

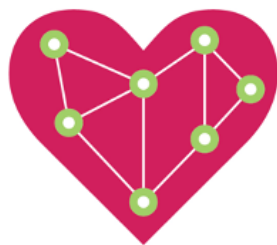
ADVOCATE

Colorado Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

OCTOBER IS RESIDENT RIGHTS MONTH

Every year we celebrate Resident Rights Month in October, as designated by the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care. Resident Rights Month is an opportunity for nursing home and assisted living residents, family members, friends, ombudsmen, long term care facilities, and community members to honor the individual rights of long-term care residents. Resident rights are protected by both federal and state law. All residents should be treated with dignity and respect, as individuals with unique preferences and tastes, who have valuable input that should shape what their nursing home or assisted living looks like.

This year’s theme is “Connection Matters.” The theme emphasizes connections – to family, to friends, and to the community – as an essential component of good health and quality of life for residents. “The months of restrictions on visitation in long-term care facilities and the inability of residents, families, and friends to be together during the coronavirus pandemic has emphasized the importance of connection, of relationships, and the impact they have on all of our well-being. During this crisis, many creative ways of staying connected were shared that can be replicated and built upon in all communities,” said Lori Smetanka, Executive Director of the Consumer Voice.



RESIDENT RIGHTS

Residents of nursing homes and assisted livings have rights that are guaranteed by federal and state laws. These include, but are not limited to:

- The right to be treated with dignity
- The right to self determination
- The right to be fully informed
- The right to raise grievances
- The right to privacy
- The right to visitors
- The right to manage their financial affairs
- And rights during transfer and discharge

THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The State of Colorado guarantees the right to vote to individuals who:

- are U.S. Citizens,
- will be at least 18 years old on Election Day, and
- will have resided in the state for 22 days prior to the election.

The only exception to this rule is that those who are currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction are not eligible to vote in Colorado.

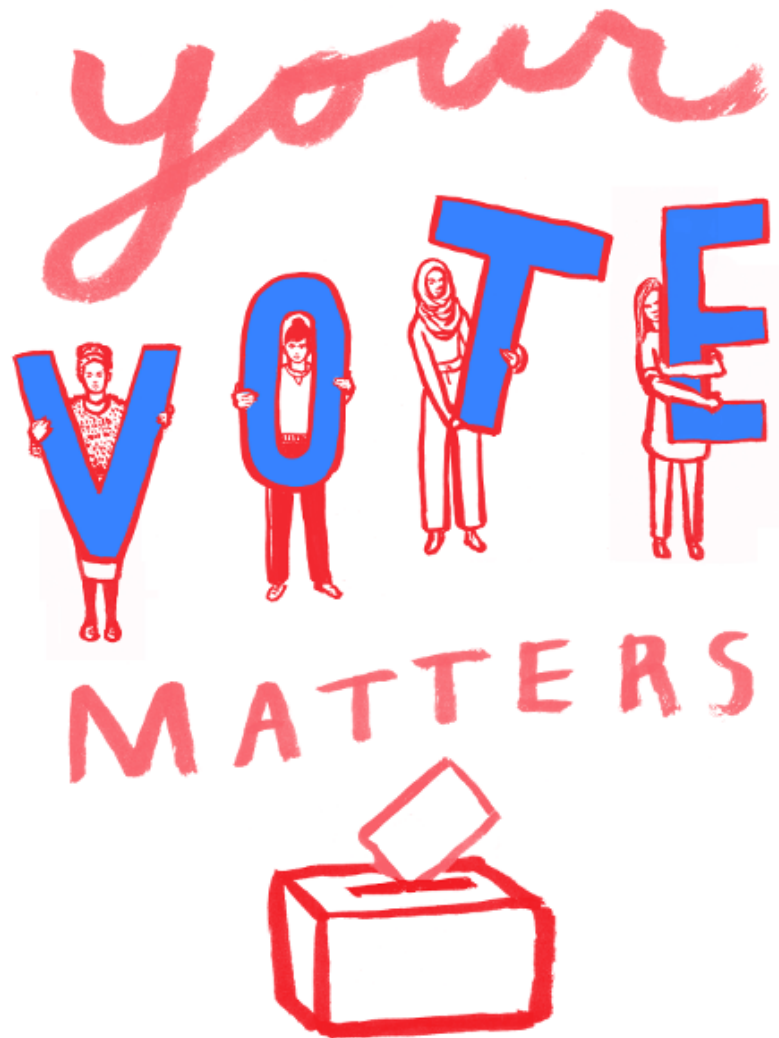
The right to vote is not affected in the State of Colorado by a diagnosis of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, mild cognitive impairment, or an assessment of cognitive ability. Additionally, having someone that serves as guardian or power of attorney (POA) does not affect a person's right to vote.

It is acceptable if someone needs assistance filling out their ballot, as long as the person can indicate who they wish to vote for. If someone can indicate who they intend to vote for their vote should be counted; however, if someone is unable to articulate their preference someone should not fill out their ballot on their behalf.

For questions about voting contact Boulder County Elections Division – 303-413-7740

Election workers will not be visiting nursing homes or assisted living facilities in person this year due to the ongoing pandemic. Instead, ballots will be mailed to residents who are registered voters. If the voter does not receive their ballot, they may request a replacement ballot or register/update their address to receive a ballot by mail until Monday, October 26. Ballots should be mailed back no later

than October 26 to ensure they are received by 7pm on election day. After October 26, residents should deposit their ballots in a Boulder County 24-hour drop box. Nursing homes and assisted livings can work with Boulder County's Clerk and Recorder to assist residents with encouraging voter participation i.e., picking up voted ballots, obtaining a replacement ballot, etc.



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PLEASE CONTACT US: 303-441-1173
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