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Wisconsin Elections Commission Receives Award Further Access for Voters with Disabilities

Congratulations to the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) for receiving a U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) 2020 Clearinghouse Award for their work to improve accessibility for voters with disabilities.

The "Clearies" are awarded in five categories including initiatives that help further voting access for people with disabilities while upholding the provisions in the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The WEC was recognized for their work to improve accessibility, including establishment of an Accessibility Advisory Committee to address accessibility concerns and inclusion.

"The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition congratulates the WEC, and looks forward to working with them to advance accessible, inclusive elections," stated Jenny Neugart of the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.

"Disability Rights Wisconsin commends the WEC for their partnership with the disability community," said DRW Milwaukee Office Director Barbara Beckert. DRW has partnered with the WEC on polling place accessibility audits and trainings. "We are committed to continuing this collaborative effort to improve the accessibility of Wisconsin polling places"

"The Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired expresses our gratitude to the WEC for their dedication to access for voters with blindness and vision impairment," stated CEO/ Executive Director Denise Jess. "Striving to enhance the

accessibility of the MyVote website, educating elections officials on the use of accessible voting equipment, and enhancing access to braille and large print ballots exemplify the Commission's commitment to creating access for all voters."

More information about the Clearie awards is available on the Election Assistance Commission website:

- www.eac.gov/.../wisconsin-elections-commission...
- www.eac.gov/.../us-election-assistance-commission...

About the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition

The WDVC is a non-partisan effort to help ensure full participation in the entire electoral process of voters with disabilities, including registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places. . The Coalition is coordinated by Disability Rights Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. Members include people with disabilities, and community agencies including Access to Independence, Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, NAMI Wisconsin, People First Wisconsin, Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers, Independence First, Wisconsin Association of the Deaf, and many others.