



Quick Takes

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
www.CIDNY.org

Manhattan

841 Broadway, #301
New York, NY 10003
212/674-2300 Tel
212/254-5953 Fax
646/350-2681 VP

Queens

80-02 Kew Gardens Rd, #400
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
646/442-1520 Tel
347/561-4883 Fax
347/905-5088 VP

November 2018

Your Vote, Your Voice

Election Day is November 6. Do you have a plan to get out and vote?



[Image description: Red and white text on a blue background with the words: Feel the power of the disability vote.]

Progress on Voting Access for NYers with Disabilities

Advocates for people with disabilities say New York City has made progress in making polling sites accessible, but this coming Election Day will put that to the test.

New York City has faced lawsuits over polling sites that don't have wheelchair ramps and other accommodations for people with disabilities.

According to Susan Dooha, executive director of the [Center for Independence of the Disabled New York or CIDNY](#), the recent primaries showed good progress toward addressing those issues.

But the record voter turnout predicted for the midterm election on Nov. 6 could strain the system.

"We are still concerned about problems getting ramps in place, with accessible voting machines working for people with disabilities, and proper set-up of polling sites," she states.

Anyone who encounters problems with accessibility on election day can contact CIDNY by email at info@cidny.org or by phone at 212-674-2300 to report the experience and get help.

While the New York City Board of Elections has made progress, Dooha says the state still has work to do.

CIDNY is part of a lawsuit against the State Board of Elections for failing to make its website accessible to people who are visually impaired.

"We are almost at the point of finalizing a settlement agreement with the state so that the Board of Elections will maintain a website that is fully accessible for people who are blind or have low vision," Dooha says.

Dooha notes that attempts by the Trump administration to undermine provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act make this election especially important for people with disabilities.

"We also have seen continuing assaults on Social Security, on Medicare and on Medicaid, and on the Affordable Care Act," she points out. "All of these programs are vital to people with disabilities."

Dooha sees this midterm election as critical to efforts to protect those programs.

This story by Andrea Sears [originally appeared on Public News Service](#) and is [also available in Spanish online](#).

Individual Voter Survey for November General Election

The General Election will be held on November 6. We need to see what the Board of Elections is doing to make the poll sites accessible. After you vote, please complete CIDNY's Individual Voter Survey. Your help in identifying problems means that we can work to get them resolved. Every voter experience that we hear about – including the good ones – makes a difference in our efforts to improve our election process!

Please take the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMLSBYH>. If you cannot complete it online, call Monica Bartley at 646/442-4152 to complete it by phone.

All of Us Includes People with Disabilities

If you missed our special guest presentation on [All of Us](#), you can still watch it on [Facebook Live](#). All of Us seeks to enroll "one million or more" participants in a long term study to improve the ability to prevent and treat disease based on individual differences in lifestyle, environment, and biological makeup, including genetics. The program aims to include communities that have



CID-NY

Quick Takes

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
www.CIDNY.org

Manhattan

841 Broadway, #301
New York, NY 10003
212/674-2300 Tel
212/254-5953 Fax
646/350-2681 VP

Queens

80-02 Kew Gardens Rd, #400
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
646/442-1520 Tel
347/561-4883 Fax
347/905-5088 VP

been underrepresented in research to make it the largest, most diverse resource of its kind. People ages 18 and older, regardless of health status, are eligible to enroll, including people with disabilities. Register at All of Us.

Did You Know?



The *All of Us* Research Program aims to build one of the largest health databases of its kind.

#JoinAllofUs

[Image description: Image of a microscope and the words: The All of Us Research Program aims to build one of the largest health databases of its kind. #JoinAllofUs]

Tips for Parents on Understanding an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

1. IEPs are a document required under federal law, the Individuals With Disabilities Act. It mandates teachers and other key people responsible for the education of a student with a disability to assess and offer necessary services for them. The development of the IEP is an interactive process. It includes parents, an advocate (if the parent wishes), and sometimes the student with disabilities.
2. A child has a disability if he/she has a physical, mental, emotional disability, or other health related disabilities. A child with a disability has the right to educational opportunities such as educational services and programs to give them the same opportunity for education as a child without disabilities.
3. Students with disabilities are entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education. Under a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision, schools afford the student with a disability the same opportunity to succeed and to pass to the next grade with the knowledge to participate meaningfully at that level.

4. An IEP is a legal agreement – like a contract – between the school and parents about available educational services for a student.
5. A parent and the student (after age 15) are equal members of the IEP team, and need to be present at the meetings.
6. For class placement and IEP implementation, if a child hasn't been evaluated by the school, the parent must ask for an evaluation and sign a consent form. After giving consent, the school has 60 days to do the evaluation and place the child in an appropriate setting.
7. For a child who already has an IEP, the school has 60 days to re-evaluate the child and change his/her placement as soon as parents request the re-evaluation. No signed consent is needed.
8. Parents or students over the age of 16 can – and should – mention needed services or dispute the services offered during an IEP meeting.
9. Ask questions before, during, and after the IEP meeting. Make sure you understand what the next steps will be.
10. An IEP can only go into effect after signed parental consent. Do not sign the document unless or until you understand it.
11. Parents have the right to have interpreters during the IEP meetings. They also have the right to have the IEP and all documents translated to their native language. Interpreters include ASL for the Deaf.

