

# RAP Sheet

The Latest in Disability Research, Advocacy, Policy, and Practice

Fall Issue 2004

## GETTING OUT THE VOTE



### Voting is a Community Affair

Clyde Terry, J.D. Executive Director Granite State Independent Living

*Welcome to the Fall Issue of the Rap Sheet, a collaborative effort of the NH Developmental Disabilities Council, the UNH Institute on Disability/UCED, and the Disabilities Rights Center. In an election year that promises tight races at the state and national level every vote is critical. We urge our readers to learn about the issues, become informed about the candidates, and to take the time to vote.*

Election Day in New Hampshire is a community event; it is a time to see old friends and acquaintances, to buy a homemade cookie or a pie to benefit a local charity, and of course it is a time to talk politics. Election Day is a time to show civic pride and to appreciate one of the things that makes ours such a great country. It is a time to relish, even if only for a moment, the feeling that you have exercised your responsibility to yourself and to the rest of your community.

Coming out to vote gives all citizens a sense of belonging and participating in their community. For those of us with disabilities, if we are to be listened to and heard, it is critical that we be seen as a part of our larger community. It is a powerful feeling to go to the polls and be able to ask a question of a candidate running for office. You are a potential constituent and your vote may be the one that decides the candidate's fate. Being physically present at the polls on Election Day sends an important message, one that won't be forgotten by office holders after the election. For a few people casting an absentee ballot is a necessity and it is definitely better than not voting at all. However, for those who can make it to the polls your visible participation helps in our struggle for equality. Taking the time to get to the polls and standing in line to cast a vote, is a small price to pay to be considered a full and equal partner in your community.

Many of New Hampshire's polling places have new locations with improved accessibility and with the new voting systems due by 2006, now is the time to get reacquainted with your polling place. Voting is a community affair in New Hampshire and there is no reason why people with disabilities cannot be included in all aspects of community life.



## IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM VOTING

**In order to vote you must be a registered voter.** You can register to vote at City Hall or your town office; you also can register at the polls on Election Day. In order to register you will need proof of your age, citizenship and domicile (where you live). If you have proper identification to prove each of these things and are not allowed to register, you should call the Office of the Attorney General toll-free at 1-866-868-3703 to file a complaint. You can also call the Disabilities Rights Center at 1-800 834-1721.

If you encounter any problems in voting, you should ask to speak with the Moderator at the polls. If the Moderator is unable to resolve your problem, you can call the Office of the Attorney General or the Disabilities Rights Center at the numbers given above. Both organizations will have people available on Election Day who will be able to provide immediate assistance if necessary or who can help you file a complaint if the issue is one that can wait.

**"VOTE AS IF YOUR LIFE DEPENDED ON IT, BECAUSE IT DOES!"** Justin Dart

**If you don't believe your vote makes a difference, consider the following facts about the disability vote:**

- ▶ In the 1988 Presidential election, people with disabilities made up nearly half of the four million popular votes that brought George Bush Sr. victory over Michael Dukakis.
- ▶ There are 24 million registered voters with disabilities. (This comprises people with both noticeable disabilities and invisible ones, including physical, mental, sensory, and psychiatric disabilities.)
- ▶ According to a Harris Poll 41% of Americans with disabilities voted in the 2000 Presidential election compared to 51% of the general population.

▶ If Americans with disabilities had voted at the same rate as the general population, four million more votes would have been cast in the 2000 election. Considering the preference of the disability community for Al Gore (54% to Bush's 30%) these votes would have given Gore a decisive electoral victory over George W. Bush.

▶ Proof positive that the votes of people with disabilities can make a huge difference. So go to the polls this Nov. 2nd and say "I Vote in New Hampshire!"

Pat Vincent, Granite State Independent Living

## BILL'S OTHER ZIPPER STORY

It was 1991 and I was on a date. I needed to go to the bathroom and told my date I would be back. When I got to the bathroom I noticed a man at the urinal, but didn't pay much attention because I really needed to go. I went into a stall but since it wasn't fully accessible the door stayed open. I did what I needed to do.

