Disability Rights Oregon logo.

Mary Lee Turner is interviewed in her living room.

Mary Lee: My first election was in 1968,

and I haven't missed an opportunity since.

I'm Mary Lee Turner.

I live in Portland, Oregon.

I can clearly remember going to a voting poll

and they treated me as if I was less than able to vote.

Because of my blindness,

I couldn't read the ballot.

But, I had studied the issues

and was ready to vote.

Rachel is interviewed sitting in her wheelchair.

Rachel: My name is Rachel Simpson.

I've never seen a ballot before

because normally

somebody reads it to me.

Ether is interviewed in her office.

Esther: My name is Esther Harlow.

I'm the Voting Rights Advocate

at Disability Rights Oregon.

Shot of Esther visiting Mary Lee.

I have the opportunity to meet Oregonians

all over the state with different types of abilities,

and to learn about different barriers

that people have to voting.

In Oregon, everyone votes by mail

which means that everyone receives a ballot

in the mail.

Some people aren't able to fill out

or read their ballot privately and independently,

so the state decided to create

an alternate format ballot

which is electronic.

Shots of the electronic ballot on a computer screen.

So, if you have your own computer

that you use to access the web and a printer,

you can access the ballot and print it out at home.

Mouse pointer selects a candidate on the ballot.

You can go to the elections office

and use their computer to fill out the ballot

and print it out.

Mary Lee.

Mary Lee: Or, I can request that

the voting equipment be brought to me,

so that I can do it in my own home,

and vote as I choose.

Mary Lee sits before a Surface tablet and printer.

Screenreader voice.

Screenreader voice: Two year term,

vote for one.

Mary Lee: That's really cool, that I get to hear it.

Shot of Mary Lee’s ballot printing out.

And for younger people who have never voted,

being able to now access the ballot

is incredibly empowering.

Rachel.

Rachel: It's exciting for me because

the tablet let me

vote by myself.

Rachel scrolls on the tablet with her finger.

People with disabilities can get their voice heard.

Mary Lee.

Mary Lee: It's important to be heard.

It's important to be able to have your issues known.

Mary Lee uses the alternative format ballot on a tablet.

Esther.

Esther: If you want to find out more about voting

on the alternate format ballot or a tablet,

you can call your local elections office,

or you can call Disability Rights Oregon

on our voting hotline at 888-339-VOTE.

That's 888-339-8683.

Or, visit the Disability Rights Oregon

easy voting website at EasyVotingGuide.org.

Produced by Rooted in Rights.