



# CommunicAbility

A Quarterly Newsletter For Our Community Members with Disabilities

**Fall 2016**

**Vol. 16, Ed. 3**

### Articles/Features

- Top Ten Reasons Not to Vote in This Election
- From the Blog: Consequences of Silence During an Election Year
- 2016 Mini Election Guide
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**“YOUR SILENCE GIVES CONSENT.”**

~ Plato

### No Internet?

If you do not have access to the Internet at home, and are unable to access the websites listed in this newsletter, we would be happy to mail you a printed copy of the information that is available online.

To request a printed copy, please contact us via phone 414-299-0124.

Thank you!

## ***Top Ten Reasons Not to Vote in this Year's Election (Sarcasm Ahead)***

10. You think it's cool that people who don't understand or consider your needs make decisions that impact your life.

9. You enjoy the feeling of powerlessness.

8. You don't like to be heard.

7. You'd rather watch reruns of Keeping up with the Kardashians.

6. Because having choices is overrated.

5. You don't like leaving the house.

(If this is true for you, there's a solution for that. Read on!)

4. Wait, there's an election this year?!

3. It's too overwhelming.

(Yes, it can be, but there are many resources available to you to reduce the stress. Read on to learn more.)

2. My vote won't matter anyway.

(Yes, it will! Especially this year, as the presidential candidates are in a virtual tie among polled voters.)

1. It's too hard to get to the polls

(Ok, that's a valid reason! Read on to learn about more convenient voting options available to you.)

So clearly, none of those reasons are valid, right? Really, there is only one option. Get out there and VOTE!!!

Looking for solutions to some of your voting obstacles? Here they are:

### **Can't get to the polls? Request an Absentee Ballot**

Visit [votesmart.org/elections/voter-registration/](http://votesmart.org/elections/voter-registration/)

- Select your state from the drop down menu and review the information provided

OR

Contact your local Clerk's Office

- Ballots must be requested in advance of the election. Every state will have different deadlines.

### **Don't know how or where to vote?**

Visit [canivote.org](http://canivote.org) to connect to your state's voting information.

### **Overwhelmed by the issues and choosing a candidate? Do your research:**

- Visit [isidewith.com](http://isidewith.com) to learn who best represents your vision for America
- Visit [votesmart.org](http://votesmart.org) to see how the candidates have voted on the issues that matter to you
- Visit [politifact.com](http://politifact.com) to separate fact from fiction

New Horizons Un-Limited is a Milwaukee-based, non-profit organization that provides individuals with lifelong disabilities increased access to the information, tools and life experiences that will enable them to improve their lives.



[new-horizons.org](http://new-horizons.org)



[facebook.com/NewHorizonsUnLimited](http://facebook.com/NewHorizonsUnLimited)



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## *From the Blog: The consequences of silence during an election year*

Imagine if a century and a half ago, Susan B Anthony sat silent, watching as women endured the injustices of inequality, of being treated as less than human.

Imagine if half a century ago Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. sat silent, watching as African Americans endured the injustices of inequality, of being treated as less than human.

Imagine if a quarter of a century ago Justin Dart sat silent, watching as people with disabilities endured the injustices of inequality, of being treated as less than human. I shudder at the thought.

Of course, despite the advances we have made over this last century, our country is far from perfect. While on the surface we tout a mantra of equality and the land of opportunities, as an ally in the disability rights movement, I am reminded everyday how very far we have to go. Every day, I see my friends with disabilities struggle to grasp the "opportunities" that are dangled in front of them, shrouded in inaccessibility, in underfunding, in misunderstanding, in fear, in apathy...the list could go on.

People with disabilities continue to face an inordinate number of systemic inadequacies and are forced into poverty more than any other group. Yet, people with disabilities continue to sit elections out at higher levels than their non-disabled peers. Silence, as people who know nothing about disability make decisions that impact their daily lives. Silence, as public officials gut special education programs, cut funding to vocational rehabilitation, dismantle long-term care services... again, the list could go on.

I get it; this election has been excruciating to watch. It's about as cliché and underhanded as it gets. Even I had a fleeting thought of sitting this one out. But then reality hit me square in the face!

This election, and where we are right now in this nation, is the culmination of years of our own apathy. It's the direct result of us sitting out one too many elections, of us sitting silently as a body of officials grossly unrepresentative of America makes decisions for us.

If we can't be bothered with casting a ballot, how can we possibly be shocked at the current state of our political landscape? How can we possibly be shocked that people with disabilities continue to be reduced to a state of mediocrity?

There is no more room for shock or dismay; there is only an opportunity to act. Now is that time!

We not only have the opportunity to select the next President of the United States, but we also have the privilege of choosing a myriad of state and local public officials. And make no mistake, it is indeed a privilege.

You live in a country that grants you, as a citizen with a disability, the privilege of democracy. (Google North Korea elections and you'll get the drift.)

