using that. So battling those sessions which ends in May. And I will be available to answer any questions you have about Florida specifically. But I'll pass it back over to Lillian.

>>: Thank you so much Olivia and Gaylon what it was like getting out the disability vote in your states and I'm especially excited to hear about your plans for the future in the upcoming elections. So now I am excite today introduce Dr. Doug K‑r‑u‑s‑e and Lisa who are sharing their research and Lisa for it sharing their research for the rest of the web. Lisa is a past chair of the Department of Labor studies and employment replaces at Rutgers University.

She teach its employment law and labor studies. She received a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California Berkeley and a juris doctorate from (Indiscernible). Research economic political and social inclusion of people with disabilities particularly their political participation and employment experiences and outcomes.

In addition to publishing and peer review journals, she wrote invited white paper or disability and voting on the election on the administration and coauthored the book people disabilities, sidelined or mainstreamed. Published by Cambridge University press. And Dr. Douglas Kruse is a professor at school of management at Rutgers University.

A research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts and a research fellow at the IVA institute in Germany. Dr. Kruse served as senior economic ‑‑ sorry senior economist at the White House counsel for economic advisors from 2013 to 14. He received a master's of arts in Lincoln, Nebraska and Ph.D. from Harvard University. His research has focused on the employment and urns effect of disability and the causes, consequences

And implications of employee, ownership, and profit sharing. He has authored it or coauthored fourteen books and over one hundred peer review journals chapters. So without further adieu, thank you so much for being here and turn it over to you.

>>: Great. Thank you very much. We are very, very pleased to be here. My name is Doug Kruse I'm a white male with gray hair. I'm also a wheelchair do to a spinal cord injury.

>>: Hi I'm Lisa I'm a white women with short curly brown hair and glasses and wearing a maroon sweater.

>>: So we would like to give you ‑‑ you a ‑‑ I think this about a fifteen minute presentation of some slides. And then we really are interested in any reactions you may have, any questions you may have, or ideas you may have. So let me share the screen here. Make sure they can do this right. Let's see. Hold on. There we go. Now we got to get ‑‑ the pictures out of the way so we can see what's on our slide. Okay.

So I will let Lisa start. She'll do the first half and I'll do the second half

>>: So for questions what, what were the voting experiences of people with disabilities in the 2020 elections? Excuse me.

(See Screen!)

>>: There were 38.3 million eligible voters with disability in the 2020 election based on census data...

(See Screen!)

>>: There is a stubborn disability voting gap of 6‑7 it hasn't budged. Age genre, race, ethnicity it, education, marital status. So does that mean disability careless about elections. And the answer is clearly no. That it doesn't mean that. Surveys in 2016...

(See Screen!)

>>: So it isn't a lack of interest. So why do we have a disability turnout gap? Partly explained by...

(See Screen!)

>>: So looking at the difficulties in voting the U.S. GAO study found that 83 percent of polling places... see creek.

>>: Sorry to interrupt we're having issues with the ASL interpreting. So I want to butt in real quick. So I have folks saying in the chat that if they ‑‑ if they choose to view the webinar in side by side format, that is working. Let me know ‑‑ is anyone still unable to it see the ASL interpreting? I see a couple folks that they were able to it see it after ‑‑ okay so most are able to see it in side by side ‑‑ okay. Okay. So let's go forward. Sorry for the interruption.

Sorry for the interruption

>>: Should I go back a little bit?

>>: That yeah that should be good.

>>: Yeah, like two or three slides?

>>: Sure thank you so much.

>>: Sure. We see this turnout with disabilities. And does that it mean that people with disabilities careless about elections. And the answer is absolutely no. Surveys in 2016 and 2018...

(See Screen!)

>>: Why do we see this disability turnout gap? It's partly explained by...

(See Screen!)

>>: There was a study by the U.S. GAO in 2016 and found that 83 percent of polling places...

(See Screen!)

>>: So obviously this is important. Inaccessible polling places and voting procedures clearly...