While I was in the stall the man moved to the sink where he could see me in the mirror, though I still couldn't see his face. My head was down and I was trying (unsuccessfully) to zip my zipper, when he came up and tapped me on the shoulder and asked, "Can I help you?" I handed him my urinal and asked him to please empty it. He did. When he brought the urinal back he said, "I notice you are having trouble, and I'm happy to help. I don't mind if you don't." I finally looked up and there was Bill Clinton, then the Governor of Arkansas, who was campaigning in the New Hampshire Primary. The future President of the United States helped me zip up my pants and we spent the next 15 minutes talking.

James Piet

## HAVA - Help America Vote Act of 2002

Clyde Terry, J.D., Executive Director, Granite State Independent Living

One of our most cherished rights as an American is a right that was fought for in 1776, embodied in our Constitution, and revered by countries around the world. The right to vote is the one act that binds us together as a nation. In voting we are able to express our content or discontent and state our preferences for whomever we choose to lead us. While this should be a universal right for all citizens, how it is implemented and guaranteed has left Americans with disabilities often behind or treated differently than other Americans. For many years those with disabilities and their advocates have argued that equal participation in the electoral process has not been available to persons with disabilities. This inequality takes a variety of forms including polling places located in inaccessible buildings, voting booths that cannot accommodate wheelchairs, printed ballots too small to be read, or for someone who is blind, voting in a manner that is neither private nor confidential.

The Florida voting discrepancies in the 2000 presidential election created an opportunity for Congress to upgrade our election system, including addressing the problems encountered by persons with disabilities attempting to vote. In 2002 Congress passed the Help America Vote Act. (HAVA). The purpose of the act is to ensure that everyone votes and that every vote counts. What the Florida experience revealed is that America's voting process has been teetering on the edge of disaster for years. Problems include antiquated equipment, poor training of election officials, inconsistent application of the law, and other issues too numerous to mention here. HAVA attempts to respond to some of these issues while balancing the roles of the federal and state government in conducting elections. While many of the provisions in HAVA are not specific to persons with disabilities, they affect all voters including those with disabilities. Under HAVA, Congress created the Federal Election Assistance Commission (FEAC) to develop standards and oversee the implementation of the law. Among its many powers the Commission will establish standards for voting systems including the use of Direct Record Electronic (DRE's) voting machines, representing the latest in voting equipment technology. Among other requirements, these machines must be accessible to persons with disabilities - including those who are blind or visually impaired - so that they may vote privately and independently.



*Kevin Melanson checks out Senator Gregg's Concord headquarters.*

To put the law into practice states are required to develop a plan describing how they will implement HAVA with all of its different provisions. As a first step, the law requires that states post the following information in all polling places by January 1, 2004:

- ▶ A sample of the ballot to be used in that election,
- ▶ Instructions on how to vote,
- ▶ Instructions for first time voters,
- ▶ General information on voting rights,
- ▶ Information on who to contact if a person believes their rights are violated,
- ▶ Information on laws prohibiting fraud and misrepresentation.

The second and most significant portions of HAVA must be in place by January 1, 2006. These include:

- ▶ Developing and implementing a statewide registered voter list to protect against voter fraud.
- ▶ Instituting provisional voting, this is a system to be used in cases where a voter's registration is chal-

lenged. The person can still vote, but their vote is set aside until the challenge can be resolved. If it is resolved and the person is properly registered then the vote is counted. (New Hampshire is exempt from this provision since we have same day registration.)

- ▶ Providing voters an opportunity to check and correct any voting errors on the ballot.
- ▶ Assuring that polling places are accessible to persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Acquiring and distributing one DRE to every polling place in the state.

This last provision offers the opportunity for persons with disabilities to fully participate, in the electoral process. The DRE's will be equipped with features such as large print display, voice output, and large buttons that will enable persons with disabilities to vote privately and independently.

Passage and implementation of HAVA may not totally resolve the issue of the low turn out rates of voters with disabilities. However, it does eliminate many of the barriers to full citizenship and equal access. It is up to every citizen, including citizens with disabilities, to exercise their vital right to vote.

