



Building the Power of the Disability Vote

Andrea Bacchi

I am a resident of Shaftsbury, Vermont, and I serve as Chair of the Vermont State Rehabilitation Council, which partners with HireAbility Vermont (formerly Vocational Rehabilitation).

I am also the owner of Think Dynamic Digital, LLC, and an active member of my community who regularly engages in local initiatives and civic efforts.

At my recent town meeting, I was unable to vote because I participated via Zoom due to my disability.

Under current Vermont law, voting is restricted to in-person participation, which effectively denied me the ability to exercise my right to vote.

This created a significant barrier and made the process inaccessible for me.

When residents with disabilities cannot participate in decisions that affect their communities, it raises broader concerns about equity, representation, and inclusion.

If Vermont wants individuals to thrive and contribute to their local communities and economy, then having a seat at the table is essential.



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This issue also impacts caregivers, older adults, and individuals with temporary health conditions, and disability can affect anyone at any time.

While this may be the current law, legality does not always equate to accessibility or equity, and policies should reflect the needs of today.

The technology exists to support secure, accessible participation, and expanding these options would allow more Vermonters to engage in local governance and strengthen our communities, and when we strengthen our communities, everyone wins.