(See Screen!)

>>: So the national sample randomly selected citizens update and expand on 2012 post election surveys. And those surveys were conducted by SSRS by a research firm and part of the American Association of Public Opinion Research. The disability measure...

(See Screen!) So I just want to mention that it the tote it tall sample is more than twice the size...

(See Screen!)

>>: So our full report has 32 detailed statistical tables. By won't go through it all of it but just hit the highlights. All results...

(See Screen!)

>>: So just looking at the disability characteristics. The disability sample reflects the overall U.S. population of people with disabilities...

(See Screen!)

>>: When we look at voter turnout. People with disabilities voted at a seven percent lower rate...

(See Screen!)

>>: So soon we'll be able to look at turnout is numbers. Looking at difficulties in voting, there's good news. Voting difficulties among people with...

(See Screen!)

>>: And I'm going to turn it over to Doug now to talk about the other slides.

>>: Okay. Great. Well, obviously last year a big stance on voting by mail. About half of voters with disability voted at a polling place in 2020...

(See Screen!)

>>: We asked questions about difficulties that people may have had voting. We asked about several specific difficulties and then asked did you have any other type of difficulty. The people who voted in person, we found that 18 percent reported some type of difficulty when in person compared to ten percent of people without disabilities. The...

(See Screen!) Now, this decline in 2012 is good news. The decline in how the voting was (Indiscernible) to 18 percent. We did see analysis and found that half of the decline in difficulties...

(See Screen!)

>>: With a big extension of voting by mail last year for those who lived in (Indiscernible) switched to voting by mail. So there are still problems voting by mail. Five percent, we found five percent of voters with disabilities who voted by mail and difficulty using the ballot. Compared to only two percent of people without disability especially likely for voters with vision impairments. 22 percent of voters with vision impairments had difficulties with the mail ballot. And many of them are not it supposed to vote confidentiality need the help of a friend.

And many, many ‑‑ and the eleven percent of mail voters needed assistance T. Five of six voters...

(See Screen!)

>>: So those are the main results on difficulties. We asked a variety with my other questions in the survey and this to present the key results on very few of those which I think are interesting. One is perceived treatment by election officials.

We asked in person voters how they were treated by election officials, and interestingly, people with disabilities were actually more likely to report...

(See Screen!)

>>: The respect may be because of the pandemic. For a lot of us in varying ways. And we think that may have (Indiscernible) the voting experience. We asked about confidence with the vote that it was accurately counted. And also found that two thirds ‑‑ 68 percent of the voters with disability said they are...

(See Screen!)

>>: We asked a question (Indiscernible) last year, we asked them to compare (Indiscernible) difficulty of 2020 to the last time they voted before the pandemic. The subjective stance. How do you compare the experiences? And overall, most voters with or without disabilities...

(See Screen!)

>>: That means things are more accessible. People at this stage saying it's easier this time than last time. The last question of specifically (Indiscernible) here. We asked both voters and non‑voters if you want today vote in the next election, how would you prefer to cast your vote ‑‑ excuse me. There we found ‑‑ well we gave five options, and most popular option was voting inside the pole place.

Close to half, of people with disabilities and...

(See Screen!)

>>: Which found interesting there was such an expanse of vote by mail this is the way of the future. That's (Indiscernible) poling place on the most popular option here. Next most popular was voting by mail ballot...

(See Screen!)

>>: So we have a lot of details to cover. Some of the topics, look at the relationship of disability to non‑voting force of political participation...

(See Screen!)

>>: We have a variety of forms there. Political interest and feelings...

(See Screen!)

>>: I ‑‑ I can't wrist were more likely to follow politics closely with people without disabilities. Recruitment voting Otto talk about voting which is a big issue a higher socialized of people with disabilities and yes other facilitators of voting. We're glad to talk about those. So in conclusion.

Key takeaways...

(See Screen!)

