**Time To Vote!**

November 4th is Election Day in the United States. We get to vote for who we want to be President. The main choice is between John McCain, the Republican from Arizona and Barack Obama, the Democrat from Illinois.

People will also make their choices for other elected offices too. At the national level, Senate seats are open in 33 out of the 50 states. The House of Representatives is also up for grabs with all 435 seats being contested.

At the local level, depending on the state, voters will choose governors, legislators, judges, mayors and other officials.

People say that this is the biggest election in a long time! This is because people are worried about their jobs and losing the money they have in the bank. They are also worried about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the price of gas, getting good healthcare and education for children.

Maybe YOU are worried about disability services!

Don’t let November 4th go by without being heard! It’s time to VOTE! Trust us. You will feel mighty strong after you vote!

---

**Tropic Blunder**

On August 13th, many self-advocates across the nation protested against the movie Tropic Thunder. Why? Well, if you haven’t heard, this movie uses the “R” word. Most teenagers already think it’s cool to use the “R” word. People who are labeled with the term say it’s NOT cool!

Some people say, “What’s the big deal? It’s only a 60 second scene.” No, it is not. It is saying it is ok to use hate speech against people with disabilities. A coalition of national organizations has formed and come together over this blunder of a movie.

The coalition is striving to educate the studios in Hollywood through a studio summit/conference, but nothing has been set in stone. Nothing is funny about hate speech.

Keep the campaign going! Respect and dignity for all! [www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org)
Julie’s Jive

Self-Advocates of Indiana revved the 9th SABE National Self-Advocacy Conference in Indianapolis. In September, over 1,000 self-advocates from all over the nation attended the conference. They felt the fever of the movement, made new friends, attended workshops and had fun partying too!

Some of the workshops included: Journey to Self-Advocacy, Sheltered Workshops: Shut ‘em Down, My Own Home, and there were more! People from across the nation have still been telling me “the conference was great!”

Every year at the conference we elect new board members and new officers. It was my time to pass on the torch, but I am still involved with SABE on a few committees.

The SABE officers elected in Indiana are: Chester Finn, President; Tia Nelis, Vice-President; Victor Robinson, Treasurer; Cathy Enfield, Secretary; and Ricky Broussard, Sergeant at Arms. Congrats to the new SABE Officers!

The national SABE conference is held every two years. The location of the 2010 conference has yet to be announced. When The Riot knows, we’ll let you know!

Well, if you are not registered to vote by now, you are too late for this election! This is the election issue of The Riot! I met some self-advocates recently, (I won’t say from where) who felt their vote did not count! Imagine if ALL people with disabilities felt that way. We would not have a voice!

Come on my fellow Americans with disabilities! Let us show the power of the disability vote!

Vote Now or Forever Hold Your Peace

It’s always interesting at a wedding when the official presiding says that if anyone in attendance knows a reason why the couple should not get married, they need to speak up or forever hold their peace. I think the same thing can be said about why we need to make our voices heard in every election.

If we don’t vote, then we should not complain when the next President cuts funding for home and community-based services then expands funding for institutions.

If we don’t vote, then we should not expect members of Congress to listen to us when we ask for changes in Medicaid or the Developmental Disabilities Act.

If we don't vote, then we should not wonder why our issues are not addressed by the candidates in their speeches and television ads.

In short, if we don't vote, we don't count.

Voting is our responsibility as Americans, self-advocates and participants in the great American democracy.

Simply put, we vote because we care. We vote because we matter. We vote because we have a right to be heard. Be sure that you, your friends and family vote on November 4th.

Julie’s Jive

Self-Advocates of Indiana revved the 9th SABE National Self-Advocacy Conference in Indianapolis. In September, over 1,000 self-advocates from all over the nation attended the conference. They felt the fever of the movement, made new friends, attended workshops and had fun partying too!

