

Statement of Rosalind “Roz” Alexander-Kasparik

David Rector is my heart. We share each others hopes and dreams. Together we've sought his recovery from catastrophic illness, and managed to build a life and love that endures. I wholeheartedly support, champion and celebrate the effort by Attorney Tom Coleman and the Spectrum Institute to spread the word on SB 589's restoration of voting rights that have been routinely and unfairly taken from people with disabilities. I celebrate the law with David's cry of rage when his voting rights were taken away still ringing in my ears.

For 32 years David and I have been friends, confidants, and citizens of the mind and the world. For the past eight years we've been engaged to marry. David holds a Political Science degree from the University of the District of Columbia. He worked as a news producer for National Public Radio headquarters in Washington, DC for three decades before falling ill in 2009. The first thing he did upon moving to San Diego and heading to Comic-Con in July of 2008 was to request a voter registration card of a volunteer at the trolley crossing that leads to Convention Center. By the time we stepped inside its halls, he had completed the card and mailed it.

David has worked civically and journalistically to protect the substance of our democracy in all levels of government. He treasures the measure and meaning of citizenship that is the vote. By creating and editing the pages of his graphic memoir/ superhero comic *RECALL AND GIVEN*, David and I have both found renewed purpose and strengthened focus, attention and resolve to live the best life imaginable. It is unconscionable that he cannot vote for those who seek to better his life and against those who dare mock his disability.

David Rector has never not wanted to vote. He knows intimately the cost of the franchise. His right to vote—along with the rights of all those whose disability resulted in their disenfranchisement—must be restored immediately.