

# News Release

## CONTACT:

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### ATTENTION: Texas Voters with Disabilities

If you have questions  
about voting and/or  
disability-related  
problems at the polls-  
**WE WANT TO KNOW!**

Call Advocacy, Inc. toll-free:  
1-888-532-VOTE (V/TTY)  
(1-888-532-8683)  
E-mail: vote@advocacyinc.org

*Help protect the voting rights  
of people with disabilities!*

## **1-888-532-VOTE: Toll-free Hotline for Texas Voters with Disabilities**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE    AUSTIN, TX** -- Texans with disabilities who plan to vote in the upcoming elections have a new ally in assuring full and equal access to the voting process. With a grant from the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), Advocacy, Inc. is sponsoring a toll-free hotline for voters with disabilities who have difficulty accessing polling places or casting ballots. People with disabilities who have general questions about the voting process are also welcome to call the hotline. The hotline is equipped to receive voice and TTY calls. The toll-free number is 1-888-532-VOTE (1-888-532-8683).

Advocacy, Inc. is the federally funded and authorized Protection and Advocacy System (P&A) for people with disabilities in Texas. In addition to assisting voters in this election, hotline workers will use information collected from callers to document discrimination and access problems at polling places throughout Texas. "We expect the pattern of calls we get to point out areas of the state that need more assistance in making the entire polling system more accessible," says Laurie Vanhoose, HAVA Project Specialist. "We have known for years that people with disabilities frequently run into barriers trying to exercise their right to vote. But this is our first opportunity to collect information in a methodical way."

After passage of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, Congress allocated sufficient funds for the P&A in each state and U.S. Territory to receive a four-year grant. The funds are administered by the federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD).