

# NJCDD

NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities

# the Council

A publication of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities

## Inside this issue:

Voter Registration Form (English) . . . . .page 3  
 Voter Registration Form (En Español) . . .page 5  
 Higher Education: Act Opens Doors . . . . .page 7  
 Disability Employment Awareness . . . . .page 7  
 Community Calendar . . . . .page 8

## Public Advocate Urges Caution for People with Disabilities Seeking Economic Stimulus Checks

Some elderly people and people with disabilities who need help applying for their federal economic stimulus rebate may be over-charged by tax preparers and exploited by the care facilities in which they reside, according to New Jersey Public Advocate, Ronald Chen. He cautions those who apply for the rebate to be wary of tax preparers who charge high fees, and of nursing facilities that may try to take a portion of the funds to cover unpaid expenses.

In early September, the Department of the Public Advocate sent a letter to nursing facilities and assisted living and residential health care facilities offering guidance

*continues on page 2*



## Congress Passes ADA Amendments Bill on Track for President's Signature

A bill to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is now on the President's desk, awaiting his signature.

In recent years, the ADA has been narrowed in the courts, leaving citizens with epilepsy, diabetes, mental illness, HIV-AIDS, and other disabilities vulnerable to discrimination.

The ADA Amendments Act clarifies the intent of Congress, and reverses a trend that has resulted in more than 90% of employment-related ADA court cases being dismissed.

In June, the US House of Representatives approved the bill by a 402:17 vote. In early September the Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent. The bill then went back to the House to approve the Senate's changes. Upon its passing in the House the following week, Speaker Nancy Pelosi commended the chief sponsor of the bill, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, who has championed the ADA since its inception, and added, "Today, our nation reaffirmed its commitment to eliminate discrimination against individuals with disabilities."

Bipartisan negotiations last summer resulted in important compromises between employer groups and organizations

*"The passage of the ADA Amendments Act is the most significant civil rights accomplishment of the 110th Congress."*

*- Wade Henderson,  
 President and CEO,  
 Leadership Conference  
 on Civil Rights.*

*continues on page 2*



**Reminder! October 14 is the Last Day to Register to Vote. Election Day is November 4. Registration Forms Inside in English and Spanish!**

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## Congress Passes ADA Amendments Bill on Track for President's Signature

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representing people with disabilities – compromises that both sides felt would help move the bill, and help restore Congress' original intentions for the law.

“When employer and civil rights advocates collaborate to pass legislation in this era of partisan wrangling, that is something to celebrate,” said John Engler, President and CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM). “This is a practical issue for employers who urgently need qualified workers to fill vacancies – and it’s also the right thing to do. No one intended for this law to exclude qualified individuals who want to work from receiving appropriate protections.”

*“This is a practical issue for employers who urgently need qualified workers to fill vacancies – and it’s also the right thing to do.”*

*- John Engler,  
President and CEO,  
National Association of  
Manufacturers (NAM)*

“The passage of the ADA Amendments Act is the most significant civil rights accomplishment of the 110th Congress,” said Wade Henderson, President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. “The fact that the business community, disability community and broader civil rights community have come together to work with members from both sides of the aisle is a testament to the power of coalition politics.”

As law, the Act will shift the focus of legal disputes and their resolutions from whether certain conditions qualify as a disability, to whether an employee has been discriminated against because of physical or cognitive limitations.

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## Public Advocate Urges Caution on Economic Stimulus Checks

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on how to assist elderly and disabled residents with tax preparation.

The Department estimates that approximately 156,000 residents - many of whom are seniors and people with disabilities - have not yet applied for their \$300 to \$600 federal economic stimulus check. The deadline is October 15.

The rebate funds do not affect eligibility for Medicaid assistance, which covers the cost of nursing facility care for thousands of New Jerseyans, so long as they spend the funds within 60 days of receipt of the check.

Those on fixed incomes such as Social Security Retirement, Social Security Disability, or Veteran Affairs benefits, as well as taxpayers who do not normally make enough to file a 2007 tax return, can apply for the rebate under the federal Economic Stimulus Program. If an individual receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in addition to Social Security Disability (SSD), then he or she may also be eligible. However, those who receive only SSI do not qualify.

The Internal Revenue Service has reported that there are 503,810 New Jersey residents receiving federal benefits who are eligible to file for the Economic Stimulus Program. As of June, however, about 31 percent still had not filed.

To learn more, contact the Department of the Public Advocate, (609) 826-5090, or visit the website at <http://www.state.nj.us/publicadvocate>.

