

# HAVA QUARTERLY

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“Voting is the right from which  
all other rights spring.”

Thomas Paine

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A Newsletter from Project HAVA at the Catskill Center for Independence

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## **NYS HAVA Update:**

New York is on the MOVE!

Election officials around the country are now charged with incorporating yet another layer of federal election administration law that, hopefully in the long run, will make this particular area of election administration more effective and efficient. The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act 2009, amends the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) passed in 1986 and is meant to make the process of applying for and obtaining voter registration forms and absentee ballots easier and more streamlined for overseas voters, our deployed military especially. In a nutshell, overseas New York voters will soon be able to make a request for and receive voter registration forms and ballots electronically through a secure online system. The voter can print off the forms or ballots, fill them out, and mail them back to their local election board. This is not on-line voting; it is simply a quicker means of materials retrieval and exchange. This is especially important for our

overseas military stationed in areas where snail mail arrives and departs irregularly. In the past, military voters' ballots have been delayed or lost in transit, both coming and going, and often cast ballots have not arrived in time to be counted.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) has gathered and reviewed a list of several vendors capable of providing the secure electronic interface program states need in order to satisfy the requirements of the MOVE Act. At the recent Election Commissioner's Summer Conference, Scyt USA, a leading electoral technology company, presented our state's election officials with an overview of how the process would work. Overseas New York voters will be able to log-on to a central website, create an account and update it as needed, choose their preference for materials retrieval (fax, email), and download and print off forms. On the other end, election officials in each county will be able to retrieve voter information and preferences and provide materials to their voters accordingly. The website would also list county by county election information, such as application deadline dates, giving voters a clear timeline to work with.

State election officials are using existing funds to pay for this year's roll out of MOVE Act requirements and will be pursuing federal funding for the years ahead in an effort to minimize the cost to local election boards.

For a brief overview of the MOVE Act visit:

<https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/node/282>

For a more in-depth breakdown of MOVE Act provisions visit:

[http://nass.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&ask=view&id=133&Itemid=159](http://nass.org/index.php?option=com_content&ask=view&id=133&Itemid=159)

Click on: NASS MOVE Act Summary



### Project HAVA Provides Free or Low-Cost Training and Technical Assistance

In an effort to aid election boards in educating their poll workers, Project HAVA has created a user-friendly manual to guide poll workers through basic disability awareness. The manual includes information on communication techniques, service animals, physical accessibility for polling sites and other requirements of HAVA.

As always, Project HAVA can provide an in-service training for poll workers on disability awareness, as well as providing technical assistance and training on polling site accessibility.

For more information contact

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(1-800-697-4282)

We look forward to hearing from you!



**From the Desk of  
“Access Abbie”**

Project HAVA’s  
Accessibility Maven

“Election season” will soon be upon us, so here are a few points to keep in mind as your polling sites are being set up.

- Maintain 36” path of travel throughout polling site making sure there is room for maneuverability.
- If runners and mats are being used in entryways make sure they are secured with double-sided tape. When possible, ensure exposed floors stay as dry as possible in wet weather. Floor surfaces must be stable, firm, and slip resistant.
- Keep 5’ x 5’ clear floor space in front of machines for turning or T-shape for more constrained spaces.
- Ensure voter privacy by orienting BMDs so the screens are facing away from traffic flow.



Thanks for remembering...



Visit our website [www.ccfi.us](http://www.ccfi.us)  
to view pertinent news articles,  
legal documents and all things  
HAVA in New York.

You won't be disappointed!

### Online Resources

Americans with Disabilities Act  
Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG):

[www.access-board.gov/index.htm](http://www.access-board.gov/index.htm)

ADA Polling site accessibility checklist:

[www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/votingck.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/votingck.htm)

American Federation for the Blind:

[www.afb.org](http://www.afb.org)

United Spinal Association:

[www.unitedspinal.org](http://www.unitedspinal.org)

**Injustice anywhere is a threat  
to justice everywhere.  
Martin Luther King, Jr.**



### *In the Culture Corner*

#### *The Poor Voter on Election Day*

*John Greenleaf Whittier (1852)*

*The proudest now is but my peer,  
The highest not more high;  
To-day, of all the weary year,  
A king of men am I.  
To-day alike are great and small,  
The nameless and the known  
My palace is the people's hall,  
The ballot-box my throne!*

*Who serves to-day upon the list  
Beside the served shall stand;  
Alike the brown and wrinkled fist,  
The gloved and dainty hand!  
The rich is level with the poor,  
The weak is strong to-day;  
And sleekest broadcloth counts no more  
Than homespun frock of gray.*

*To-day let pomp and vain pretence  
My stubborn right abide;  
I set a plain man's common sense  
Against the pedant's pride.  
To-day shall simple manhood try  
The strength of gold and land  
The wide world has not wealth to buy  
The power in my right hand!*

*While there's a grief to seek redress,  
Or balance to adjust,  
Where weighs our living manhood less  
Than Mammon's vilest dust, —  
While there's a right to need my vote  
A wrong to sweep away,  
Up! clouted knee and ragged coat!  
A man's a man to-day!*

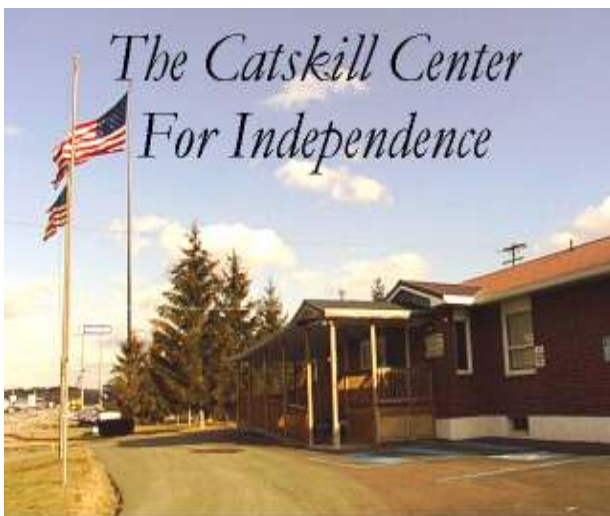
“The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls that imprison men because they are different from other men.” **Lyndon B. Johnson**

Project HAVA, administered by the Catskill Center for Independence, is a Protection and Advocacy for Voter Access (PAVA) grant program funded by the NYS CQCAPD which provides training and technical assistance in the areas of voter access and disability awareness for poll workers to Board of Elections in 52 counties in upstate New York. The Project also provides outreach and education about HAVA and its implementation in New York State to individuals, community agencies, schools and human services organizations.



Counties served by Project HAVA:

Albany, Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Dutchess, Erie, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Orange, Orleans, Oswego, Otsego, Rensselaer, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.



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