



**National Disability Rights Network
Public Comment Submission to the
Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity**

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) appreciates the opportunity to provide public comment to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity concerning voter confidence in our nation's electoral process. NDRN believes that action to protect the security and accuracy of our votes is necessary to ensure the health of our electoral system. However, the Commission must also recognize that voter confidence in the electoral process springs from meeting our legal and ethical obligation to protect access to the vote for **all** eligible Americans.

A commission of this kind could be a powerful tool for restoring voters' confidence in elections while promoting common-sense measures, like mandatory election audits, automatic voter registration to improve the accuracy of voter lists, and technology that makes voting accessible to all while preventing tampering. Yet, this Commission's partisan leadership, lack of transparency, and unwillingness to address election security from hacking threats can only damage voters' belief in the Commission to carry out its stated purpose. Further, voter confidence cannot be bolstered by the Commission's overriding focus on extracting protected voter data from the states and relying on problematic interstate crosscheck systems that will inevitably purge eligible voters from the rolls and make voting more complicated.

Americans understand that our election system needs to be updated, but we must also work to make sure that all eligible Americans can have their voices heard and their votes counted. To truly accomplish this goal, the Commission must work with election officials, voting technology experts, voting rights advocacy organizations, and the voters themselves to make voting more secure, less complicated, and fully accessible. In fact, a bipartisan Presidential Commission on Election Administration (PCEA) was established to achieve just this in 2013, and many elections administrators have already moved to implement the common-sense recommendations included in the PCEA's subsequent report. As a result, much has already been done across America to improve reliability and security of election systems, lower costs, and help ensure that all eligible citizens can cast their ballots and make their voices heard.

NDRN cautions that all changes to the administration of elections have the potential to impact access to the vote for people with disabilities. The balance between security measures for elections and accessibility measures for elections must remain central to our work. As the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity has no apparent representation from the disability community's leadership or anyone with expertise in this area, the Commission would do well to seek out this expertise. No matter what the Commission claims to be its mission or focus, voting accessibility is encoded in federal law. Any proposed actions by the Commission must meet and cannot interfere with federally ensured access to the vote for people with disabilities.