**Correction:** In the September issue of The Council Newsletter, we reported that both Senate seats in New Jersey were up for reelection. Only one Senate seat, that now held by Senator Frank Lautenberg, will be decided in November.



# New Jersey Voter Registration Application

Please print clearly in ink. All information is required unless marked optional.

<b>1</b> Check boxes that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> New Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change <input type="checkbox"/> Political Party Affiliation or Non-affiliation Change <input type="checkbox"/> Name Change <input type="checkbox"/> Signature Update						<b>FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY</b>	
<b>2</b> Are you a U.S. Citizen? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If No, DO NOT complete this form)		Will you be 18 years of age by the next election? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If No, DO NOT complete this form)					Clerk
<b>3</b> Last Name		First Name	Middle Name or Initial	Suffix (ex. Jr., Sr., III)			Registration #
<b>4</b> Date of Birth      Month <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Day <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Year <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>							Office Time Stamp
<b>5</b> NJ Driver's License Number or MVC Non-driver ID Number <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>							
If you DO NOT have a NJ Driver's License or MVC Non-Driver ID, provide the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number. <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> "I swear or affirm that I DO NOT have a NJ Driver's License, MVC Non-driver ID or a Social Security Number."							
<b>6</b> Home Address (DO NOT use PO Box)		Apt.	Municipality	County	State		Zip Code
<b>7</b> Mailing Address if different from above		Apt.	Municipality	County	State		Zip Code
<b>8</b> Last Address Registered to Vote (DO NOT use PO Box)		Apt.	Municipality	County	State		Zip Code
							<input type="checkbox"/> by mail <input type="checkbox"/> in person
<b>9</b> Former Name if Making Name Change				Day Phone Number (Optional)			
<b>10</b> Do you wish to declare a political party affiliation? (Optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the party name is _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No, I do not wish to be affiliated with any political party.							
<b>11</b> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male		<b>Declaration</b> - I swear or affirm that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. Citizen</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I live at the above address</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I will be at least 18 years old on or before the next election</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I will have resided in the State and county at least 30 days before the next election</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am not on parole, probation or serving a sentence due to a conviction for an indictable offense under any federal or state laws</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I understand that any false or fraudulent registration may subject me to a fine of up to \$15,000, imprisonment up to 5 years, or both pursuant to R.S. 19:34-1</li> </ul>
Signature: Sign or mark and date on lines below				If applicant is unable to complete this form, print the name and address of individual who completed this form.			
<b>X</b> _____ Date _____				Name _____ Date _____			
				Address _____			

## Important Instructions for sections 5, 6 and 10

- 5) Registrants who are submitting this form by mail and are registering to vote for the first time: If you do not have any of the information required by section 5, or the information you provide cannot be verified, you will be asked to provide a COPY of a current and valid photo id, or a document with your name and current address on it to avoid having to provide identification at the polling place.
- Note:** ID Numbers are Confidential and will not be released by any governmental agency. Any person who uses such numbers illegally shall be subject to criminal penalties.
- 6) If you are homeless, you may complete section 6 by providing a contact point or the location where you spend most of your time.
- 10) You may declare a political affiliation or you may declare to be unaffiliated, regardless of any prior party affiliation. Completing section 10 is OPTIONAL and will not affect the acceptance of your voter registration application.

### Need More Information? Check boxes below if you would like to receive more information about:

- absentee voting     
  polling place accessibility     
  available election materials in this alternative language: \_\_\_\_\_  
 becoming a poll worker     
  voting if you have a disability, including visual impairment

For further information visit [www.NJElections.org](http://www.NJElections.org) or call toll-free 1-877-NJVOTER (1-877-658-6837)



# New Jersey Voter Registration Information

## You can register to vote if:

- You are a United States citizen
- You will be 18 years of age by the next election
- You will be a resident of the State and county 30 days before the election
- You are NOT currently serving a sentence, probation or parole because of a felony conviction

## Registration Deadline: 21 days before an election

Your County Commissioner of Registration will notify you if your application is accepted. If it is not accepted, you will be notified on how to complete and/or correct the application.

**Questions?** visit [www.NJElections.org](http://www.NJElections.org) or call toll-free **1-877-NJVOTER (1-877-658-6837)**

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TRENTON NJ 08625-9983



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Put both pages  
together as shown



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TAPE HERE **3**



Nueva Jersey

En Español, por favor

76

# Solicitud de Inscripción de Votantes

Escriba claramente con tinta. Se requiere toda la información a menos que esté marcada como opcional.

