

**For immediate release**

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### **TV Washington's Video Voters Guide Now Captioned**

Seattle, WA – The Washington State TVW Video Voters' Guide will be captioned for the first time for the 2016 general election. Voters who are deaf or who have a hearing loss will be able to access the same content people with normal hearing do both online and on television.

"We're pleased that people with hearing loss and people who are deaf will receive voter information in an equitable way. Informed voting is crucial for all American voters, and it's important that people with disabilities such as hearing loss are not left out or disenfranchised," said XXX, XX at Disability Rights Washington, who helped secure the captions.

Over 250,000 Washingtonians—four out of 100--have experienced a significant hearing loss that interferes with their communication and understanding, according to a Washington State DSHS 2011 report. Hearing assistive technologies like captions are designed to meet ADA-mandated requirements that allow all people equitable participation in civic affairs.

"Captions are one of many technologies increasingly being used to create inclusive, hearing friendly environments," said Cheri Perazzoli, Hearing Loss Association of Washington trustee and founder of Let's Loop Seattle. "We support this move by TVW and the Secretary of State and encourage them to caption all programming."

The video will include taped segments from candidates for all statewide elected office. It will be published online and begin airing on television June 17, 2016. To watch the video, go to [tvw.org](http://www.tvw.org), or <http://www.tvw.org/about/channel-locator/> to find the TRW cable channel in your area.

*Disability Rights Washington is a private nonprofit organization who protects the rights of people with disabilities throughout Washington States. DRW provides free services for people with disabilities and offers technical assistance, legal services, and community education and training.*  
[www.disabilityrightswa.org](http://www.disabilityrightswa.org).

*The Hearing Loss Association of Washington (HLA-WA) is a volunteer-run nonprofit organization serving people with hearing loss. HLA-WA opens the world of communication by providing information, education, support, and advocacy to improve living conditions and ensure equitable access.*  
[www.hearingloss-wa.org](http://www.hearingloss-wa.org)