Both the House and Senate have now adjourned until November 13 following the mid-term elections on November 6. Many states have early voting and absentee mail-in voting beginning now. Here are a few resources to help affiliates and allies to actively participate:

- The Autism Society of America’s online Election Center provides tools for families to become engaged. Visitors can register to vote, review the candidates running in their states, and find out when and where to vote based on zip-code.

- As you speak to candidates in the coming weeks, use this easy-to-read Disability Issues Guide developed by AAPD with input from the Autism Society staff.

- Our colleagues at the National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) recently provided a webinar “Why Should You Care about the Mid-Term Elections?” archived here.

- How can you know the truth about a candidate’s support for preexisting condition protections in health care? Families USA has developed a simple three-part test to identify which candidates support people with preexisting conditions and which ones don’t.

Once you are all set with the information you need to participate, please consider helping neighbors and friends with information or transportation. Elections matter!

In this issue of Ignite, we include resources related to voter engagement (above), an explanation of the new “Public Charge Rule,” updates on budget and appropriations, information on two new federal caregiver initiatives, information on new government officials that oversee disability programs, and new resources that you can use to advocate at the local, state, and federal levels.

Please read the entire issue here.