1 Marque las casillas que correspondan: <input type="checkbox"/> Nueva inscripción <input type="checkbox"/> Cambio de dirección <input type="checkbox"/> Afiliación a partido político o Cambio de sin afiliación <input type="checkbox"/> Cambio de nombre <input type="checkbox"/> Actualización de la firma						<b>Sólo para uso oficial</b>	
2 ¿Es ciudadano estadounidense? <input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No (Si no lo es, NO complete este formulario)			¿Tendrá 18 años de edad para la próxima elección? <input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No (Si no es así, NO complete este formulario)				Secretario
3 Apellido		Primer Nombre		Segundo nombre o Inicial			Núm. de inscripción
4 Fecha de nacimiento Mes <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Día <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Año <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>							Timbre de hora de la oficina
5 Número de licencia de conducir de NJ o Número de identificación de MVC de no conductor <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>				Si NO tiene una Licencia de conducir de NJ o Identificación de MVC de no conductor, indique los últimos 4 dígitos de su Número de Seguro Social. <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>			
6 Dirección del domicilio (NO use apartados postales) Apt. <input type="text"/> Municipalidad <input type="text"/> Condado <input type="text"/> Estado <input type="text"/> Código postal <input type="text"/>							
7 Dirección postal si es diferente de la anterior Apt. <input type="text"/> Municipalidad <input type="text"/> Condado <input type="text"/> Estado <input type="text"/> Código postal <input type="text"/>							
8 Última dirección registrada para votar (NO use apartados postales) Apt. <input type="text"/> Municipalidad <input type="text"/> Condado <input type="text"/> Estado <input type="text"/> Código postal <input type="text"/>						<input type="checkbox"/> por correo <input type="checkbox"/> en persona	
9 Nombre anterior si hace un cambio de nombre				Número de teléfono durante el día (Opcional)			
10 ¿Desea declarar una afiliación a un partido político? <input type="checkbox"/> Sí, el nombre del partido es _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No, no deseo afiliarme a ningún partido político.							
11 Sexo <input type="checkbox"/> Femenino <input type="checkbox"/> Masculino		Declaración - Juro y afirmo que: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soy ciudadano de los Estados Unidos <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vivo en la dirección indicada <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tendré por lo menos 18 años de edad para la próxima elección o antes <input type="checkbox"/> Habré residido en el Estado y condado al menos 30 días antes de la próxima elección <input type="checkbox"/> No estoy en libertad bajo palabra, libertad condicional ni cumpliendo una sentencia por haber sido condenado por un acto ilícito bajo las leyes federales o estatales <input type="checkbox"/> Entiendo que cualquier inscripción falsa o fraudulenta puede someterme a una multa de hasta \$15,000, pena de cárcel hasta 5 años o las dos cosas, conforme a R.S. 19:34-1					
Firma: Firme o marque y fecha en la líneas a continuación  <b>X</b> _____  Fecha _____				Si el solicitante no puede completar este formulario, escriba el nombre y la dirección de la persona que completó este formulario.  Nombre _____ Fecha _____ Dirección _____			

## Instrucciones importantes para las secciones 5, 6 y 10

- 5) A los votantes que presenten este formulario por correo y se inscriban para votar por primera vez: Si no tiene ninguna de la información requerida en la sección 5, o si no puede verificarse la información que indique, se le pedirá presentar una COPIA de una identificación actual con fotografía o un documento con su nombre y dirección actual incluida, para evitar tener que presentar identificación en la sede de votación.   
Nota: Los Números de identificación son confidenciales y no los comunicará ninguna entidad gubernamental. Cualquier persona que use dichos números ilegalmente quedará sujeta a sanciones penales.
- 6) Si usted no tiene domicilio fijo, puede completar la sección 6 dando un punto de contacto o la ubicación donde pasa la mayor parte del tiempo.
- 10) Puede declarar una afiliación política o puede declarar no estar afiliado, sin importar ninguna afiliación anterior a un partido. Es OPCIONAL completar la sección 10 y no afectará la aceptación de su solicitud de inscripción de votante.

**¿Necesita más información? Marque las casillas a continuación si desea recibir más información acerca de:**

votante ausente  accesibilidad del lugar de votación  materiales electorales disponibles en este otro idioma:

trabajar en los lugares de votación  votar si tiene alguna discapacidad, incluyendo problemas de visión \_\_\_\_\_

Para obtener más información visite [www.NJElections.org](http://www.NJElections.org) o llame a la línea gratis 1-877-NJVOTER (1-877-658-6837)



# Nueva Jersey Información de Inscripción de Votantes

## Usted puede inscribirse para votar si:

- Es ciudadano de los Estados Unidos.
- Va a tener 18 años de edad para la próxima elección.
- Va a ser residente del Estado y del condado 30 días antes de la elección.
- NO está actualmente cumpliendo una condena, bajo fianza ni ha sido condenado por un delito mayor.

