



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

March 2020

Join CIDNY in Making 2020 Count for People with Disabilities

This year, there are threats to the safety net programs that many of us rely on to stay independent and living in the community. There are also threats to weaken the ADA. There are a couple of things we can all do right now to continue protecting our rights:

People with Disabilities Count – the 2020 Census



The Census form will come online on Thursday, March 12. We are encouraging everyone to get counted. It will make a difference. Consider this: “affordable housing” prices are based on census data that reveals incomes of people living in New York City. If the majority of the people answering the Census are people who are upper middle class or upper income then “affordable” housing is based on that income. If people with disabilities aren’t counted, then the need for more “accessible” housing may go unanswered.

The Census form will ask: how many people are living or staying at your home – their sex, age, race, and ethnicity. It will ask whether your home is owned or rented and what your home address is.

The Census will not ask: about your immigration or citizenship status, your income or your Social Security number. If someone says they are from the Census and asks these questions, do not answer them and do not continue the conversation with that person.

By law, your personal information is kept confidential. Your responses can be used only to produce statistics. They cannot be used for law enforcement or to determine your eligibility for government benefits.

Let’s make sure people with disabilities count. Go to www.cidny.org/census and fill out a pledge form to make sure you are counted. If you have any questions, contact Margi Trapani at mtrapani@cidny.org or call 646-442-4162.

Vote Like Your Life Depends on It, Because it Does – Justin Dart, Disability Advocate for People with Disabilities 1930-2002

Queens Borough President Special Election March 24

Queens’ residents will be voting for their Borough President on Tuesday, March 24. Early voting is also available starting on Saturday, March 14.

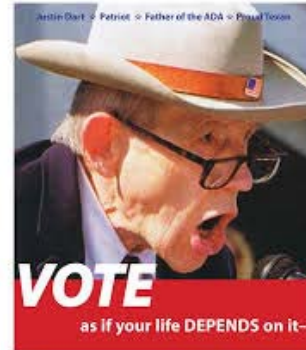
To locate the early voting site near you, for information on line go to <https://vote.nyc/election/special-election-queens-borough-president>.

To locate your regular polling site for Election Day on the 24th, go to <https://nyc.pollsitelocator.com/search>. If you need help locating a polling site or to register contact Monica Bartley at mbartley@cidny.org or 646-442-4152.

Presidential Primary – April 28

Here are the deadlines for registering to vote for the Presidential Primary. If you need help, you can fill in your registration forms at CIDNY offices and we will mail or deliver the registration forms for you.

- MAIL REGISTRATION must be postmarked by April 3, 2020, and received by April 8
- IN PERSON REGISTRATION must be received by April 3, 2020. You may register at your local board of elections or any state agency participating in the National Voter Registration Act.
- CHANGE OF ADDRESS must be received by April 8, 2020
- CHANGE OF ENROLLMENT (to change your party affiliation) must be received by the NYC Board of Elections no later than February 14, 2020



Because it DOES!
Image of Advocate Justin Dart with quote, Vote as if your life depends on it -





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- **If you would like to join CIDNY in doing poll site accessibility surveying, please contact Monica Bartley, mbartley@cidny.org or 646-442- 4152.**

Contact Monica Bartley at mbartley@cidny.org or 646-442-4152 if you have questions.

Federal Judge Issues Ruling on Lawsuit over Inaccessible Policy Precincts

For years, CIDNY has monitored inaccessibility at police precincts and CIDNY staff and board members joined a lawsuit.



Image: scales of justice

The suit was brought by Disability Rights Advocates and Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP on behalf of organizational plaintiffs Disabled In Action of Metropolitan New York (DIA) and Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled (BCID) and individual plaintiffs including Paula Wolff (former CIDNY staff), Jean Ryan, Edith Prentiss, and Dustin Jones (CIDNY Board member).

Federal Judge Caproni has issued a major ruling holding the New York City Police Department (NYPD) liable for discrimination against people with disabilities by shutting them out of police precincts.

The lawsuit charged that more than half of police stations across the city are physically inaccessible to people with mobility disabilities, preventing them from seeking refuge if they feel unsafe, making crime reports, attending public meetings, and accessing other crime prevention services.

Problems include architectural barriers, including stairs as the only way to reach front entrances and lifts that are regularly broken or have missing keys necessary for operation. When alternate routes exist, they are often unmarked and unsafe, with narrow paths, broken pavement and missing handrails.

The plaintiffs also showed that precinct houses include numerous accessibility barriers within the stations, including inaccessible bathrooms at nearly every station, heavy doors with narrow doorways, and insufficient clear floor space, among other barriers that block or impede access.

Judge Caproni’s ruling noted that the NYPD has taken initial steps to address precinct inaccessibility during the course of this litigation, but the plan was developed solely by NYPD members without any input from the disability community.

The ruling requires that any remedy to the inaccessibility of precinct stations include the input of the disability community. The plaintiffs and the NYPD must meet and submit a joint letter by March 12, 2020, describing their efforts to reach a solution.

Sunday, March 8 Is Daylight Savings Time

Set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday the 7th and you’ll be ready for Spring!



Image: clock showing setting time ahead one hour for Spring.



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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

March 11: Understanding Your Rights 1:00-2:30

March 18: CAN Meeting 1:00-4:00

March 25: Housing Workshop – Queens 10:00-12:00

CIDNY's Writers Group Thursdays, 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 212-674-2300 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 –Queens

March 25, 10:00 a.m. -12 noon

Learn about housing searches, eligibility for housing subsidies, and more.



Image: Houses

RSVP for the workshop or if you speak Spanish at 646/442-1520.

CIDNY Action Network (CAN) Meeting Wednesday, March 18, 1:00 – 4:00 pm Manhattan Office

This is a tough budget year. Medicaid is threatened and other budget cuts may affect people with disabilities. Join us to hear about our exciting meetings with legislators in Albany.

Please RSVP to Shohana at 212/674-2300 or sjoati@cidny.org

If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, please let us know by Wednesday March 11, 2020. Refreshments will be served.

Understanding Your Rights with John Herrion Wednesday, March 11, 1:00-2:30 Manhattan

There have been some changes in regulations at the NYS Division on Human Rights. John Herrion will join us to tell us about filing complaints; employment rights; housing rights; and places of accommodation. RSVP by calling Shoshana at 212-674-2300 or emailing sjoati@cidny.org.

All events are at CIDNY, 841 Broadway, Suite 301, New York, NY 10003, unless otherwise noted.

To RSVP, contact Shohana at 212/674-2300 or sjoati@cidny.org. For events in Queens or if you speak Spanish, RSVP 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.

March 2020 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00	4	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 Daylight Savings Time Set your clocks ahead. 	9  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  Purim	10  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00  Holi	11 Understanding Your Rights New information from the NYS Division of Human Rights 1:00-2:30	12 U.S. Census is online  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  Happy St. Patrick's Day  Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2:00-3:00	18  CAN MEETING 1:00-4:00	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 Isra and Mi'raj	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	25  Housing Workshop Queens 10:00-12:00	26  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  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				