## Monadnock Voters Get Educated

The Monadnock Action Group of Keene is a force to be reckoned with. Trained in self-determination through Project LEAD at the Institute on Disability, these advocates have sprung into action. A grant they wrote was funded to create a series of voter education trainings. The advocates began by educating themselves about the issues and the candidates. Courtney Elliott explained, "It's important to know who you're voting for and what they're promising." Advocates have been learning about the candidates by following events in the media, visiting campaign headquarters, attending forums, and asking questions. Member Theresa Noel uses the Internet to find out how the government works. The group invited the city clerk to a meeting to register voters. At another training Keene officials brought sample ballots and voting booths to help new voters become familiar with the election process. Members of the Monadnock Action Group are role models for involvement in democracy. As Peter Malone says, "It's a right that we have as Americans."

The Monadnock Action Group is available to provide training on voter education to your group. Give them a call at 357-1456.

Julia Freeman-Woolpert



*Laura and Courtney lead a discussion on voter education.*

For information about voter education opportunities near you visit the website for People First of NH:

[http://www.peoplefirstofnh.org/voter\\_education\\_training.htm](http://www.peoplefirstofnh.org/voter_education_training.htm)

## My Experience at the Polls

James Piet, M.S., NH Division of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation

In January my fiancée Pat and I went to the polls in Manchester's West Side to vote in the Presidential primary. Pat was there as my driver. I had just come from work and still had my tie on. I hoped they would realize I was coming from work and treat me accordingly. Unfortunately, the people in charge of the polls were from the "old school." One man automatically asked Pat, "What does he want? Where does he live? What is his name?" Pat directed him to talk to me, "Jim is fully capable of telling you the information that you want from him." For some reason it did not click in the gentleman's head that I was able to communicate. If he had only waited a few seconds for me to respond to his questions.

Finally, I navigated my way to the registration table. I had the same problem here until one woman finally stood back and listened. She took over and told the other people, "I can understand him." She was very courteous and sensitive to my speech pattern. For a few seconds I was all right. After I gave her my name and address, a gentleman came to set up a voting booth. The booth was so flimsy it would have collapsed on me if the man hadn't held it still. I cannot use a paper ballot on my own. The man hesitated when he realized that I needed Pat to go in the booth with me to help me cast my vote. "I have to see if it's ok for her to go in." He checked, and I finally was allowed to cast my vote with Pat's help.

This was only the second time I have voted at the polls. The first time was 1980 when I was 19 years old. I was attending school several hundred miles away from my hometown of Gorham, New Hampshire and had forgotten to get an absentee ballot. I caught the school principal off guard when I told him how much I wanted to vote. The principal made phone calls and finally found an ex-teacher who was willing to drive me all the way to Gorham.

Gorham's polling place was in the Fire Station, a building that is completely inaccessible. We had driven 300 miles to a place I could not get into.

My friend went into the station to get a moderator to help us. An older gentleman came out and spoke to my driver, "I never faced this before but I guess he can vote in the car, as long as I stand by and watch." When the Moderator learned that I needed the driver to mark my ballot for me he added, "And I need to hear him verbalize." The Moderator stood there while I told the driver whom I wanted to vote for. There were five people listening to my vote that day. It was not exactly private.

After that experience, I just did not want to go through the hassle again and have been voting absentee. Now that I am getting married, Pat and I want to start a tradition of voting at the polls together.



*Jim Piet and his fiancée Pat Vincent*

## HAVA Compliance in NH - A Collaborative Effort

Kathy Bubar, J.D. - Disability Rights Center

Every state is required to develop a State Plan that outlines how the state will comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). This Act passed by the 2002 U.S. Congress is designed to address problems in the administration of elections and improve voting access for individuals with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities must be included as part of the team that creates the State Plan. Over the past two years, representatives from a number of agencies including the Office of the Secretary of State, the Office of the Attorney General, the Governor's Commission on Disabilities, Granite State Independent Living, and the Disabilities Rights Center joined together to assure New Hampshire's compliance with HAVA.

An important aspect of HAVA and one that is reflected in the State Plan is the requirement that all polling places be fully accessible to everyone, including individuals with disabilities. (It should be noted that twenty years ago a provision was added to New Hampshire's State Constitution that also requires that voter registration and polling places be easily accessible to all persons, including those with disabilities.) New Hampshire's State Plan specifies that all polling places be reviewed for accessibility on Primary Day in January 2004.

