

July 15, 2008

Prepare for the Primary and General Election: HELP is on the way!

TACID's (Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities), Housing and Employment Link Program (HELP) in partnership with the Center for Independence and Pierce County Auditor's Office, is offering one-hour workshops to inform and assist people with different disabilities living in Pierce County on various aspects of voting and the electoral process. You will learn how to register to vote and how to vote by absentee ballot or at polling stations using Pierce County's accessible voting system. This is a free training funded from a grant the Pierce County Office of the Auditor obtained from the Secretary of State. Our aim is to increase the number of citizens with disabilities in Pierce County who register to vote and use their vote at General Election on November 4, 2008.

The goals of this training are to assist citizens with disabilities in Pierce County to:

- understand who can vote
- register to vote
- vote by absentee ballot
- know where to vote in person
- understand how to vote at the polling station
- learn how votes are counted
- understand what happens after a ballot is cast

We will bring a voting machine to the training location so you can observe the new technology available for people with disabilities. Time will be allowed to practice hands-on voting. There will be the opportunity to register to vote. We are scheduling trainings now. When you call to schedule your training, please let me know how many people to expect so we can bring enough materials. All trainings must be conducted by October 20 in order to be processed in time for the election. Training for Deaf Groups will be provided through the Hearing, Speech and Deafness Center. If that applies to you, I can put you in contact with this organization.

I hope to hear from you soon, and, of course, I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

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