Some of the workshops included: Journey to Self-Advocacy, Sheltered Workshops: Shut ‘em Down, My Own Home, and there were more! People from across the nation have still been telling me “the conference was great!”

Every year at the conference we elect new board members and new officers. It was my time to pass on the torch, but I am still involved with SABE on a few committees.

The SABE officers elected in Indiana are: Chester Finn, President; Tia Nelis, Vice-President; Victor Robinson, Treasurer; Cathy Enfield, Secretary; and Ricky Broussard, Sergeant at Arms. Congrats to the new SABE Officers!

The national SABE conference is held every two years. The location of the 2010 conference has yet to be announced. When The Riot knows, we’ll let you know!

Well, if you are not registered to vote by now, you are too late for this election! This is the election issue of The Riot! I met some self-advocates recently, (I won’t say from where) who felt their vote did not count! Imagine if ALL people with disabilities felt that way. We would not have a voice!

Come on my fellow Americans with disabilities! Let us show the power of the disability vote!

Vote Now or Forever Hold Your Peace

It's always interesting at a wedding when the official presiding says that if anyone in attendance knows a reason why the couple should not get married, they need to speak up or forever hold their peace. I think the same thing can be said about why we need to make our voices heard in every election.

If we don't vote, then we should not complain when the next President cuts funding for home and community-based services then expands funding for institutions.

If we don't vote, then we should not expect members of Congress to listen to us when we ask for changes in Medicaid or the Developmental Disabilities Act.

If we don't vote, then we should not wonder why our issues are not addressed by the candidates in their speeches and television ads.

In short, if we don't vote, we don't count.

Voting is our responsibility as Americans, self-advocates and participants in the great American democracy.

Simply put, we vote because we care. We vote because we matter. We vote because we have a right to be heard. Be sure that you, your friends and family vote on November 4th.

Julie’s Jive

Self-Advocates of Indiana revved the 9th SABE National Self-Advocacy Conference in Indianapolis. In September, over 1,000 self-advocates from all over the nation attended the conference. They felt the fever of the movement, made new friends, attended workshops and had fun partying too!

Some of the workshops included: Journey to Self-Advocacy, Sheltered Workshops: Shut ‘em Down, My Own Home, and there were more! People from across the nation have still been telling me “the conference was great!”

Every year at the conference we elect new board members and new officers. It was my time to pass on the torch, but I am still involved with SABE on a few committees.

The SABE officers elected in Indiana are: Chester Finn, President; Tia Nelis, Vice-President; Victor Robinson, Treasurer; Cathy Enfield, Secretary; and Ricky Broussard, Sergeant at Arms. Congrats to the new SABE Officers!

The national SABE conference is held every two years. The location of the 2010 conference has yet to be announced. When The Riot knows, we’ll let you know!

Well, if you are not registered to vote by now, you are too late for this election! This is the election issue of The Riot! I met some self-advocates recently, (I won’t say from where) who felt their vote did not count! Imagine if ALL people with disabilities felt that way. We would not have a voice!

Come on my fellow Americans with disabilities! Let us show the power of the disability vote!

Vote Now or Forever Hold Your Peace

It's always interesting at a wedding when the official presiding says that if anyone in attendance knows a reason why the couple should not get married, they need to speak up or forever hold their peace. I think the same thing can be said about why we need to make our voices heard in every election.

If we don't vote, then we should not complain when the next President cuts funding for home and community-based services then expands funding for institutions.

If we don't vote, then we should not expect members of Congress to listen to us when we ask for changes in Medicaid or the Developmental Disabilities Act.

If we don't vote, then we should not wonder why our issues are not addressed by the candidates in their speeches and television ads.

In short, if we don't vote, we don't count.

Voting is our responsibility as Americans, self-advocates and participants in the great American democracy.

Simply put, we vote because we care. We vote because we matter. We vote because we have a right to be heard. Be sure that you, your friends and family vote on November 4th.

