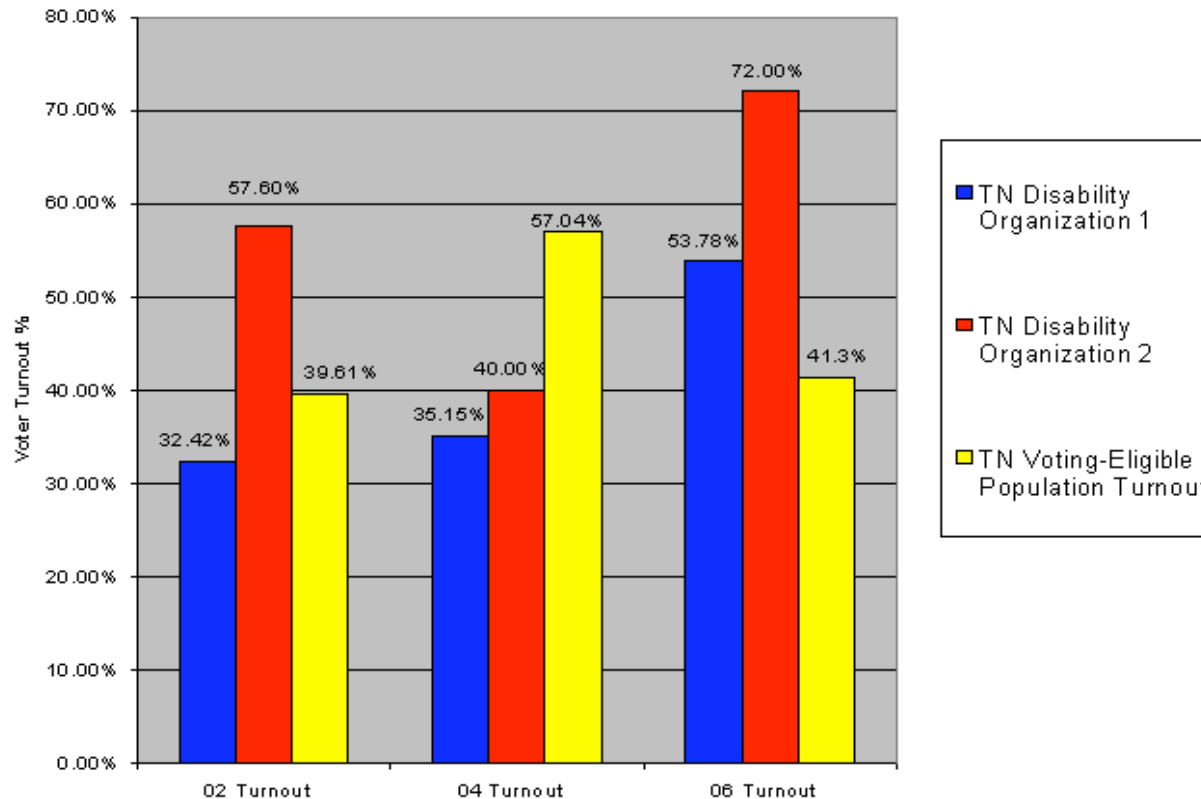




## Contact Makes a Difference: Supporters of Disability-Rights Organizations as Voters Tennessee 2006

A single direct contact with voters on the lists of two disability-rights organizations appears to have helped increase actual turnout among such voters, between 15 and 21 percent. Compared with an earlier gubernatorial ('02) and presidential ('04) general election in which such voters received no similar prompts to vote, turnout increased significantly in 2006.



File	Records	Voters	Voter %	06 Turnout	06 Turnout %	04 Turnout	04 Turnout %	02 Turnout	02 Turnout %	
TN Disability Organization 1		143	125	87.41%	90	72.00%	50	40.00%	72	57.60%
TN Disability Organization 2		939	805	85.72%	433	53.78%	283	35.15%	261	32.42%
<b>Total:</b>		1082	930	85.95%	523	56.23%	333	35.80%	333	35.80%

Supporters on the lists of two disability-rights organizations in Tennessee who were identified as definite voters were selected to receive a call the weekend before the election urging them to turn out and vote in the Tues., Nov. 7, 2006, general election. The call made reference to a widely reported political attack on former actor Michael J. Fox by commentator Rush Limbaugh. Limbaugh ridiculed Fox, a sufferer of Parkinson's disease, for visible tremors in his voice and body apparent in his broadcast testimonial to support a Missouri ballot measure permitting stem-cell research in the state that could yield cures for the rare illness thought to have a genetic basis. [The ballot measure narrowly passed in Missouri.]

Attempts to complete the Tennessee call, which was nonpartisan in nature, continued three times until the voter was reached or until a message could be left. People on both lists received a live call by a volunteer using the following script.

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### Tennessee Disability-Rights Supporter Call Script: November 2006

**IMPORTANT:** Please modify the organization affiliation, **Tennessee Disability Organization 1** *or* **Tennessee Disability Organization 2**., at **both places in the script** depending on the list you're calling.

#### **TN script:**

"I'm calling from the **Tennessee Disability Organization 1** [*or Tennessee Disability Organization 2*]

"If you want more health care, accessible transportation, and better services for people with disabilities, then vote this Tuesday, November 7th. On Election Day, November 7, voters are going to pick members of Congress, the governor, and the state legislature. They have a pivotal role in deciding **policies that affect your life**.

"That's why **Tennessee Disability Organization 1** urges **you and your whole household** to vote on November 7th.

"Some people, like **Rush Limbaugh**, **oppose** the rights of the disabled and **mock** the incurably ill. They expect you **WON'T** care enough to vote Nov. 7. Show them **they're wrong**.

"Be sure that **you and others in your household vote on November 7.**"

For more information. contact: Progressive Victory; Hans Johnson, President; ph 202-299-1100; [info@progressivevictory.com](mailto:info@progressivevictory.com)