New Horizons Un-Limited

Outlook



Summer 2022

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NHU Outlook Newsletter is published quarterly by New Horizons Un-Limited Inc. (NHU), a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit organization based in Milwaukee with a mission to make information and life experiences more accessible to **people with lifelong disabilities**, their families and caregivers. Our programs are made possible through the generous contributions of our community partners, member and donor families and many in-kind donors. To contribute to New Horizons Un-Limited, see page 4. To learn more about NHU, visit our website at new-horizons.org/progrm.html or send us an e-mail at horizons@new-horizons.org/progrm.html or send us an e-mail at horizons@new-horizons.org/progrm.html or send us an e-mail at horizons@new-horizons.org/progrm.html or send us an e-mail at horizons@new-horizons.org/progrm.html or send us an e-mail at horizons.org/progrm.html or send us an e-mail at <a

"Voter suppression is designed to demoralize the electorate – to make people believe that it doesn't matter, that the system is rigged, your vote doesn't count. That is a false narrative."
--Carol Anderson, New York Times bestselling book author

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- NHU Benefit Golf Outing! Wednesday, June 1st.
- Golfers Needed Bring A Friend, Neighbor or Spouse!
- Spring/Summer Flower Sale
- Simple Ways to Give!

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Are We Going Backwards?



The Brennan Center For Justice has a new article on pending and newly introduced voter suppression bills. At the beginning of the year, there were over 250 bills with restrictive voting provisions (in 27 states) that were introduced, prefiled or carried over from last year. Five Virginia bills were written to repeal state law that currently allows a person who requests assistance "by reason of a physical disability or an inability to read or write" to receive assistance with completing an inperson ballot or an in-person application to vote by mail. Washington had a proposed bill that would eliminate an existing state law requirement to provide access to individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

While no one wants illegitimate elections or to see election cheaters get away with fraud, is it really necessary to make voting so restrictive as to deny people with disabilities their long established right to vote?

Last year's presidential election was a celebration of democracy as well as the realization of a **DREAM TO MOBILIZE** American citizens with disabilities. Advocates for this cause have worked hard by providing accommodations, technology and logistics to ensure that citizens with disabilities can exercise their right to vote independently, privately and for any political candidate they support.

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More than 38 million citizens with disabilities are eligible to vote and a record number of them voted for **BOTH** parties in the 2020 presidential election. The record turnout of this demographic can now be seen as a powerful voting bloc – enough to have significant power and leverage to demand that politicians of both parties address their needs. It's unfortunate that the emergence of this "disability vote" is now seen as a threat to legislators across the country.

And, It's not just the introduction of voter suppression bills that legislators are using to disenfranchise voters, they are also refusing to redraw congressional maps that accurately reflect changing demographics. Every 10 years, as mandated by the US Constitution, congressional seats must be reapportioned and each state must redraw its congressional map.

Over the past decade, communities of color accounted for nearly all of the country's population growth. But in redrawing boundaries, legislators across the country have declined to create any new electoral opportunities for these fast-growing communities. **Wisconsin** is a prime example.

Why should we care about gerrymandering?

We should care because African Americans have the highest percentage of disabilities of any racial or ethnic group, making up 20 percent of the disabled population. The intersection of disability and voting rights has many profound aspects and disability rights, like voting rights, are civil rights.

What can YOU do?

If you don't agree with what is happening or why these legislators are introducing voter suppression laws, speak up. **CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVES or email, post and tag them online** about how some of these laws don't protect the electoral process but deny American citizens their right to vote. We can't count on a governor's veto (like Tony Evers of WI) to save these rights.

For more information, visit: https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voting-laws-roundup-february-2022

Do You Know Anyone Living Below The Poverty Line?

If you have a family member or a friend who is not doing well with the rate of inflation, we have a list of resources that may offer relief. You can find the list at www.new-horizons.org/guiinf.html - Included in the list is where to find rent and mortgage assistance as well as help with energy, food and medical copayments.

We also have a brochure. Feel free to call (414-299-0124) or email us (horizons@new-horions.org) if you would like us to mail you one.

Don't forget that keeping in touch is an important way to offer support to those who are struggling with rising costs. Those under the poverty line often don't have discretionary income for entertainment, a phone call or a zoom session can go a long way in letting your loved one know that they are not alone.

Feel Free To Invite A Friend, A Neighbor Or Your Spouse!

REGISTER NOW!

NEW HORIZONS UN-LIMITED BENEFIT GOLF OUTING

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Your gift will ensure that our community members with disabilities are given access to the opportunities that will improve their lives!

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