Julie’s Jive

Self-Advocates of Indiana revved the 9th SABE National Self-Advocacy Conference in Indianapolis. In September, over 1,000 self-advocates from all over the nation attended the conference. They felt the fever of the movement, made new friends, attended workshops and had fun partying too!

Some of the workshops included: Journey to Self-Advocacy, Sheltered Workshops: Shut ‘em Down, My Own Home, and there were more! People from across the nation have still been telling me “the conference was great!”

Every year at the conference we elect new board members and new officers. It was my time to pass on the torch, but I am still involved with SABE on a few committees.

The SABE officers elected in Indiana are: Chester Finn, President; Tia Nelis, Vice-President; Victor Robinson, Treasurer; Cathy Enfield, Secretary; and Ricky Broussard, Sergeant at Arms. Congrats to the new SABE Officers!

The national SABE conference is held every two years. The location of the 2010 conference has yet to be announced. When The Riot knows, we’ll let you know!

Well, if you are not registered to vote by now, you are too late for this election! This is the election issue of The Riot! I met some self-advocates recently, (I won’t say from where) who felt their vote did not count! Imagine if ALL people with disabilities felt that way. We would not have a voice!

Come on my fellow Americans with disabilities! Let us show the power of the disability vote!

Vote Now or Forever Hold Your Peace

It's always interesting at a wedding when the official presiding says that if anyone in attendance knows a reason why the couple should not get married, they need to speak up or forever hold their peace. I think the same thing can be said about why we need to make our voices heard in every election.

If we don't vote, then we should not complain when the next President cuts funding for home and community-based services then expands funding for institutions.

If we don't vote, then we should not expect members of Congress to listen to us when we ask for changes in Medicaid or the Developmental Disabilities Act.

If we don't vote, then we should not wonder why our issues are not addressed by the candidates in their speeches and television ads.

In short, if we don't vote, we don't count.

Voting is our responsibility as Americans, self-advocates and participants in the great American democracy.

Simply put, we vote because we care. We vote because we matter. We vote because we have a right to be heard. Be sure that you, your friends and family vote on November 4th.
Election Day is on November 4th, about two weeks away. It is time to speak up. This time with our vote. To vote we must know the issues. Especially the candidates’ positions on disability issues because these effect our everyday lives. The Riot! has put together the positions of the two leading Candidates on some important disabilities issues. We scored each candidate by giving them 1 point if they supported an issue and 0 points if they did not support an issue.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Proposal</th>
<th>John McCain</th>
<th>Barrack Obama</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Services</td>
<td><strong>Community Choice Act of 2007</strong> to provide equal access and resources to services for persons eligible for institutional services, but who choose to live in their communities</td>
<td>☹️</td>
<td>😊</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Act of 2007</strong> to create a national insurance program funded by voluntary payroll deductions to give cash benefits to adults with disabilities</td>
<td>No Position</td>
<td>😊</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td><strong>Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007</strong> to expand the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to increase access to healthcare for uninsured children living in homes earning up to 3 times the federal poverty level</td>
<td>☹️</td>
<td>😊</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ending the <strong>Medicare Waiting Period Act of 2007</strong> to remove the 2 year wait for Medicare Coverage for persons who become disabled and qualify for SSDI</td>
<td>No Position</td>
<td>😊</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Fully fund the <strong>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act</strong> to provide 40% federal support for free and appropriate education</td>
<td>😊</td>
<td>😊</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Higher Education Act</strong> to expand post secondary and higher education opportunities and assistance</td>
<td>No Vote</td>
<td>😊</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rights</td>
<td><strong>Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008</strong> to revise ADA’s definition of disability to extend protections beyond limitations required in recent Supreme Court rulings, especially for people whose conditions are fully or partially managed by medications or assistive devices</td>
<td>😊</td>
<td>😊</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fully fund the <strong>Help America Vote Act of 2002</strong> to ensure that the voting process and polling places are accessible and that election officials and poll workers are trained in promoting access and participation of persons with disabilities</td>
<td>😊</td>
<td>😊</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities</strong> to include the US in an international treaty recognizing human rights for persons with disabilities</td>
<td>No Position</td>
<td>😊</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Score on Disability Issues**

|                | 3 out of 9 | 9 out of 9 |
Once upon a time there was a...