## Plazo de inscripción: 21 días antes de una elección

El Comisionado del Condado de Inscripción le notificará si se acepta su solicitud. Si no se acepta, se le notificará cómo completarla y/o corregirla.

¿Tiene alguna pregunta? Visite [www.NJElections.org](http://www.NJElections.org) o llame a la línea gratis **1-877-NJVOTER** (1-877-658-6837)

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Poner ambas páginas  
junto como se muestra



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## October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The US Congress has designated October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The month-long campaign features activities and materials designed to increase the public's awareness of the abilities, contributions, and skills of American workers with disabilities. Programs will also highlight employment barriers that still need to be addressed and removed.

The Department of Labor's theme – *'America's People, America's Talent, American's Strength!'* - calls attention to the importance of persons with disabilities in the workforce and focuses on the achievements emphasized by the 2007 progress report on President Bush's New Freedom Initiative for persons with disabilities.

"It is our responsibility to ensure that the founding father's intent of equality resonates across America for



people with disabilities, and that obstacles preventing them from achieving their human potential be removed," said Neil Romano, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Disability Employment Policy. "Making good on this fundamental obligation is our duty as a nation—a human capital investment in America's future in honor of our forefathers."

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## The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 Opens Doors for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

President Bush has signed a new law, The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, that will expand post-secondary education opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities, and promote the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Following years of effort, and months of intense negotiations, Congress approved the Act, which sets federal higher education policy for at least the next five years.

"With the passage of the Higher Education Act we have unbolted a door to education and brighter futures for students with intellectual disabilities in this century," said Steve Riggio, board member of the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS). The Riggio family donated funds to create the NDSS Transition and Post-secondary Education Model Program in New Jersey.

The bill allows students with intellectual disabilities to be eligible, for the first time, for Federal student

*"We have unbolted a door to education and brighter futures for students with intellectual disabilities in this century"*

*-Steve Riggio,  
National Down Syndrome Society*

loans, including Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and the Federal Work-Study Program. The bill also provides competitive grants to colleges and universities to help them create or expand inclusive transition programs, and model post-secondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities.

The bill also calls for the establishment of a national coordinating center for new model programs. The Center will provide technical assistance and information on best and promising practices to improve the recruitment, transition, retention and program completion rates of students with disabilities in higher education.



# Community Calendar

## \* October 14 Last day to register to vote

- October 23 Ann Klein Advocate Awards Dinner; West Orange, NJ. Sponsored by Community Health Law Project. Call 973-275-1175.
- October 29th National Caregivers Conference: Changing the Face of Caregiving, Iselin, NJ. Sponsored by the Family Support Center of New Jersey. Call 732-528-8080, or visit [www.fscnj.org](http://www.fscnj.org).
- October 30 Trinitas Hospital's Statewide Clinical Consultation & Training, 9th Annual Conference: Clinical Services for Adults with MI/DD: Core Values, Core Competencies; Edison, NJ. email [fbangura@trinitas.org](mailto:fbangura@trinitas.org), or visit [www.sccatnj.org](http://www.sccatnj.org).
- October 30 Moving Toward Accessibility: Acknowledging the Needs of People with Disabilities in Addiction Treatment and Prevention Services, Princeton, NJ. Sponsored by Cerebral Palsy of NJ. Call 888-322-1918, or visit [www.cpopnj.org](http://www.cpopnj.org).
- November 1 Annual Providers' Fair, sponsored by the the Regional Family Support Planning Council #7, and Bancroft School. 9 a.m. - 12 noon, Haddonfield, NJ. Call 856-429-0010 or visit [www.bancroftneurohealth.org](http://www.bancroftneurohealth.org)

## \* November 4 Election Day

- November 21 State Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting, 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Medical Society of New Jersey, 2 Princess Road, Lawrenceville, NJ. Contact Terrie Goeke, 609-730-1522, or email [terrie@comcast.net](mailto:terrie@comcast.net).

The Council is a publication of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities.

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The Council is a compilation of news from various sources, organized to inform people with disabilities about policies, programs, laws, trainings and events. This publication and others published by NJCDD are available in alternate accessible formats. Please call the Council for more information.

The Council: NJCDD's Newsletter  
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