



Quick Takes

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

CID-NY

Manhattan
841 Broadway, #301
New York, NY 10003
212/674-2300 Tel
212/254-5953 Fax
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Queens
80-02 Kew Gardens Rd, #400
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December 2019

Early Voting and the General Election—Here’s What We Saw

Twenty-three staff and volunteers fanned out in the five boroughs to survey polling sites for accessibility. We were able to survey 72 sites: 34 early voting sites and 38 sites on November 5 general election day. Forty-six or 64% of the sites we surveyed had barriers.



Image description - cables across the floor leading to scanners, a tripping hazard and a barrier for people using wheelchairs.

While we’ve seen some improvements over the years, we still find barriers that discourage or block voters with disabilities from voting privately and independently like everyone else.



Image description - large plastic sheet and electric cords in pathway to voting area creating a tripping hazard for those who are low vision or blind.

Too many sites had barriers that presented tripping hazards, too little space around the Ballot Marking Device, poor signage to help people with disabilities find accessible entryways, non-ADA compliant ramps, narrow doorways, and tables, athletic equipment or chairs blocking passage or narrowing voting spaces.

For the full Poll Site Survey report, please go to <https://www.cidny.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/November-General-Election-2019-report.pdf>

Our report is sent to the New York City Board of Elections as well as to Disability Rights Advocates, the pro bono lawyers who led the lawsuit in New York City.

Our report was covered by WNYC reporter Brigid Bergin in an article about early voting in The Gothamist <https://gothamist.com/news/lessons-from-nycs-first-ever-early-voting-dont-use-schools-make-sure-sites-are-accessible> and aired on WNYC.

If you don’t have access to a computer or have trouble accessing the files, please contact us at 212-674-2300 and ask the receptionist for assistance.

Raising Our Voices

In October and November, CIDNY consumers and staff spoke out at press conferences, hearings, and forums on a variety of issues. Here are a few highlights:

CIDNY shared employment data and talked about **proposals to increase employment** for people with disabilities at the New York State’s Comptroller’s roundtable regarding disability issues.

Our advocacy team told the NYS Department of Health about **the importance of community-based care** for people with disabilities.

We testified at a NYC Council Committee Hearing on Hospitals to support **training for all medical students on implicit bias towards people with disabilities** who seek medical care.

At City Council Speaker Corey Johnson’s invitation, we joined the Speaker’s press conference advocating **greater street safety**.

We told the state legislature about how people with disabilities are concerned about **discontinued services at medical facilities** and how they will get to other locations to access those services.

Seven CIDNY peer advocates joined with others to speak about their experiences with Access-a-Ride’s On Demand services. We spoke out **against AAR’s plan to ration On Demand services**. The rationing proposals would limit people to 16 On-Demand taxi rides per month and



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would have a maximum subsidy of \$16 per ride. This would greatly affect people with disabilities who work and other low-income people with disabilities who need to travel frequently for appointments and other necessary travel.

CIDNY advocates, including peer advocates who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing testified at a City hearing on **Text-to-911 and New Generation 911**. We told Council members that the delays in implementing these systems have placed people with disabilities in increased danger because of the lack of access to 911.

CIDNY representatives also spoke at

Brennan Center for Justice/NYU Law panel on "Suppressed—the Right to Vote"

The Network, an LGBTQ state-wide advocacy organization meeting about the intersection of disability and LGBTQ issues.

You can help us make our voices heard and protect the rights of New Yorkers with disabilities. Join our CIDNY Action Network – CAN. For more information on these events and how you can join CAN, contact: Monica Bartley at mbartley@cidny.org.



Image description: Did you know that you can enroll in Medicaid anytime of the year? Medicaid programs cover 1 in 5 Americans. In all states, Medicaid provides coverage for some low-income people, families and children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. If you qualify, you can enroll immediately. Visit healthcare.gov/screener to learn more.

CIDNY's Financial Workshops Continue

Two workshops in December will help you prepare for tax season and for your future. Join us for:

"Putting Tax Laws to Work for You" with Jeff Birnbaum

Wednesday December 4, 1:00-2:30

Jeff Birnbaum from the Financial Planning Association (FPA) will help you understand tax laws and help you understand how to plan for filing.

Mr. Birnbaum will focus on:

- It's not just about taxes
- The basics of tax laws that affect you
- Federal tax laws protecting people with disabilities
- NYS and NYC tax laws that may affect people with disabilities.

"Five Estate Planning Essentials" with Dan Timins Wednesday, December 18, 1:00-2:30

Dan Timins from the Financial Planning Association (FPA) is presenting Part 2 of his 5 Essential Documents for planning. Find out about the 5 important documents you need to make sure that if something happens to you, your assets and your wishes are protected.

Mr. Timins will focus on:

- What happens when you die or become disabled without documents drafted in advance;
- How the law may or may not serve your personal wishes;
- How to provide for minor beneficiaries and consider guardianship;
- How probate and non-probate transfers are different;
- How to move forward with setting up an estate plan.

See the calendar for more information on events at CIDNY in December.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Image description holly leaves



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NEED HELP?

Walk-in/drop-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, Tuesday and Thursday
10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 – 3:00 pm.



Walk-In Day—Queens

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

Important Dates

December 4 – Financial Workshop – Taxes

December 18 – Financial Workshop – 5 Essential Documents

December 18 – CAN meeting, Queens Office

December 24 – CIDNY Closes at 3:30

December 25 – CIDNY CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

“Putting the Tax Laws to Work for You” with Jeff Birnbaum

Wednesday December 4, 1:00-2:30
CIDNY Manhattan Conference Room

- It's not just about taxes
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“Five Estate Planning Essentials” Part 2 with Dan Timins

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Find out about the 5 important documents you need to make sure that if something happens to you, your assets and your wishes are protected.

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- What happens when you die or become disabled without documents drafted in advance
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- How to provide for minor beneficiaries and consider guardianship
- How probate and non-probate transfers differ
- How to move forward with setting up an estate plan

CIDNY's Writers Group

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

Please join us for writing and sharing work in a supportive and respectful environment. Writers of all genres and levels of experience are welcome. No prior writing experience is necessary. Participants should sign up in advance by calling 674-2300 and asking to be placed on the list. Please let the receptionist know if you need an accommodation like ASL interpretation or large print. Please bring pen/pencil and paper (CIDNY will supply if you don't have).

Housing Workshops

NO HOUSING WORKSHOPS THIS MONTH

CIDNY Action Network (CAN) Meeting

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Queens Office

1:00 – 3:00 pm

MTA & NYC Transit's Proposed Limits to On-Demand

Learn what the MTA and NYC Transit's proposed limits for the On-Demand service are and how they will affect users. Join us to demand no limitations!

Please RSVP to Jose Luis Mera (646) 442-1520. If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, please let us know by Wednesday, December 11, 2019. Refreshments will be served.

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, please let us know as soon as possible. CIDNY has a hearing loop.

December 2019 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 World AIDS Day	2  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	3 National Disability Day  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00	4 Putting the Tax Laws to Work for You A financial planning workshop Manhattan 1:00-2:30	5  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	6	7
8	9  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	10  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00	11	12  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	13	14
15	16  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	17  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00	18 CAN Meeting Queens Office 1:00-3:00 5 Estate Planning Essentials 2 Manhattan 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	19  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	20	21
22 Hanukkah begins 	23  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	24  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00 CIDNY Offices Close at 3:30	25 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CIDNY OFFICES ARE CLOSED	26 Kwanzaa begins  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	27	28
29	30 Hanukkah ends  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	31  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00 CIDNY Offices Close at 3:30				