



# Joint News Release

For Immediate Release  
Tuesday, October 18, 2016

## COUNTY EXECUTIVE DINOLFO AND MAYOR WARREN ANNOUNCE FREE RIDES FOR VOTERS ON ELECTION DAY

### *Council for People with Disabilities to Offer "Democracy Rides"*

**Monroe County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo** and **Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren** announced today that "Democracy Rides" - a volunteer effort to provide free rides to the polls for people with disabilities - will be offered for a seventh consecutive year. The program is sponsored by the Monroe County-City of Rochester Council for People with Disabilities (CPWD).

*"Each year Monroe County proudly participates in the "Democracy Rides" program which works to afford every resident the opportunity to vote no matter their circumstances," said **Dinolfo**. "Voting is one of the most fundamental rights we have as American citizens and transportation should not be an obstacle in exercising that right."*

Medicab, Medical Motor Service and Monroe Ambulance/Medical Transportation have each agreed to donate 10 rides to help people with accessibility issues get to the polls on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8. Residents who are in need of a ride should call the company of their choice by **Friday, November 4, no later than 4:00 p.m.** to schedule a ride. Due to the necessary medical appointments of their regular customers, the companies ask riders to be flexible in their timing requests.

**Gary Gould**, Chairperson of the Monroe County-City of Rochester Council for People with Disabilities, states *"The Monroe County-City of Rochester Council for People with Disabilities is delighted to offer Democracy Rides again this year. This is an especially important year as it is a presidential election. With the generous help of local transportation companies we are able to aid people with disabilities in getting to the polls. As almost 20% of the U.S. population has some kind of disability, we are a significant part of the voting public. By getting people with disabilities to the polls we're able to make our voices heard and our votes count."*

In 2009, the Council was asked to identify areas where obstacles may exist for people with disabilities. It was determined that transportation to election polling sites was an identified need and "Democracy Rides" was introduced.

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*“I am so grateful to Medicab, Medical Motor Services and Monroe Ambulance for once again offering rides to the polls to our citizens with disabilities,”* said **Warren**. *“Exercising the right to vote is one of the most fundamental ways to participate in the democratic process and every citizen should be afforded that opportunity.”*

The CPWD is an advisory board comprised of residents who represent a broad cross-section of people with disabilities. The CPWD, County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo and Mayor Lovely Warren would especially like to thank Medicab, Medical Motor Service, Monroe Ambulance and Medical Transportation for their generous support of this program.

### **“Democracy Rides” Program Details:**

**What:** Free rides to election sites in wheelchair-accessible vehicles on Election Day for people with disabilities

**When:** Election Day - Tuesday, November 8, 2016

**People needing rides MUST call provider by Friday, November 4, at 4:00 p.m. No rides can be scheduled after this time.**

**Who to call:** Companies providing free rides are:

Medicab Transportation: 342-7150

Medical Motor Service: 654-7030

Monroe Ambulance and Medical Transportation: 232-9000

**Information:** Riders should give location of polling place when setting up the ride. For information, call the Monroe County Board of Elections at 753-1550 or go to [www.monroecounty.gov](http://www.monroecounty.gov). Riders will need to be flexible on timing of rides.

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*Media Inquiries, contact:*

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