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**Disability Rights Vermont  
Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access  
Post-Election Program Evaluation**

**Executive Summary**

Following the 2008 General Election, with the assistance of research consultants at the Center on Disability and Community Inclusion, Disability Rights Vermont (DRVT) conducted a Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA) program evaluation. Our primary goal of this evaluation was to learn about the voting experiences of our clients and gain new insights in order to improve our work promoting education and equal access for individuals with disabilities around the State of Vermont to successfully participate in the electoral process.

Sixty-eight former DRVT clients voluntarily participated in the Post-Election Program Evaluation. We are grateful for the input these individuals provided to us about their voting experiences, possible barriers to successfully participating in the electoral process, and recommendations for improving the voting process and the services we provide to voters with disabilities around the state. As part of the Post-Election Program Evaluation, DRVT also provided thirty-four participants with additional voting assistance, including helping participants register to vote, confirming voter registration status, providing information about polling place locations, transportation options to the polls, absentee ballot requests forms, and providing copies of DRVT's *Voters' Guide for Individuals with Disabilities* to participants who requested this publication.

Key findings from DRVT's Post-Election Program Evaluation include the following:

- 90 % of participants were registered voters
- 75% of participants voted in the 2008 General Election
- 67% of participants who voted did so in person at the polling place on Election Day
- 94% of participants who voted indicated that they did not experience any problems voting in the 2008 General Election
- 65% of participants provided a positive rating of their voting experiences in the 2008 General Election
- 50% of participants requested additional voting assistance from DRVT

Although a majority of individuals who responded to our survey reported a favorable voting experience, many indicated that additional assistance with voter registration, information about candidates and issues, transportation, and help at the polls would be important to increase voter participation by people with disabilities in Vermont. Specific areas identified for improvement or

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*DRVT is the protection and advocacy system for the State of Vermont*

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continued focus by DRVT included conducting outreach to people with disabilities living in supported housing and independently in the community, providing people with information about transportation to the polls, candidates and issues, as well as individualized information and reminders about when, how, and where to vote. A complete list of participant recommendations is included in the Post Election Program Report.

DRVT will utilize the responses obtained from both our prior Pre-Election Program Evaluation and our recently published Post-Election Program Evaluation to improve our work ensuring that individuals with disabilities have equal access to the electoral process. DRVT expects to maintain our outreach to people with disabilities living in assisted living or institutional environments while at the same time increasing our efforts to connect with people with disabilities living independently to assure that these individuals have the information and support needed to successfully exercise their right to vote.

For a complete copy of DRVT's Post-Election Program Evaluation Report, please contact Merry Postemski at (802) 229-1355 ext. 112 or email [merry@disabilityrightsvt.org](mailto:merry@disabilityrightsvt.org). You may also access the report online at [www.disabilityrightsvt.org](http://www.disabilityrightsvt.org). Comments and other feedback regarding this report are welcome.