



***STATEMENT OF PRIORITIES, OBJECTIVES, AND CASE SELECTION CRITERIA
PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR VOTING ACCESS 2026***

The MISSION of Disability Rights DC at University Legal Services (DRDC) is to ensure that District of Columbia residents with disabilities have the legal rights to which they are entitled, including the right to be free from harm, the right to individual choice, and the right to full inclusion in the community.

The following are the priorities and objectives for the Protection and Advocacy Program for Voting Access (PAVA) for 2026:

1. Advocate on behalf of people with disabilities to ensure their full participation in all aspects of the electoral process including registering to vote, accessing polling places, and casting ballots in the District of Columbia.
 - a. Report on the accessibility of polling places, ballot drop boxes, and voting equipment for people with mobility, visual, and hearing disabilities during the July 15, 2025 Special Election and the June 16, 2026 Primary Election.
 - b. Pursue legal advocacy to ensure the Board of Election's full compliance with the provisions of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 by advocating with the Board of Elections and other District agencies to replace or make accessible all polling places and to provide an accessible absentee ballot system.
 - c. Provide advocacy, outreach and education through materials and presentations to advocates, stakeholders, and voters with disabilities in both institutional and community settings regarding voting rights.
 - d. Develop and submit to administrative and policy-making bodies testimony and comments on proposed policies, procedures, and regulations that impact access to voting by DC residents with disabilities.

CASE SELECTION CRITERIA

DRDC accepts cases of residents of the District of Columbia who have disabilities and complaints that fall within the aforementioned priorities.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

While Disability Rights DC (DRDC) at University Legal Services (ULS) recognizes that every situation is important, please note that case acceptance is dependent upon available resources, including staff time. If your case is not accepted and you wish to file a grievance, please submit your grievance in writing to ULS' Executive Director. Current clients may also submit a grievance to the Executive Director about the quality of DRDC's representation and regarding a decision to close a case. In addition, an individual who receives mental health or other services, his/her family members or representatives may also submit a grievance regarding DRDC's advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities and role as the DC protection and advocacy program. If requested, an individual may lodge an oral grievance with a DRDC staff member who shall put the grievance in writing and submit it to the Executive Director. The Executive Director may be reached at:

Jane Brown, Executive Director
University Legal Services
220 I Street, N.E., Suite 130
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 547-0198 Phone
(202) 547-2662 Fax
(202) 547-2657 TTY
jbrown@uls-dc.org

The Executive Director shall respond in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of a grievance from any client or prospective client, or community member who has an interest in the operation of the protection and advocacy program.

A grievant may appeal the Executive Director's decision to the ULS Board of Directors within ten (10) days of the written decision of the Executive Director. The decision of the ULS Board of Directors shall be final and not subject to further appeal or review. Client confidentiality shall be maintained.

The Executive Director shall report grievances to the Board of Directors annually.