Keeping Up the Pressure on the MTA

This month Access-A-Ride users and advocates gathered at events around the city, making their voices heard for better AAR service. Many spoke of a need for a binding agreement guaranteeing accessibility. "MTA, quit stalling" was a chant taken up by the crowd at this month's MTA board meeting.

"Sometimes the driver doesn't want to take me because I am a wheelchair customer," said Su Zhen Chi, a CIDNY participant and advocate.

Get involved. The next MTA board meeting is November 15 at MTA Headquarters, 2 Broadway, between Beaver and Stone streets, in lower Manhattan. If you want to join us from 9-11 am, please RSVP with Laurette Hamilton at 212-674-2300 or Lhamilton@cidny.org. Arrive 45 minutes early and bring a photo ID. There is a 2-minute time limit for speakers and people can sign up to speak at the start of the meeting. Join with us and other advocates as we make our voices heard.



CID-NY

Quick Takes

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
www.CIDNY.org

Manhattan

841 Broadway, #301
New York, NY 10003
212/674-2300 Tel
212/254-5953 Fax
646/350-2681 VP

Queens

80-02 Kew Gardens Rd, #400
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
646/442-1520 Tel
347/561-4883 Fax
347/905-5088 VP

NEED HELP?

Walk in to get the help you need. Staff will be available during these times for housing and benefits-related help.



Walk-In Days—Manhattan

Every Monday and Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Walk-In Day—Queens

Every Monday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Important Dates

November 6: Election Day (no walk-ins)

November 12: Veteran's Day (office open)

November 22: Thanksgiving Day

November 23: Office closed

CIDNY's Writers' Group

Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Housing Workshops

Wednesday, November 14, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Manhattan

Wednesday, November 28, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Queens

CIDNY's housing workshop covers housing options: NYCHA, HPD, HUD listings; NYC Housing Connect and other programs; what you qualify for; income and family size; and how to get and go over your credit report. CIDNY is a full-service center and other benefits will be discussed; we don't offer housing, but can provide information and assist with applications.



Movie Night

Ragtime, Wednesday, November 14, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

A young black pianist becomes embroiled in the lives of an upper class white family set among the racial tensions, infidelity, violence, and other nostalgic events in early 1900s

NYC.

Director: Milos Forman. Stars: James Cagney, Elizabeth McGovern, Howard E. Rollins, Jr.



MTA Board Meeting

Thursday, November 15 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at MTA Headquarters, 2 Broadway.

CIDNY Action Network (CAN) Meeting - Queens

Wednesday, November 21, 1-3:30 p.m.

Let's prepare for Lobby Day 2019!

Join us and help CIDNY develop its policy agenda.

- **Start drafting your stories based on CIDNY's agenda items for this legislative session.**

- **Come help us make strategies to engage lawmakers as well as other consumers about disability rights.**

Reunión de CIDNY Network (CAN) - Queens

Miércoles, 21 de noviembre, 1-3:30 p.m.

¡Preparémonos para el Lobby Day 2019!

Únase a nosotros y ayude al CIDNY a desarrollar su agenda política.

- Comience a redactar sus historias basándose en los puntos de la agenda del CIDNY para esta sesión legislativa.
- Venga, ayúdenos a hacer estrategias para involucrar a los legisladores, así como a otros consumidores sobre derechos de discapacidad.

Dance Workshops

Wednesday November 28, 1-2 p.m.

Join this one-time workshop with dance instructor, Eoghan (pronounced Owen) Dillon demonstrating his GO! Movement program.

This program is designed for people with disabilities and creates an environment of acceptance and joy using the visceral, therapeutic, and universal language of the human race; dance. During the workshop, participants will begin



with a warm-up exercise designed to get the group acquainted with each other, the space and the teacher. All exercises and movement

will be tailored to the group, so people with all types of disabilities can participate.

Fall Fest Party

Wednesday, November 28, 3-5 p.m.

Join us to celebrate the fall/winter holiday season. We'll get together to enjoy some light refreshment, music and games.

All events are at CIDNY, 841 Broadway, Suite 301, New York, NY 10003, unless otherwise noted. To RSVP, contact Laurette at 212/674-2300 or lhamilton@cidny.org. For events in Queens or if you speak Spanish, RSVP to Jose at 646/442-1520 or jmera@cidny.org. If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, let us know by Wednesday, November 7.

NOVEMBER 2018 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	2	3
4 Daylight Savings Time	5  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	6 Election Day 	7	8  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	9	10
11	12 Veteran's Day  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	13  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	14  Housing Workshop – Manhattan 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Movie Night 3:30 – 5:30 pm	15  MTA Board Meeting 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	16	17
18	19  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	20  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	21 CIDNY Action Network Meeting - Queens 1-3:30 p.m.	22 Thanksgiving Day	23 Office Closed	24
25	26  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	27  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	28  Housing Workshop – Queens 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Dance Workshop 1-2 p.m. Fall Fest Party 3-5 p.m. 	29  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	30	 CID-NY <small>Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY</small>