LENDING Our Voice for Voter Advocacy

Laura Silverman, PhD
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
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Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental & related Disabilities (LEND) Program

AUCD

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES

THE LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY & RESEARCH NETWORK

Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Research Center

A hub and infrastructure to promote research in the field of IDD and accelerating the translation of scientific discoveries into the next generation of therapies and interventions that improve the lives of people with IDD.

IDDRC

University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)

The Center strives to develop community partnerships, foster accessibility and inclusion, and translate research into best practice with and for people.

UCEDD

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND)

Collaborative interdisciplinary training focused on improving the health of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and special healthcare needs.

LEND

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LEND Disciplines

- Advocacy
- Audiology
- Dentistry
- Education
- Medicine (Developmental Pediatrics)
- Nursing

- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Psychology
- Public Health
- Social Work
- Speech and Language Pathology

National Network of LENDs
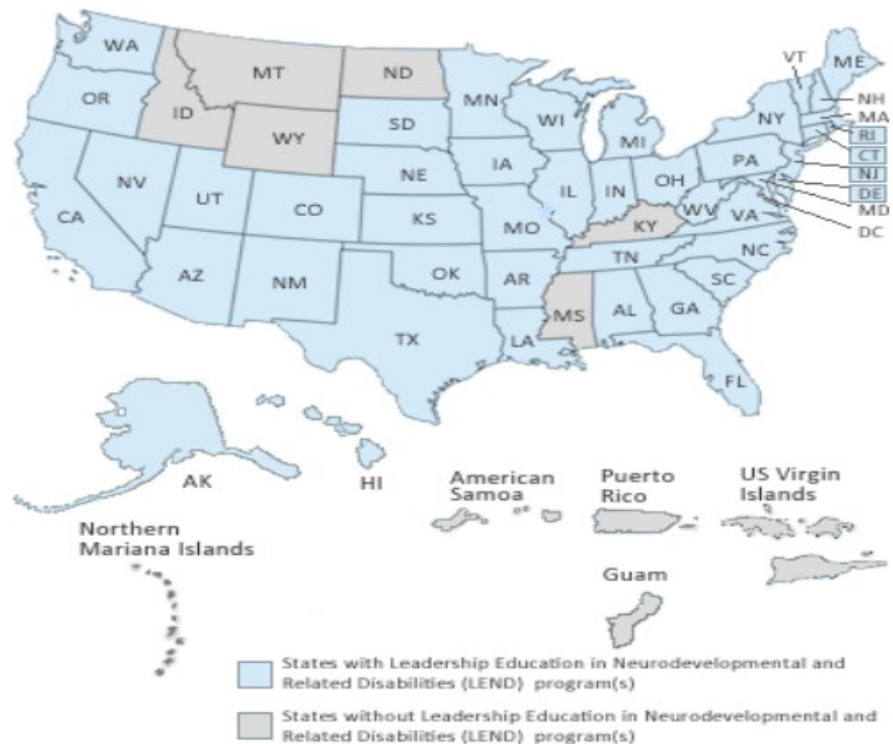
- 60 LEND Programs in 45* states
  - *KY was a new state in 2021!

- 5 in New York State
  - UR
  - Bronx
  - Brooklyn
  - Stony Brook
  - Westchester

- Neighbors:
  - PA (2)   VT
  - OH (2)   NH/ME
  - MA (2)   ME
  - NJ
  - **CT**

States with Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program(s)

States without Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program(s)

The Numbers

- There were 35 million eligible disabled voters in the US

- Estimated 3.85 million had trouble voting in 2020

- Studies show that people with disabilities:
  - Vote at lower levels than non-disabled peers
  - Register to vote at lower levels
  - Expect difficulties at the polls at higher levels than non-disabled voters

- Voter accessibility has been a significant barrier to participation

VOTE like your RIGHTS depend on it!

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Program for Disability Research
at Rutgers University &
US Election Assistance
Commission

Why this is Important

- Everyone's vote should count

- The disability community represents a large sector of the population, and improving participation of the the disabled community could swing elections and ensure that candidates who are elected address issues that are important for the disability community.

