Beginning in January 2018, the Register, Educate, Vote, Use your Power (REV UP) Utah Coalition joined the national effort to increase the power and magnitude of the disability vote. An estimated 300,000 Utahns have a disability, making them the largest political minority in the state. This demographic is large enough to have a significant impact on Utah’s upcoming elections. Our mission is to promote and protect the electoral participation of any and all community members with disabilities. REV UP prioritizes engaging electoral candidates in concert with registering people with disabilities to vote. REV UP has distributed a survey to all of Utah’s political candidates asking them to share their stances on poignant disability topics.

“The disability community can be joined by anyone at any time. People are born into it, join after an accident, or age ushers them in. As such, it is a particularly important group to consistently engage, as it will include everyone during some point,” says Eliza Stauffer, voting activist and former Ms. Wheelchair America 2017. Eliza adds, “Voting is one of the most effective ways for the disability community to participate in shaping public policy and exert influence over their local, state and national representatives. It is a way to be heard, a way to be counted amongst peers, a way to guide our communities to better solutions and a way to share expert opinions on disability topics. Voting is a way to independently speak up. It is an equalizer of voices.”

"As a blind person, the ability to vote independently changed my life as a voter here in Utah. With the help of accessible voting equipment and the encouragement of REV UP, blind people all over the country are now voting independently," says Everette Bacon, President of the National Federation of the Blind of Utah.

The REV UP coalition—a group comprised of voters with disabilities and Utah advocates—is committed to amplifying all disability voices within our communities, as well as facilitating conversations with our representatives. We strive to ensure that voters with disabilities will be informed, considered, engaged and present in each election process. REV UP prepares individuals to vote by providing them with non-partisan resources that can inform their voting choices. Our efforts also include fostering and stimulating discussions with candidates on a broad spectrum of disability issues.

Results from our current candidate survey and future events can be viewed at the REV UP page: http://disabilitylawcenter.org/voting-rights/candidate-survey-responses/.

The Disability Law Center is a private non-profit organization. The DLC’s mission is to enforce and strengthen laws that protect the opportunities, choices and legal rights of Utahns with disabilities. Our services are available statewide and free of charge, regardless of income, legal status, language, or place of residence.

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