

# PADDC Outlooks

FALL 2024



## Election 2024 Resources for Voting

Voting is a basic right, privilege, and duty. It is how citizens, including those with disabilities, can have a say about policy at the local, state, and federal levels of government. Visit the [Disability Rights PA website](#) to get more information about your right to vote.

### [Disability Voting Issues: Access, Assistance, and Accommodations](#)

This fact sheet includes information and frequently asked questions to help ensure Pennsylvanians with disabilities have equal access to the voting process.



### [Application for Mail-in Ballot](#)

Deadline Alert: If you plan to vote by absentee or mail-in ballot in the 2024 general election, your completed application must be received in the county office by 5 p.m. on 10/29/2024. Your completed ballot must be returned by 8 p.m. on 11/05/2024.



### [Designated Agent Form](#)

In advance of the November 2024 General Election, the Pennsylvania Department of State changed the state's Designated Agency Form to allow voters increased choice of who can be their designated agent in voting.



## How to Vote in Pennsylvania:

Guide for Voters with Disabilities



### [How to Vote in Pennsylvania: Guide for Voters with Disabilities](#)

This voter guide can help you get ready to vote in the General Election on or before November 5, 2024.



If you need more information or need help, please contact Disability Rights Pennsylvania (DRP) at 800-692-7443 (voice) or 877-375-7139 (TDD). [www.disabilityrightspa.org](http://www.disabilityrightspa.org)



Scan the QR codes to download the documents.

# A NOTE FROM THE PADDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Should you vote? **YES!*** Your vote determines who will make decisions about issues that affect you, your family, and our community. I encourage all of you to vote because:

1. Voting is civic engagement. It is part of living in a democracy. Each person has a responsibility to participate in elections, so that our government represents all of us.
2. You can vote for people who will fight for the things that are important to you. Learn about what each candidate will do to promote disability rights and supports. Think about how healthcare, Medicaid, disability services, and education policies affect you.
3. Voting holds people accountable for their actions. You can decide if elected leaders are doing a good job representing you. If you don't like what they say and do, you can vote to remove them from office and choose someone else.
4. Your vote gives the power to people to decide how to use public dollars. Your vote will help ensure that taxpayer funding is used to serve the community.
5. All citizens should exercise their right to vote. Vote for those who will work to ensure access and equity for all people to participate in elections...and our community.

Many are focused on who will be the president and that is very important! But don't forget to vote for all levels of government officials. Members of Congress, state representatives and senators, along with county and local officials all have important roles in how government works. Please take time to learn about those candidates, their positions, and their priorities, too!

Know your rights. Use the resources in this newsletter to make sure you can cast your vote this November. Have a plan to vote by mail or in person. Your vote is your voice, so speak out loud and proud this November.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa A. Tesler".

Lisa A. Tesler  
PADDCC Executive Director

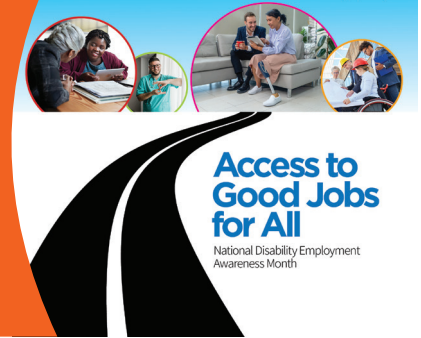


**PADDCC wants to hear from you about goals for the next State Plan.** Look for:

- A survey about your experiences and priorities
- Public meetings about issues important to you and your family

Join our mailing list and follow us on social media.

# October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month



## PADDC Advocacy Agenda Related to Employment

*Eliminate sub-minimum wage and promote competitive integrated employment for people with developmental disabilities.*

## PADDC Council Projects About Employment

### Community Options

Community Options has been identifying and publicizing stories by and about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that relate to their competitive and integrated employment. Live storytelling events took place throughout the summer. The storytellers shared their personal experiences with employment and how it has impacted their lives. Get more information at their website: [www.comop.org/people-with-disabilities-share-empowering-stories-across-pennsylvania](http://www.comop.org/people-with-disabilities-share-empowering-stories-across-pennsylvania).

A common theme was a focus on the challenges faced by the storytellers, the support systems that aid their success, and the joy of contributing to society through meaningful work. Participants discussed obstacles such as bias, limited opportunities, and the need for more inclusive workplaces. They also highlighted the critical role of job coaching, understanding employers, and accommodations in their achievements. Many stories celebrated milestones like gaining independence, building confidence, and forming connections with coworkers.

An Employment Symposium is planned to ensure these stories reach a larger audience. The event, scheduled for October 29 at 11 a.m., will take place live in Pittsburgh and Newtown. There is also a virtual option available for those unable to attend in person.

### Arc Human Services

Arc Human Services, in partnership with the Arc of Pennsylvania, has been working with Pennsylvania's Chambers of Commerce and Rotary Clubs. They have been offering educational sessions on topics such as customized employment, supportive employment, job coaching, ACRE (Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators) Basic Certification training, and best practices for hiring and employing people with disabilities.

They have engaged with organizations like the Houston Rotary Club, the Southpoint Chamber of Commerce, the McMurray Rotary Club, and the Washington Rotary Club, educating over 120 businesses and employers across Pennsylvania. Get more information at: [archumanservices.org](http://archumanservices.org).

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### Community Living and Support Services (CLASS) Breaking Barriers to Employment

With a "Gather for Change" grant, CLASS held webinars and live seminars related to employment such as Assistive Technology, Building Confidence and Leadership, an Employer Panel Discussion, Competitive Integrated Employment with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), Benefits Counseling, Reasonable Accommodations, and Entrepreneurship. They also held resource and job fairs both in-person and virtually, providing education on employment and social determinants of health and gave opportunities for employers and job seekers to meet and interview.



# PADDCC

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## Connect with PADDCC on Social Media



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**PENNSYLVANIA  
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DISABILITIES  
COUNCIL**



**To receive PADDCC news each month (as found on page 3) sign up for our email list.**

PADDCC sends **Spotlight**, our monthly update, to email subscribers. Sign up here:

[www.paddc.org/contact/mailling-list-sign-up](http://www.paddc.org/contact/mailling-list-sign-up)

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