**TROPIC BLUNDER**

1. There was a dude from Hollywood who made a movie in the jungle with his pals.

   - I can't believe people think the "R" word is hurtful!
   - It doesn't hurt my feelings...
   - Dude, those self-advocates are gonna hurt us!

2. The losers messed up by using the "R" word and making fun of self-advocates. It ticked off a lot of people.

   - We didn't mean to hurt anyone <sob, sniff, sniff>.
   - It's a hate word, man. But maybe we're too dense to get it.

3. Self-advocates got mad and then got even!! Did the Hollywood dude and his pals learn their lesson?

   - These guys don't get out much do they?

Contact us! Call 503-924-3783 x 10, or visit us on the web at www.theriotrocks.org
People with Intellectual Disabilities Vote for the First Time in Kosovo

The following article was written by Mental Disability Rights International in Washington, DC, on February 6, 2008.

In an effort to build upon the self-advocacy movement of persons with disabilities in Kosovo, Kosovo Mental Disability Rights Initiative (K-MDRI) recently assisted "Ne Per Ne" peer support group members in fully understanding and participating in Kosovo's historic winter elections to choose national and municipal assembly members and mayors. "Ne Per Ne," which means "We for Ourselves," is Eastern Europe's largest peer support group for persons with intellectual disabilities, started by MDRI.

In preparation for Kosovo's November elections, the peer support groups invited and welcomed representatives of the major political parties to discuss the importance of the elections, the work of the parties, and the issues that would affect them. Participants were able to ask questions of the candidates such as "what are you going to do regarding jobs for people with disabilities?"

"My vote made a difference. I thought it wouldn't count, but it obviously counted; I'm very happy MDRI helped me realize that." - Avni (Kacaniku Peer Support Group)

"I thought I couldn't vote because I don't know how to read; I didn't know I could bring people with me who could help me." - Laura (Peja Peer Support Group)

"I would get so upset at my peers during the peer support group meetings when they would say that they don't know how to go to the voting place; it's very easy, think ahead and plan transportation before hand. I asked my father to take me and he was happy to do that. They could ask someone too. 'I don't know how' is not a valid excuse." - Gazi (Kamenica Peer Support Group)

Kosovo Mental Disability Rights Initiative (K-MDRI) is an initiative of Mental Disability Rights International as a result of our 2002 report, "Not on the Agenda: Human Rights of People with Mental Disabilities in Kosovo."

MDRI is an international human rights and advocacy organization dedicated to the full participation in society of people with mental disabilities worldwide.

For the first time in their lives, approximately 90% of the peer support group members voted in Kosovo's elections.

Did you know?

In Pristina, Kosovo, youth ages 10-15 participated in a photo contest to help raise awareness of environmental issues. The best photo reflected the environment around them. This photo reflects trash and glass being burned in an open field. Children talked about how they could help the environment around them.

Kosovo children perform Albanian traditional dance during a show to mark International Children’s Day in Kosovo.

Flija, is a specialty of Kosovo that is made with layers of pastry that is brushed with cream, fat and oil. It is served with Kaymak (creamy dairy product), cheese, or honey.

Contact us! Call 503-924-3783 x 10, or visit us on the web at www.theriotrocks.org
Horoscopes
By Self-Advocates: Katie, Doille, Tim and Tina in St. Paul, MN

A horoscope predicts the future based on the position of the planets and your birthday. Find the sign that fits with your birthday. Then read what’s in store for you!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Let no one put you down. You’re worth a lot more than you know!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make room for fun and let no one tell you any differently. You deserve it this month!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Listen and learn from someone today. It will be a good thing.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Good things come to people who wait. Be patient and your turn will come soon.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Today is your day to have fun. Go with the flow of life and don’t leave the hard times get you down.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Look and you’ll find joy in your life where you least expect it. Do something nice for someone and you’ll feel great.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Happiness comes and goes where ever you are. Keep your chin up, learn from your mistakes and move on!