>>: We're predicting ‑‑ this one and nine figure represents about ten million people of disabilities who voted last year. (Indiscernible) that's a staggering number for a lot of people. And really points to the need to continue progress including accessibility for people to exercise their right to vote. REV UP and all political things that we heard about that going it on in different states to get people with disabilities out to vote.

So we're glad to it answer any questions and here we are and give feedback. And really want to ‑‑ as you can probably tell, we're not the kind of professors that want to stay in our ivory towers. We want to make sure that we can make a big difference in the world and (Indiscernible) as possible. And increase participation and access to voting and great, greater inclusion of people with disability.

So I will stop sharing now and welcome any questions and ideas

>>: Great. This is Lillian again T. Thank you both so much. It's always fascinating to get the new data on what's going on and we had our ideas of what would happen with the 2020 election and even start anything March and going throughout the summer things were constantly changing. So we're really, really grateful for your presentation. And we just picked out a couple of questions.

We have a lot of questions, many submitted before the event. And I want to make a quick note. There were a lot of questions about the restrictive voting rights bills and how these impact voting accessibility. If you want to address that quickly. Feel free to it. We're also hoping to have a future REV UP event that is specifically focused on that. So I'll table a lot of those questions for that event

>>: That's a great.

>>: Yeah, yeah.

>>: And that's something we'll learn much more about from the Census Bureau data and we'll do a fact sheet and lies just how looking at the turnout of people with disabilities and there's comparisons across states.

>>: Mm‑hmm.

>>: The effects of the increased access to mail in voting. So great topic. We'll address that soon.

>>: Yeah I mean the big take away I think is the more options that are available to people with disabilities the better. And to the extent that over forty states are trying to restrict access and make it more difficult that's appalling I think. And we need to fight this, you know, everything we can. So yes. Can I just add one thing here.

I don't want to take it away from questions. But we did do a detailed break down by race. And we did look at that. And found that black people with disabilities rated in line twice as long with white people with disability. So the average wait time for black people to vote was 45 minutes and twice as long with white people with disabilities. So there's a lot of issues to address

>>: Yeah. Yeah for sure and on that note. One of the themes of the questions was are there break downs that you have in the data. So do you have state by state data. So I'm going to mispronounce the name Herb in the chat asked about how their state can. Ho did my state do.

>>: Well, we had two thousand‑‑ over two thousand people. When you get to the individual states, the numbers are pretty small. So we can't really have strong it, you know, analysis of how the individual states did. But what we're planning to do also is aggregate states of states having particular methods of voting and then analyze that do you want to add to that.

>>: Yeah, sample of 2500 we can compare by say regions.

>>: Yeah. Yeah.

>>: But we can't do state by state. When the Census Bureau data comes out that's going to turnout they have a sample of ninety thousand and that's where we can do state by state.

>>: Yep.

>>: And generate turnout not on difficulties but on turn it out.

>>: So by can give you that information if anyone has a particular ‑‑ we can give you that information whether we have it.

>>: Perfect. Perfect. We have just a couple questions left and I want to pick out one more question. From Ted Jackson who put this into the chat. The CDC that the Americans with disabilities are 25 percent of the population are wondering if the Census Bureau doesn't capture all the disability disabled people and the block would be much larger.

>>: That's right. The census questions are under inclusive and yeah we use them want to be able to compare the census. That's why we put in it the seventh question which is broader disability, disability question. But yeah that is a problem. And I think there are a lot of invisibility disabilities that were caught. The measure of impairments is we have difficulty remembering or concentrating and that's obviously not a great question. So yeah absolutely.

>>: Great. I wish we could keep going because there's so many more questions. But we're going to do our best Otto keep track of these questions and get back to you all with answers. Thank you thank you thank you so much do Dr. Kruse, Olivia, Gaylon and Jennifer. All sharing your insights during this webinar. Each has so much E per tier. And AAPD are grateful to each of you and grateful for you to come and share with our audience today.

Thank you so much to our interpreters and captioner and to the AAPD team who helped make this happen.