

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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One Vote...

If you don't think a single vote can change the course of history, read on!

1776 - English was chosen over German as the language for America by ONE vote.

1800 – ONE VOTE in the Electoral College made Thomas Jefferson President over Aaron Burr.

1845 – ONE VOTE brought Texas into the Union.

1867 – ONE VOTE decided on the purchase of Alaskan territory.

1868 – ONE VOTE prevented President Andrew Johnson from being impeached.

1876 - Rutherford B. Hayes became President of the United States over Samuel Tilden by ONE vote.

1923 - Hitler won the leadership of the German Nazi Party by ONE vote.

1948 - Lyndon B. Johnson, the 36th President, became a U.S. Senator by ONE vote.

1955 – ONE VOTE elected the mayor of Huron, Ohio.

1916 – ONE VOTE in each California precinct re-elected Woodrow Wilson to the Presidency over Charles E. Hughes.

1960 – ONE VOTE per precinct made John F. Kennedy the President over contender Richard Nixon.

1962 – ONE VOTE per precinct determined the winners for Governor in the states of Maine, Rhode Island, and North Dakota.

1984 – ONE VOTE elected a Monroe County, Florida commissioner.

1999 – ONE VOTE per precinct elected Leslie Byrne to the Virginia Senate.



Susan B. Anthony voted in the 1872 presidential election nearly fifty years before the 19th Amendment was passed. Three weeks later, on Thanksgiving Day 1872, she was arrested for exercising her right - as an American citizen - to vote. She was 52 years old.



From the Desk of “Access Abbie”

Project HAVA’s
Accessibility Maven

“Election season” has arrived, so here are a few points and reminders about voter access.

As your polling sites are being set up, keep these tips in mind:

- Provide signage indicating accessible route.
- Make certain bake sales/other events do not impede anyone’s ability to vote on Election Day!
- 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.
- Arrange BMDs and scanners so that wires and extension cords do not present tripping hazards.

Ensure your poll workers are aware of these things as well:

- A person’s wheel chair, scooter, walker, crutches or any other assistive mobility aid is part of their personal space!
- Never lean on someone’s wheelchair or move it without permission. If you need them to move, simply ask.
- Sit down next to individual who uses a wheelchair; this allows a comfortable and relaxed exchange.
- Service animals are allowed in polling places.
- Never pet, feed or otherwise distract a service animal, they are working!
- Service animals do not require special licensing.

Voting is a Civil Right; Discrimination is Illegal:

- Anyone can use the accessible voting system or ballot marking device (BMD).
- How a person chooses to vote is up to the person, not the poll workers.
- Dissuading a voter from using a BMD is discriminatory.
- Without knowing it, poll workers can inadvertently be violating civil rights by the questions they ask.
- Asking a voter what type of disability they have is unnecessary and illegal.

Online Resources

Americans with Disabilities Act
Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG):

www.access-board.gov/index.htm

ADA Polling site accessibility checklist:

www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/votingck.htm

American Federation for the Blind:

www.afb.org

United Spinal Association:

www.unitedspinal.org

A little election-related humor:

A little girl asked her father, "Daddy? Do all Fairy Tales begin with 'Once Upon A Time'?"

He replied, "No, there is a whole series of Fairy Tales that begin with 'If elected I promise!'."

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

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

Helen Benlisa, Project HAVA Director:

helenbenlisa@ccfi.us

Don Wyckoff, Architectural Barrier Consultant:

donwyckoff@ccfi.us

Or call us at 607-432-8000
toll free at 1-800-NYS-HAVA
(1-800-697-4282)

We look forward to hearing from you!

Visit our website www.ccfi.us
to view pertinent news articles,
legal documents and all things
HAVA in New York.

You won't be disappointed!



In the Culture Corner

Fair and Free Elections (ca. 1800)

Sung to the tune of "Yankee Doodle"

While some on rights and some on wrongs

Prefer their own reflections,

The people's rights demand our song

The right of free elections.

For government and order's sake

And law's important sections,

Let's all stand by the ballot box

For freedom of elections.

Refrain:

Law and order be the stake

With freedom and protection,

Let all stand by the ballot box

For free and fair elections.

Each town and county's wealth and peace

Its trade and all connections,

With science, arts must all increase

By free and fair elections.



Thanks for remembering...



Elect Election Day

hittier (1852)

is but my peer,

more high;

'weary year,

n am I.

eat and small,

f the known

people's hall,

my throne!

upon the list

shall stand;

f wrinkled fist,

'ainty hand!

ith the poor,

ng to-day;

'h counts no more

rock of gray.

f vain pretence

ight abide;

common sense

ant's pride.

' manhood try

old and land

ot wealth to buy

right hand!

' to seek redress,

o adjust,

ing manhood less

ilest dust, —

to need my vote

leep away,

id ragged coat!

n to-day!

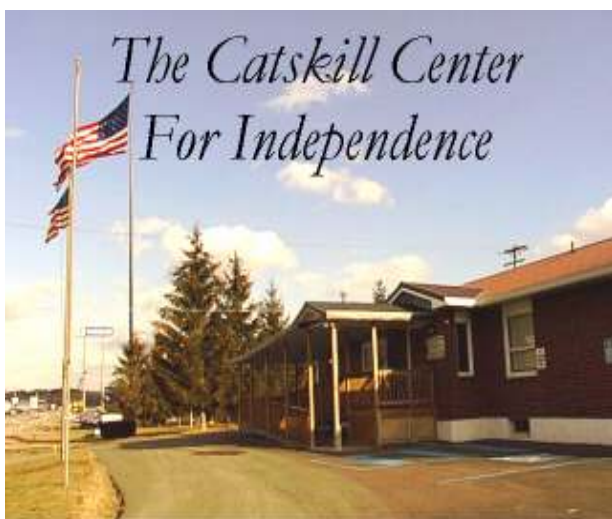
“The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls that imprison men because they are different from other men.” **Lyndon B. Johnson**

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.



Catskill Center for Independence

PO Box 1247 Oneonta, NY 13820

1-888-NYS-HAVA (1-888-697-4282) · V/TTY

607-432-8000 Phone 607-432-6907 · FAX

Visit us on the web at www.ccfi.us

E-mail us: nyshava@ccfi.us

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