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Be yourself and don’t let anyone tell you to change. People like you for who you really are.


Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Go to a costume party and have fun! October is your month to shine!

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let the good times roll! Whether you’re around friends or family, you’re the life of the party.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make something worthwhile happen in your life today. You won’t regret it!

Need Romance Advice?...Ask Jack & Jill

Dear Jack and Jill,
I live in a group home and I want to go on a date but the staff wants to come along. How do I get rid of the chaperone?

Dear Reader,
Transportation is a problem for people with disabilities all over the world. Getting to and from dates is no exception. Talk to the staff in a nice way and tell them you only need their assistance getting to and from your date. Remind them that you are both over 21 and should be treated as adults.

Make sure you know how much it will cost so you don’t have to rely on them to bail you out which could mess up the date.

Other than that be careful, safe and have fun.

Jack

Dear Reader,
This is a tricky one. Your staff may not understand that you don't need a chaperone. Explain why you appreciate their concern but that you are capable of making this decision for yourself and that this is private.

In case of emergency, let your staff know where you will be. Make sure you have your home telephone number and address on you, in case you need to explain to someone how to get to your house.

These things will show the staff that you are responsible and can handle going out on a date on your own. Most importantly, once you do go out on that un-chaperoned date, HAVE FUN!

Jill

Email your romance questions to Jack & Jill at: theriotrocks@hsri.org
Elections Are Fun Too!!

A convention is a big meeting that is held every four years. People decide who will be their Presidential candidates at this meeting. It is a fun event where people meet to celebrate their choice of a candidate.

Barrack Obama was chosen as the Democratic candidate with Joe Biden as his running mate. Republicans chose John McCain and Sarah Palin as their Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates.

The Riot! asked self-advocates who support Obama and Biden about their experiences at the convention. Ben Borrel, a Colorado Democrat said, “I have never seen so much excitement from the Democratic party as I saw there.” He said the experience was awesome!

Rebecca Cokley, from Washington, D.C. said, “To be with thousands of people who share your energy and excitement was amazing. I think one of the coolest parts of the experience was going to the stadium and seeing the crowd that was there. Old and young people. People from every background imaginable.”

The Riot! also spoke to supporters of McCain and Palin. Eric Treat, an Arkansas Republican, said he thought McCain had a great chance to unite the country and thinks he will be a good President.

Kenny Stallings, a North Carolina Republican, feels McCain has answered every question put to him about disabilities. He believes McCain will bring change for the better.

Conventions are important and fun to attend. But speaking with your vote is even more fun. So don’t forget to vote! November 4th is right round the corner.

Results from Online Riot Poll

The Riot had an online poll recently that asked: On a first date, who should pay? The guy, the gal or should they split the cost? Here’s what YOU said. Break out those wallets!

The Gal - 6%                             The Guy—49%                                Split the cost—45%

Log onto www.theriotrocks.org for our next question.

Who do you want to be our next President? Barack Obama, John McCain or someone else?

Voting Power Word Find Puzzle

Each of these words are hidden in this puzzle. Can you find them? We did one for you so you can get the idea. Look up, down and side to side to find the words. See if you can find them all.

Independent  Vote  Republican
Democrat      Hillary    McCain
Election      Accessible  Rally
Poll          Support     Power
Survival      Win         Lose
Primary       Rights      Ballot
Register      Official

Contact us! Call 503-924-3783 x 10, or visit us on the web at www.theriotrocks.org
Welcome to The Riot Fun Page!

Voting is power so use your POWER and vote!