To audit accessibility, the HAVA work group, with leadership from the Governor's Commission on Disabilities developed a "checklist" based on the Accessibility Guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Every town in the state was asked to use this checklist to self-report on the accessibility of its polling places; completed checklists were returned to the state's Attorney General. On Primary Day Deputy

Sheriffs, along with employees and trained volunteers from Granite State Independent Living and the Disability Rights Center, used the checklist to review the accessibility of every New Hampshire polling place. Again, the results were sent to the Attorney General's office.

The Attorney General's report on this accessibility audit showed that there was not a single polling place in the state that was in total compliance with the accessibility requirements. While many sites were close, a few polls were simply not accessible to individuals with walking disabilities. The most common problems were a lack of appropriate accessible parking places and a lack of ramps at sites with stairs. Signage indicating accessible parking and directing voters to an accessible entrance was also an issue. In many instances, voting booths designated for individuals with walking disabilities were inadequate even though vendors had sold these to towns as "accessible" booths.

The Attorney General has informed cities and towns about the accessibility issues specific to their polling places and has asked them for a plan of correction. There is a small amount of money available through the Secretary of State to assist towns in their efforts to become fully accessible. However, regardless of whether they receive money or not, each polling place in the state must make a good faith effort to be fully accessible or face penalties.

Realistically, all polling places will not be fully accessible for the Presidential election in November. The expectation is, however, that all towns will make efforts to be as accessible as possible and to have a plan for assisting voters who have difficulties accessing the polls independently.

The Secretary of State's Office and the Governor's Commission on Disability will be conducting training programs for all poll workers and are available to consult with cities and towns around accessibility issues. Additionally, the Secretary of State's office has produced two videos, "How to Vote in New Hampshire" on voter registration and voting and "Polling Place Accessibility" on the accessibility requirements and some of the common barriers encountered by people with disabilities. Both of these videos are available on their website at [www.sos.nh.gov](http://www.sos.nh.gov). A short video on "Disability Etiquette" is being developed to use in training poll workers.

In addition to improved accessibility, voter education is also mandated by HAVA. Granite State Independent Living and the Disability Rights Center, along with People First, are presenting voter education forums throughout the state to address the unique voting needs and issues faced by individuals with disabilities.

Despite all the work done to date, New Hampshire continues to face substantial challenges in its efforts to assure that everyone is able to vote in an independent and private manner. The next major step will be the purchase and installation of electronic voting machines that will enable individuals with disabilities who currently need assistance (people who are blind, visually impaired and those with limited hand dexterity) to vote independently. Cities and towns will need to continue their work to address accessibility issues. The most significant challenge ahead, however, is increasing the numbers of people with disabilities who vote. Individuals with disabilities need to be convinced that they have the power to exert tremendous influence and can make a real difference in the outcome of any election.



*This issue of the Rap Sheet is dedicated to David Hilton who died a year ago this September. As first director of a state Office of Consumer Affairs David was a nationally recognized leader in the consumer movement. He was committed to the empowerment, independence, and recovery of persons with psychiatric disorders. He is missed.*

*Robert Maca reads the paper to keep informed about candidates.*



## FIRST TIME VOTER

Robert Maca is 46 years old and getting ready to vote for the first time in his life. In explaining his decision to vote Robert said, "I realized it was time to have my say." After a brain injury in his late teens, Robert took to the road. He proudly notes that he has been in 41 states. Robert recently settled in the Keene area and plans as he puts it to "rest his bones" awhile. Robert keeps informed about state and national issues by reading the Keene Sentinel and watching Peter Jennings on TV. He is concerned about the economy, human services, and environmental issues. Robert says that one of the reasons he plans to vote is, "because I saw the way the country was headed. I knew it wasn't good and I decided it was time for a change."

Julia Freeman

## Making a Difference

Beth Dixon, Leadership Coordinator, UNH Institute on Disability/UCED

Since 1988 over 450 New Hampshire citizens have participated in leadership training through the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire. The Institute has sponsored fourteen Leadership Series for parents and family members of children with disabilities, adults with disabilities, and UNH graduate students. Each Series is comprised of several training sessions where participants learn about best practices in the disability field, gain community-organizing skills, and discover how to use the legislative process. Leadership training emphasizes the importance of working to ensure that all citizens are included and valued members of their communities. The training includes fieldwork assignments to help participants put what they are learning into practice.

