



CID-NY

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Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

November 2011

CIDNY Quick Take

Not Sure What's on Your Ballot? Sample Ballots are Now Online!

If you've ever gone to vote and were surprised by propositions, candidates and races that were on your ballot, there is a way to avoid that fate. As of October 25, 2011, you can go online and see your ballot before you head to the polls to vote on November 8th. All you have to do is go to the Poll Site Locator feature on the Board's website, www.vote.nyc.ny.us, to find your polling place and view a sample ballot based on your address.

Encourage your Elected Officials to Use the BMD on Election Day!

Most voters are not aware that their polling sites have a machine, called a Ballot Marking Device (BMD), that provides accessibility for those who cannot read or mark a ballot on their own. CIDNY asked our elected officials to help call attention to the BMD by agreeing to use it when they vote on November 8th and by providing information about the BMD in their constituent newsletters.

As of this publication, the following elected officials have confirmed with CIDNY that they will use the BMD:

- Assembly Member Micah Kellner
- Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh
- State Senator Liz Krueger
- City Council Member Gale Brewer
- City Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo
- City Council Member Larry Seabrook

If these are your elected officials, please call their office to thank them! If you do not see your elected official on the list, please call their office and ask them to get involved.

You can also support this effort by asking to use the BMD when you go to vote, even if

you do not need an accommodation. The features of the BMD that help people with disabilities include headphones for listening to the ballot, which can help people who are blind or who have certain learning disabilities, such as dyslexia. A hand-held controller and a sip and puff device help voters with mobility impairments make selections.

For more information about the BMD and to get contact information for your elected officials, call Rima McCoy at 646-442-4146 or email rmccoy@cidny.org

Keep in touch with CIDNY on Election Day, November 8th.

If you have problems exercising your right to vote, contact CIDNY's Voter Hotline at 646-442-4146. And whether you have problems or not, please share your voting experience with us by completing CIDNY's Individual Voter Survey. What we learn from your experience helps CIDNY identify problems and advocate for improvements. Please go to www.cidny.org and click on "Individual Voter Survey." If you do not have internet access, you can complete the survey over the phone by calling Rima McCoy at 646-442-4146.

Writer's Workshop Publishes Book

CIDNY and New York Writers Coalition (NYWC) are proud to present to the public the talents of a gifted group of writers who meet weekly at CIDNY to work on their craft.

CIDNY's Writer's Workshop, which is facilitated by NYWC, is publishing an anthology of the group's work, titled INSIGHT OUT. The book will be available this month on Amazon.com for \$7.00. The group is also hosting a book launch and reading at Jefferson Market Library on Saturday, December 3rd at 2pm. Please attend and show your support for this talented group.



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The Dignity for All Students Act Takes effect on July 1, 2012. Website is live now.

New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (The Dignity Act) seeks to provide the State's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function.



Learn more about it at www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact/

Have You Taken Advantage of Health Care Preventive Services Without Cost Sharing?

It has been more than a year since Health Care Reform was signed into law. One of the provisions that millions of people have already benefitted from eliminates cost sharing and co-pays in private commercial health insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid for a number of preventive services that can keep you healthy. Free services in the area of heart disease and obesity management now include screening for obesity, and counseling to promote sustained weight loss, including dietary counseling from your doctor; blood pressure screening; counseling on the use of daily aspirin to reduce the risk of a stroke; and tests to screen for high cholesterol and diabetes. In the area of cancer prevention free services include annual mammograms for women over 40; regular pap smears to screen for cervical cancer and coverage for the HPV vaccine that can prevent cases of cervical cancer; tobacco cessation interventions, such

as counseling or medication to help individuals quit; and screening tests for colon cancer for adults over 50. Medicare also now covers a free Wellness Visit and personalized prevention plan. Take advantage of these free services today and here's to your health!

Larkspur Apartment Agreement

The builders and developers of the Larkspur Apartments, located at 5925 Broadway, Bronx, NY 10463, have come to an agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice. They admitted that they failed to include certain accessible features for persons with disabilities that are required under the Fair Housing Act.

- If you have been discouraged from living at Larkspur because of the lack of accessible features;
- If you have been hurt in any way by the lack of accessible features at Larkspur;
- If you paid to have an apartment at the Larkspur made more accessible to persons with disabilities; or
- If you were otherwise discriminated against on the basis of your disability at Larkspur;

You may file a claim for discrimination on the basis of your disability by contacting:

United States Attorney's Office
Southern District of New York
Attn: Civil Rights Unit
86 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

You can also call 212-637-2800 or send a fax to 212-637-2702