DO ZOMBIES EAT POPCORN WITH THEIR FINGERS?
NO! THEY EAT THE FINGERS SEPARATELY!

Self-Advocacy Man Says...

Squiggly by Jeff Ladd

How can you drink with that mask on?

Happy Halloween!
Everywhere I go people are talking about this election. Who to vote for? Obama or McCain? Democrat or Republican? Green? Libertarian? I don’t vote. Why don’t I vote? Why should I?

I don’t like making decisions, because, well when you make decisions, you’re responsible for whatever you decide. Responsibility is a curse word to me.

I don’t like being responsible for doing things. I don’t want to work. I don’t want to go to school. I don’t want to go out and meet people (I don’t really like people anyways), so why should I vote? It’s not like anyone listens to me anyways, except for those of you who read this article. I just want to be me. Craig. Voting doesn’t help me be me, does it?

A buddy of mine came up to me at a barbecue last week and told me that he’s afraid he’s going to lose his house with all this mortgage mess. I actually like this guy. He owns a comfy couch and a big screen TV. I can’t imagine not being able to go hang out at his house anymore! It’s not fair! The politicians should be helping him but they don’t care. I want to do something to help him but I don’t know where to start. He suggested I call my congressman, but if I don’t vote what good will it do?

Maybe I should register to vote. If my friend is going to lose his house, how much longer will it be before someone tries to take my stuff away? I like my stuff. I like my (few) friends. I like living my life the way I want to, and I don’t want ANYONE messing with it.

As much as I complain about life, I guess it could be worse if I don’t use my vote to let politicians know how I feel. What if some genius in Washington created a couch tax that would tax me every hour I sit on my couch instead of working? That would be horrible!!! Maybe I should VOTE.
**Speak Up With Your Vote!**

Self-advocates have the right to vote whether they are their own guardians or not. But, we are often told we cannot vote because we have a disability. This is simply not true! I would say that many of us are well informed.

No one can tell you how to vote. Voting is about your opinions and decisions. This is why it is important to know the issues and candidates. When I was old enough to vote, I voted the same way my family did because I didn’t understand the issues. When I learned about the issues and that I could make my own decisions, I changed parties.

How can you do this? You’ve got to ask for help. Staff and family can help us without influencing our decision. We can help each other too.

How can you help other self-advocates in your group to vote? Here are three things you can do.

- Talk about the issues that are important to you in your meetings. This will help you decide who to vote for.
- Learn about the voting process such as completing a ballot so you know what to do on November 4th.
- Try to find ways to get to the voting booths. You may take the bus together or one of you may drive a car and take others with you.

Self-advocates who understand their right to vote treasure this responsibility. It is a privilege!

**Talk it up... Have yourselves a regular Riot!!!**

---

**From the Self-Advocate Leadership Network...**

**Donate to the Riot! with PayPal**

www.theriotrocks.org

Or mail checks payable to The Riot at:
The Riot! at HSRI
7420 SW Bridgeport Rd #210
Portland, OR 97224

---

**NEW and FREE!**

**Jabbers!**

**Gifts ‘n Giving**

It’s a FREE game for self-advocates! Go to the Riot Gear page at: www.theriotrocks.org

Get your copy today!

Get these great Toolkits from the Self Advocate Leadership Network! Each toolkit has information that you need to help self-advocates lead their own lives and help shape the service system.

Prices vary from $15 to $30. A Bargain! Come and check it out!

Go To: www.theriotrocks.org

---

*Self-Determination and YOU w/CD!*

*Participant-Driven Supports: A Toolkit on Planning and Giving a Presentation*

*How Your Organization Can Sponsor Self-Advocates as AmeriCorps*VISTA Members*

*Using Medicaid to Fund Trainings for Self-Advocates*

*This is really Cool Stuff! Look for yourself!*

---

Contact us! Call 503-924-3783 x 10, or visit us on the web at www.theriotrocks.org