I implore you to vote. I implore you to round up your friends and encourage them to vote.

If you have never voted before or recently moved and need to register, you can do so online via: **[nationalvoterregistrationday.org/register-to-vote](https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/register-to-vote)**

If you need more information on the voting process or on the candidates, visit **[votesmart.org](https://votesmart.org)**. (Or any of the other resources listed previously.)

If you believe strongly in a particular candidate, join their campaign.

It's time we show this country what we're made of! It's time we demand a place at the political table. It starts with your vote.

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*“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”* — *MLK Jr.*

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**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016**

*Your Mini 2016 Presidential Election and Voting Guide*

## The Presidential Candidates

### Democratic Candidate

**Hillary Clinton**  
hillaryclinton.com

### From the 2016 Democratic Party Platform

"We believe in protecting civil liberties and guaranteeing civil rights and voting rights, women's rights and workers' rights, LGBT rights, and rights for people with disabilities."

### Republican Candidate

**Donald Trump**  
donaldjtrump.com

### From the 2016 Republican Party Platform

"We believe our constitutional system - limited government, separation of powers, federalism, and the rights of the people - must be preserved uncompromised for future generations."

### Libertarian Candidate

**Gary Johnson**  
johnsonweld.com

### From the 2016 Libertarian Party Platform

"We seek a world of liberty; a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others."

### Green Party Candidate

**Jill Stein**  
jill2016.com

### From the 2016 Green Party Platform

"We believe in guaranteed economic human rights, including access to food, water, housing, and utilities, with effective anti-poverty programs to ensure every American a life of dignity."

## The Issues

The economy (jobs, wages and taxes), immigration, health care, human rights, criminal justice reform, foreign relations, trade deals, the environment...the list could go on and on. All of these things matter in the grand scheme, and all of these issues should be considered when choosing our next President.

We mentioned a super resource on the first page to help you weigh all the issues. The website, [ISideWith.com](http://ISideWith.com) offers a very handy and easy to read Candidate Guide, outlining the views of each candidate on the main issues.

Want to see where the candidates stand on the issues? Visit [isidewith.com/candidate-guide](http://isidewith.com/candidate-guide)

## A Few Things You Should Know About Voting

1. You have rights. Polling places are required, by law, to be accessible. If your polling location is not, they must provide reasonable accommodations to help you cast an independent ballot. In the event your voting rights were violated, call the Election Protection Hotline, **1-866-OUR-VOTE**.
2. You may need to present an ID to receive your ballot on Election Day. 32 states require some form of ID at the polls. Some states, including Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin require a state-issued photo ID.
3. For more general voting information, visit [vote411.org](http://vote411.org)

*"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must undergo the fatigues of supporting it."*

- Thomas Paine



**Return Service Requested**

## Voting: Your Right, Your Responsibility

If you can't tell, we're pretty fired up about voting here at New Horizons Un-Limited. We hope that you are too. Here are a few words to inspire you to vote on November 8.

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| BALLOT          | MOVEMENT           |
| BE INVOLVED     | PEOPLE POWERED     |
| CANDIDATES      | PROTEST            |
| CHANGE          | RESPONSIBILITY     |
| CHOICE          | SILENCE IS CONSENT |
| DEMOCRACY       | SUFFRAGE           |
| ELECTION        | UNITE              |
| GO TO THE POLLS | VOTE               |
| IDEAS           | YOUR VOICE         |

X X R E S P O N S I B I L I T Y E U  
 U M U K N S F U X A M D R P U M C N  
 A B G F K A V O T E E O Z B M X I I  
 C A N D I D A T E S Z P V I M F O T  
 R H Q E Q T E P Q R B S C E O J H E  
 Z K M O H N O I T C E L E M M O C E  
 E D E M O C R A C Y A Y A D U E Q D  
 E P E O P L E P O W E R E D D O N O  
 G T O L L A B U O M I S H E F L M T  
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 R B E I N V O L V E D T M G A Y B E  
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 S I L E N C E I S C O N S E N T R M  
 G O T O T H E P O L L S V Y Y Y S P



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E-mail Us  
[horizons@new-horizons.org](mailto:horizons@new-horizons.org)



Since 1994, New Horizons Un-Limited has supported our community members with disabilities on their personal journeys. We provide the information, tools, training, and personalized guidance they need to find purpose and fulfillment in their lives.

Nearly all of our services are offered completely FREE of charge to ensure that every individual may benefit. Your contribution will provide FREE consultations, FREE job skills development, FREE home computers, FREE computer training, FREE computer support services, and more. Please consider giving so that others may receive the gift of growth and progress. THANK YOU!!

**Via mail:** New Horizons Un-Limited, 811 E Wisconsin Avenue, Ste. 937, Milwaukee, WI 53202

**Online:** [new-horizons.org/donate.html](http://new-horizons.org/donate.html)