The Laws

There are laws governing voter accessibility:

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
    - Architectural access & same day modifications

- Help America Vote Act (HAVA)
    - Private & independent ballot, US Election Assistance Commission

- Voting Accessibility for the Elderly & Handicapped (VAEHA)
    - Polling sites must be accessible, right to move up in line

The Laws

There are laws governing voter accessibility:

- Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act
    - Assistance to voters who are blind, disabled or cannot read
    - Assistance can be given by a person of the voter's choice other than an employer or union representative

The Barriers - Language

Election information can be complex:

- Use plain language
- Include text-to-speech options
- Summarize key messages
- Simplify navigation & design
- Use multiple formats
- Provide a sample ballot

The Barriers – Physical Space

1. Parking
2. Sidewalks & walkways
3. Entrances
4. Hallways
5. Voting areas

Polling Place Accessibility Survey – **ADA.gov**

The Barriers – Using an Assistant

- Have a right to an assistant of your choice
  - Cannot be an employer
  - Cannot be a union representative

- Respect the privacy of the voter

- Follow the voter's lead and provide requested support

- Cannot offer voting suggestions or influence around choices

The Barriers – Casting Your Vote

Accessible electronic voting machine or ballot marking device.

Image Cast – 2 Voting Machine:

- Audio Tactile Controller
- Sip and Puff
- Paddle Buttons

Voter at BMD Screen

ATI (Controller)

SIP & PUFF

PADDLE BUTTONS

The Barriers – Poll Worker Knowledge

- Rights and identities of voters with disabilities
- Ensure access into polling place
- Knowledge accessible voting machines and ballot marking devices
- Respecting privacy
- Ensuring access to an assistant
- Treating respectfully

Make a Voting Plan

1. Check your registration and/or register to vote

2. Learn about early voting options

3. Explore day of voting options

4. Research candidates

5. Share your plans

   ▪ *https://www.vote411.org/first-time-voter-checklist*

Addressing Barriers

- Recruit and train self- and family advocates as poll workers

- Report accessibility issues at polling sites

- Arrange meetings with state and local officials, sharing stories

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Resources

Vote411 (League of Women Voters)

- Poll site information
- Registration information
- Early voting and absentee information
- Voter information
- The ballot

Vote411

Learn where candidates running for office in your community stand on the issues. You can print or email the information to use as a reference when you actually vote. We do not save your information, it will be lost when you leave this page. Only candidates that appear on your ballot will be listed. Additional information may be available for your area so be sure to scroll to the bottom of the page for other voters' guides.

Have all your candidates answered our questions? If not, see how you can help!

VOTE411 Voter Guide

↻ Change Address ☰

▲ View My Races

Progress: 4 of 10

‹ U.S. Senate

Next Race: New York State Attorney General ›

New York State Governor

| Kathy C. Hochul (Dem, WF) ☐ | Lee M. Zeldin (Rep, Cons) ☐ |

Biographical Information —

Website http://kathyhochul.com	**Website** http://zeldinfornewyork.com
Campaign Mailing Address PO Box 1463 New York, NY 10021	**Campaign Mailing Address** PO Box 692 Shirley, NY 11967
Campaign Twitter Handle @@KathyHochul	**Campaign Phone** 631-319-7981
Campaign Email info@Kathyhochul.com	**Campaign Twitter Handle** @@leezeldin
Campaign Website http://www.KathyHochul.com	**Campaign Email** email@zeldinfornewyork.com
Campaign Facebook http://www.facebook.com/kathyhochul	**Campaign Website** http://Zeldinfornewyork.com
Education B.A. from Syracuse University; J.D. from Catholic University	**Campaign Facebook** http://facebook.com/LeeMZeldin
	Campaign Twitter Handle @@LeeZeldin
	Education William Floyd High School, State University of New York at Albany (BA), Albany Law School (JD)

What will be your top three priorities if elected? —

| **Kathy C. Hochul:** With a full term, I will continue to focus on public safety, affordability, and building an economy that works for all New Yorkers. | **Lee M. Zeldin:** Public safety, cost of living, and education. Repealing cashless bail, firing DAs who don't enforce the law, cutting taxes across the board, creating good paying jobs, lifting the cap on charter schools, implementing school choice programs, and more. |

Resources

- Training videos to respond to possible problems at the polling place

- Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) Go VOTER Project

- Outline how voters can respond to barriers encountered at a polling place

https://www.sabeusa.org/govoter/voting-info/voting-stories-and-video/

Resources

Protection & Advocacy organization (P& A)

- Disability Rights New York

    (518) 432-7861

    (800) 993-8982

    intake@drny.org

New York State Board of Elections

    (518) 486-7858

    enforcement@elections.ny.gov

Resources – Non-English

Requesting Assistance on Election Day

- www.866ourvote.org
- 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683)

- 888-Ve-Y-Vota (888-839-8682) - English / Spanish

- 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683) English/ Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, or Tagalog

- #YallaVote (844-418-1682) for English/ Arabic

Resources

Plain Language Edition

Your Vote Counts:
A Self-Advocate's Guide to
Voting in the U.S.

REV UP!

- REV UP! Election Accessibility Toolkit; American Association of People with Disabilities (www/aapd.com/REVUP)

Thank You

Remember to Vote!
Your Vote Makes a Difference!