**Individuals with developmental disabilities and those living in long-term care communities have the right to vote, just like any other citizen.** This right is protected under various laws and regulations such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Voting Rights Act which ensure that people with disabilities, including developmental disabilities, are not discriminated against in the voting process.

Here are some key points regarding the right to vote for individuals with developmental disabilities:

1. **Legal Protections:** The ADA prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including voting. This means that people with developmental disabilities have the right to access polling places, voting equipment, and other voting-related services.
2. **Voting Assistance:** Individuals with developmental disabilities are entitled to receive assistance when voting. This can include help from a person of their choosing, such as a family member, friend, or caregiver. Election officials must also provide accessible voting materials and assistance as needed.
3. **Guardianship and Voting Rights: I**n some cases, individuals with developmental disabilities may have a legal guardian. However, having a guardian does not automatically disqualify a person from voting. Voting rights can only be restricted if a court specifically rules that the individual is incapable of understanding the voting process.
4. **Education and Awareness:** Voters with developmental disabilities may benefit from education about the voting process, which can be provided by community organizations, advocacy groups, or election officials. This ensures that they understand their rights and are prepared to participate in elections.
5. **Challenges and Barriers:** Despite legal protections, individuals with developmental disabilities may still face barriers to voting, such as inaccessible polling places, lack of transportation, or misunderstandings about their rights. Advocacy and continued efforts to improve accessibility are essential.

In summary, individuals with developmental disabilities have the right to vote and should be provided with the necessary support and accommodations to exercise this right fully.

[vote.gov](http://vote.gov) provides complete state-by-state information

[USA.GOV](http://usa.gov) General Information about voting

[US Elections Assistance Committee Provides](https://www.eac.gov/) resources/support to make the voting process accessible

[National Consumer Voice](https://theconsumervoice.org/issues/other-issues-and-resources/voting-rights) Provides general information regarding voting rights for residents of LTC