**National Federation of the Blind of Arizona**

**Ac**cessible Mail in and Absentee Voting with Electronic Returns, and the Ability to Cast a Secret Ballot

2024 NFBAZ Phoenix Legislative Seminar Fact Sheet

* Casting a secret ballot is a cornerstone of our democracy that enables Arizona citizens to vote their conscience without fear.
* Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that voters with disabilities be afforded an opportunity to exercise their right to vote equivalent to the opportunity afforded to voters without disabilities.
* Currently, blind, visually impaired, or print disabled voters in Arizona cannot fill in or the return the absentee/mail in ballot without having to get the assistance of a sighted person, thus, denying them the right to cast a private ballot.
* Arizona’s Uniformed and Overseas Citizens and Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) allows military and overseas Arizona voters to register and vote in local, state, and federal elections via a secure online web portal.
* Arizona may be in violation of Title II of the ADA when it does not provide voters with disabilities the same opportunity to cast a secret ballot that it provides voters without disabilities.
* The National Federation of the Blind of Arizona asks that the Arizona Legislature pass legislation that allows blind and print disabled voters to be able to vote by mail using an accessible ballot with electronic return of ballot. This may be accomplished by including blind, visually impaired, or print disabled voters in the use of the Arizona UOCAVA system that will ensure voters with disabilities have the same opportunity to cast a secret ballot as voters without disabilities.

Please contact our legislative director, Amy Porterfield, at520-396-8707, or by email at aporterfield@saavi.usshould you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Donald Porterfield, Esq.

President

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