Leadership graduates have learned that they can and do make a difference! They have been effective advocates for positive change at the local and state levels. They were instrumental in passage of New Hampshire's 1989 Family Support Legislation and have made the waiting list for adult developmental services a key issue in every legislative session. Leadership graduates have been elected to the State Legislature, local school boards, and served on boards of directors of local and statewide organizations. Recently, leadership graduates have created CAUSE (Communities Actively United for Social Equality) a statewide advocacy organization. This fall five Leadership graduates are running for seats in the New Hampshire Legislature.

## Leadership Graduates Run for Office Beth Dixon

**Ruth Bleyler** lives in Lyme and is running for her second term in the Legislature. She is a former high school teacher and has been an environmental scientist with the Environmental Protection Agency. She serves on the Developmental Disabilities Council and is Vice-chair of the Board of Directors for West Central Behavioral Health. Ruth says, "Because of Leadership, I became an advocate for people with disabilities and got to know my legislators. When there was a vacancy, I was asked to consider filling a spot on the ballot. I know I would never have considered running if I hadn't participated in Leadership!"

**Maggie Hassan** is running for State Senate from District 23 representing the towns of Seabrook, Exeter, Newmarket, Kingston, Newfields, Stratham, East Kinston, Newton, South Hampton, and Kensington. Maggie, an attorney, lives in Exeter with her husband Tom and their two children. Hassan says, "New Hampshire must decide whether to invest in all of its citizens, and reap the rewards of that investment, or whether it will allow many of its citizens to sit on the sidelines, barely able to participate in the economic, community, and political life of this great state. Government is nothing more, and nothing less, than the coming together of a diverse group of citizens with the common goal of building the infrastructure necessary to maintain and grow our economy, our culture, and our democracy."

**Debra Naro** is running for her third term in the Legislature representing the towns of Plymouth and Hebron. A member of the Education Committee, Naro's priorities are prevention, education, and family, children, and youth issues. She has a long history of community service and has been recognized for her work in character education, education, and special education. Naro and her husband live in Plymouth; they have a son at Plymouth State College and a daughter who is a freshman at UNH.

**Debra O'Halloran** is running for Representative for the towns of Wakefield, Brookfield, and Effingham. She and her two children live in Wakefield. She credits Leadership with "making me want to keep going and believing that together we can make changes." O'Halloran says she will put the time and effort into understanding the issues and representing families in her region.

**Kathleen "Trinka" Russell** is running for the Legislature from Stratham where she lives with her husband Joe and their three children. Trinka says, "My goal is to be the voice of those not heard. I intimately understand the issues regarding the lack of consistent health care from my experience as a Registered Nurse for twenty years, an instructor of Universal Design at Suffolk University, a small business owner specializing in Universal Design, and the mother of twin sons who are physically challenged. My varied perspective gives me a greater understanding of the need for a fair and equitable Health Care System.

# ATTORNEY GENERAL URGES PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE

Carol Stamatakis, J.D., New Hampshire Developmental Disabilities Council

*New Hampshire Attorney General Kelly Ayotte strongly encourages people with disabilities to vote, "The right to vote is a fundamental right of American society and it is the underpinning of our democratic process. I would encourage everyone to exercise the right to vote. It is the only thing that keeps our democracy working. It is through the right to vote that we express our views about the issues that are important to us and assure that the people we elect represent our views."*

"Through exercising their right to vote," Ms. Ayotte observes, "people with disabilities are making elected officials aware that they are an important constituency." The Attorney General believes people with disabilities can help ensure that those who are elected will address the issues that are important to them.

Ms. Ayotte has expressed her strong commitment to ensuring that election laws are enforced, and that people with disabilities have access to polling places throughout the state. "I would encourage anyone who finds they are hindered to please call. This office wants to know where there are concerns in order to address them as quickly as possible."

The Attorney General's office is available to assist people on Election Day who have problems voting or registering to vote. "Voters who believe their voting rights are being violated are instructed to first speak with the Moderator at the polls. If the Moderator is not able to address the concern, then the individual should call the Attorney General's toll-free "election line." The number will be posted at all polling places.

## Attorney General

Toll free Election Line: 1-866-868-3703

Under New Hampshire statute RSA 7:6-C the Attorney General has the duty to enforce election laws. This includes ensuring that polling places are accessible. In addition a voter has the right to receive assistance in marking a ballot. The following information will be posted at the polls.

"If any voter is unable to mark his or her ballot because he or she cannot read or because of a disability, he or she has a right to be assisted by a person of his or her choosing, provided that person is not the voter's employer or union official. If the voter requests, the Moderator will assign a ballot clerk to assist the voter in marking his or her ballot."

The Attorney General's office has found that local officials are generally appreciative of the need for accessibility and want to ensure that all citizens, including those with disabilities, are able to vote.

The New Hampshire Department of Justice has information on its web site summarizing election laws, explaining the complaint procedure, and providing complaint forms that can be downloaded. This information can be found at <http://www.doj.nh.gov/elections/>.

## Guardianship and Voting Rights

Carol Stamatakis, J.D., New Hampshire Developmental Disabilities Council

**What is the effect of guardianship on the right to vote?** In most instances, an adult under a legal guardianship in New Hampshire retains the right to vote.

Unlike many other states, there has never been a law in New Hampshire that explicitly prohibits adults under guardianship, referred to in the law as “wards,” from exercising the right to vote. The New Hampshire statute governing guardianships, RSA Chapter 464-A, provides that “A person determined to be incapacitated . . . shall be deprived of any legal rights, including the right to marry, to obtain a motor vehicle operator's license, to testify in any judicial or administrative proceedings, to make a will, to convey or hold property, or to contract, except upon specific findings of the court.” The court is required to specify what legal rights the proposed ward is incapable of exercising.

The Probate Courts are responsible for hearing guardianship cases and issuing orders. Orders are usually issued on standard forms that include a list of legal rights and boxes to be checked identifying which rights the Court finds the individual is incapable of exercising. One of the rights on this form is the right to vote.

Judge John Maher, Administrative Justice of the Probate Courts, states, “The primary goal for a judge in a guardianship case is to preserve as many rights in the individual as possible.” He believes a Judge should carefully analyze each right that is at stake and not take that right from an individual unless it is absolutely necessary. In most instances, the right to vote is preserved.

Unfortunately, this has not always been the practice. Following the closure of the Laconia State School, it was common practice for Court Orders to take away virtually all legal rights of the ward. In recent years, according to public guardians and lawyers, there has been a clear trend away from this practice. Orders are crafted more narrowly with careful consideration of whether it is necessary to take away particular rights. Nevertheless, orders taking away a ward's right to vote are still issued in some Courts, often without testimony or careful consideration of whether the individual has the capacity to vote. Also, for those who have been under guardianship for many years, overly restrictive orders issued in the past may be carried forward from year to year.

Linda Mallon, Executive Director of the Office of Public Guardian, believes that the right to vote should not be infringed upon unless there is a risk of substantial harm. The Office of Public Guardian follows the Model Code of Ethics adopted by the National Guardianship Association. Under the Code of Ethics, the guardian has an obligation to seek termination or limitation of the guardianship whenever indicated. If changes to any orders are appropriate, including orders impacting the right to vote, the guardian has the duty to immediately ask the Court to restore the ward's rights.

It is important for family guardians and other non-professional guardians to recognize that they too have a responsibility to notify the Court if a ward is subject to any guardianship orders that are inappropriately restrictive, including orders affecting the right to vote. Anyone petitioning for guardianship should seek to limit only those rights that the individual is not able to exercise. An order impacting the right to vote should be questioned unless evidence was presented on the issue in Court and carefully considered by the Judge.

Individuals who are under guardianship and people who provide them with supports should not assume that the ward cannot vote. If there is an order in place that prevents the ward from voting, and the ward believes the order is not appropriate, a petition should be filed requesting that the Court restore the right to vote. Guardians can assist their wards by filing these petitions on their behalf. If the guardian and the ward do not agree on restoration of voting rights, the guardian should assure that the ward has the assistance of an attorney.

