



Press Release
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Historic Voter Turnout Gives Hope to the Disability Community

Sacramento, CA — While Americans anxiously await for every vote to be counted, and every voice be heard before determining the outcome of the 2020 presidential race, The Arc of California (The Arc) and the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) collaborative is committed to working with the new Administration and newly elected members of the Congress and the California Legislature regardless of who the voters elect.

“Even though it’s a very close race to the White House, we are encouraged by the historic voter turnout,” said Jordan Lindsey, Executive Director, The Arc of California. “When a record number of people get involved in our democracy, it can be a better reflection of the diversity of our citizens and ultimately shows us that people are willing to engage in advocacy to help influence the positive change they want to see in their communities. And while we don’t have the data in yet, we have reason to believe that this year more people with disabilities than ever before exercised their civil right to vote.”

According to a PEW study, when all ballots are counted, the 2020 election is on track for having the highest voter turnout since the early 1900s with nearly 160 million people submitting a ballot, up from around 138 million in the 2016 election

Regardless of who is elected as President, the two nonprofits who advocate for more than 500,000 Californians with developmental disabilities and their families statewide say that it’s time we come together to tackle the very real issues facing the disability community, especially during the current Coronavirus pandemic.

The 2020 year has tested the disability community like none other. The individuals and families who received disability services are at higher risk for medical complications due to COVID-19, and experience deeper impacts emotionally and mentally by being isolated from their support teams and community. Their required needs for day-to-day support do not change or go away because of a public health crisis – they change and may even increase.

The pandemic has resulted in the loss of more than 200,000 lives, thousands more fighting for their lives, and created the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression. But the needs of our community, including jobs, PPE, adequate pay for support staff, caregiver benefits, affordable housing, and access to support services will not go away as this community needing services continues to grow.

“To address the challenges brought on by the pandemic, policy makers must work together to protect the rights and health of Californians with disabilities,” Lindsey said. “We will hold our new government accountable for making our communities more inclusive, supported and a place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.”

To get involved and advocate on behalf of an individual with a developmental disability in California, please visit TheArcCa.org

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