PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR EVERYONE

A big shout-out to our partner and friends at Disability Rights New York (DRNY), who had a great victory that enables people with disabilities to vote in the upcoming primary election on June 23.

Although, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, registered voters are able to get absentee paper ballots without saying they are out of the state, or too sick or disabled to vote in person, there was no provision for an accessible ballot for folks who can’t fill out and return a paper ballot.

DRNY is the New York State Protection and Advocacy Agency whose job is to protect the rights of people with disabilities, and they quickly brought a lawsuit against the New York State Board of Elections. That lawsuit resulted in a settlement, and a process by which people with visual impairments and other disabilities that could prevent them from using paper ballots could receive a ballot on their computer, then mark it on the screen and have it returned and counted.

This is really important, because it protects the right of everyone over 18 years old to vote, regardless of their disability!

SDMNY was thrilled to be able to share this information, as well as a reminder on how to get a regular paper absentee ballot for those who can use it, on our website, and by emailing all our Decision-Makers.

WAY TO GO, DRNY!