## INFORMATION ON CANDIDATES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

### W e b   S i t e s

► **National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities Legislative Action Center (NACDD)**

Web site: <http://www.capwiz.com/nacdd/home>

The NACDD web site is an outstanding source of information on proposed federal legislation impacting people with disabilities. People can sign up to receive emails on their representatives' votes, as well as action alerts on important federal legislation. By entering their zip codes users can obtain listings of federal, state, and local officials representing their district. This site is primarily focused on federal action, and state and local information is incomplete. Please see PoliticsNH.com listed below for more comprehensive information on candidates for state and local offices.

► **National Organization on Disability**

Web site: <http://www.nod.org/political/index.cfm>

Links on this site lead to presidential campaign websites and to each candidate's positions on disability-specific issues. This site contains articles and links to information about voting accessibility and political participation by people with disabilities.

► **American Association of People with Disabilities (AADP)**

Web site: <http://www.aapd-dc.org/campaign04/indexcampaign.html>

This web site provides the responses of the presidential candidates to an AADP questionnaire on issues impacting people with disabilities. Links are provided to articles about the presidential candidates pertaining to disability issues.

► **PoliticsNH.com - New Hampshire's Online Political Network**

Web site : <http://www.politicsnh.com>

This New Hampshire-specific web site provides information on campaigns, elections, and politicians in the Granite State. This site has links to the web sites of candidates for federal and state offices; national, state, county, and local party organizations; as well as, newspapers and media outlets.

► **The New Hampshire Spyglass-Your Focus on New Hampshire Politics**

Web site: <http://www.nhspyglass.com>

This web site compiles news articles and editorials about political matters from six New Hampshire newspapers. Also included are press releases from officeholders and candidates, legislative hearings, information on local officials, and listings of upcoming political events.

Information on candidates can be obtained by contacting the political parties. The parties also can arrange rides to the polls for voters of their party who need transportation, however the availability of transportation for people who use wheelchairs may vary depending on where an individual lives.

► **New Hampshire Democratic Party**

2 Beacon Street, Concord, NH 03301 Phone: (603) 225-6899 Fax: (603) 225-6797

Web site: <http://www.nh-democrats.org>

► **New Hampshire Republican State Committee**

134 North Main Street, Concord, NH 03301 Phone: (603) 225-9341 Fax: (603) 225-7498

Web site: <http://www.nhgop.org>

# RAP Sheet

The Latest in Disability Research, Advocacy, Policy, and Practice

Fall Issue 2004

## NH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 22, Room 290  
Concord, NH 03301-2451

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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### DISABILITIES RIGHTS CENTER, INC.

18 Low Avenue, Concord, NH 03302-3660

Voice and TDD: (603) 228-0432 • 1-800-834-1721 • FAX: (603) 225-2077

TDD access also through NH Relay Service: 1-800-735-2964 (Voice and TDD)

e-mail: [advocacy@drcnh.org](mailto:advocacy@drcnh.org) website: [www.drcnh.org](http://www.drcnh.org)

### Protection and Advocacy System for New Hampshire

The Disabilities Rights Center is dedicated to eliminating barriers to the full and equal enjoyment of civil and other legal rights for people with disabilities.

### INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY/UCED - UNIVERSITY OF NH

7 Leavitt Lane, Suite 101, Durham, NH 03824-3522

Phone (Tel/TTY): (603) 862-4320 • Fax: (603) 862-0555 • website: [www.iod.unh.edu](http://www.iod.unh.edu)

### Institute on Disability/UNH - Concord

Concord Center, 10 Ferry Street, Unit 14

Concord, NH 03301

Phone (Tel/TTY): (603) 228-2084

### Institute on Disability/UNH - Manchester

250 Commercial Street, Suite 4107

Manchester, NH 03101

Phone: (603) 628-7681

The Institute's mission is to promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into their communities.

### NH Developmental Disabilities Council

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 22, Room 290, Concord, NH 03301-2451

Phone: (603) 271-3236 • TTY/TDD: 1 (800) 735-2964 • website: [www.nhddc.com](http://www.nhddc.com)

Dignity, belonging, and equal opportunity for all NH citizens with developmental disabilities to contribute to society, exercise all rights and responsibilities, and fully-participate in the universal human experience.

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