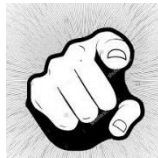


# INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS



Residents' Rights Month is an annual event designated by the National Consumer Voice and is celebrated in October to honor residents living in all long-term care facilities, including nursing homes and assisted living facilities. It is a time for celebration and recognition offering an opportunity for every facility to focus on and celebrate awareness of dignity, respect and the value of each individual resident. The theme for Residents' Rights Month 2016 is, "My Vote Matters" with the goal of highlighting residents' right to vote and participate in the political process.

**Statewide Primary Election: September 13, 2016 ~ Register by August 14, 2016**

**Statewide General Election: November 8, 2016 ~ Register by October 9, 2016**

If you would like to vote by mail, contact your local Board of Canvassers to ask about deadlines you must meet when applying for a mail ballot. You can get this information by calling the Secretary of State's Office (401) 222-2340 or on their website at

<http://sos.ri.gov/divisions/elections/Voters/vote-by-mail>

**\*\* YOU CAN ALSO ASK YOUR FACILITY SOCIAL WORKER, ADMINISTRATOR OR A FAMILY MEMBER FOR ASSISTANCE \*\***

# INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

## Voting in LTC Facilities

### **A facility can**

- ✓ Help you to make sure your voter registration is up-to-date
- ✓ Provide information on upcoming elections and post voting rights and information in prominent locations throughout the facility
- ✓ Encourage you to become educated about candidates and issues by hosting activities associated with the election such as hosting debate-watching events
- ✓ Provide scheduled transportation to and from polling sites on Election Day
- ✓ Help voters assess whether and how they need help to prepare and participate in the voting process
- ✓ Help voters obtain a sample ballot
- ✓ Help voters decide whether they will vote with an assistant, by mail or with the AutoMark
- ✓ Help voters practice the act of voting by reviewing how to check in at the polls or mark a ballot
- ✓ Assist you in registering to vote
- ✓ Assist you to apply to vote by mail. Your signature will be required
- ✓ Assist you to mark a ballot to reflect your choices

### **A facility cannot**

- ✗ Apply for Mail-in ballot without your knowledge as your signature is required
- ✗ Influence your vote
- ✗ Mark a ballot in away other than instructed by you
- ✗ Tell anyone how you voted

### **Family can**

- ✓ Assist you in registering to vote
- ✓ Assist you to apply to vote by mail. Your signature will be required
- ✓ Take you to a polling location
- ✓ Inform facility that family will assist you with the voting process
- ✓ Assist you to mark a ballot to reflect your choices

### **Family cannot**

- ✗ Request a ballot without your knowledge as your signature is required
- ✗ Influence your vote
- ✗ Mark a ballot in a way other than instructed by you
- ✗ Tell anyone how you voted
- ✗ Vote on your behalf without your knowledge

# INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

**This information is being provided as a joint effort by:**



## **Rhode Island Long Term Care Ombudsman Program**

The Rhode Island Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, housed within the Alliance for Better Long Term Care which is contracted by the Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs, works to protect, promote and advocate for the rights of residents living in long term care facilities and those who receive licensed health care or hospice services in the home. The program's services are provided at no cost. Certified Ombudsmen are trained to identify, investigate and resolve complaints made by, or on behalf of, long-term care facility residents. If you need help solving an issue, you may contact the Rhode Island Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. Kathleen Heren is the Rhode Island State Long Term Care Ombudsman, calls are confidential. Kathleen and her staff can be reached at (401) 785-3340, toll free: (888) 351-0808, fax: (401) 785-3391, web: [alliancebltc.org](http://alliancebltc.org), mail: 422 Post Road – Suite 204 Warwick, RI 02888.



## **Rhode Island Disability Law Center**

The Designated Protection and  
Advocacy System for Rhode Island

RIDLC is a federally funded, independent, nonprofit law office designated as the Protection and Advocacy System for Rhode Islanders with disabilities. Services provided include information, referral, advice and in select cases, legal representation. There is no fee for our service. Intake staff is available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 275 Westminster Street, Suite 401 Providence, RI 02903. Contact the Rhode Island Disability Law Center at (401) 831-3150/ 1 (800) 733-5332/ TTY (401) 831-5335 if you have questions about your voting rights, believe your voting rights have been violated, or want to request that we train your group about voting rights. We are available to take your calls during business hours, M-F from 9-5, and when the polls are open. Please call us immediately if you experience a disability-related barrier to accessing your polling place or casting a ballot and you wish to request our assistance.