The Competency Assessment Tool for Voting (CAT-V) is a 6-items structured questionnaire build like other capacity Mac Arthur Competency Assessment Tools (Mac CAT), Mac CAT-Research and Mac CAT-Treatment. For the group Mac-Arthur, the capacity – for example to consent to treatment or to research- is the resultant of four sub-capacities: capacity to understand, to reason, to appreciate and communicate a choice.

The first 3 items of the CAT-V called Doe standard are based on a definition of the capacity to vote put forward by the Federal Court of Maine: being able to understand the nature and effects of voting. During the CAT-V interview, by imagining to be the Election Day (Election of the Governor of the State), the person being assessed has to indicate (adapted from [a]):
- how the people are going to choose the new governor (response: by going to the polling station and by voting, item 1, which explores the capacity to understand the nature of vote),
- at the end of Election Day, how will be decided who is the winner (response: the candidate who collects most vote, item 2, which explores the capacity to understand the effect of vote),
- after the presentation of the program of 2 candidates (A and B), for which candidate he would like to vote (response: A or B, item 3n which explores the capacity to communicate a choice).

The items 4 and 5 explore the capacity to reason and the item 6 the capacity to appreciate.

Each item of CAT-V is scored from 0 (inappropriate response) to 2 (appropriate response). The addition of the scores of the first 3 items allows to calculate the Doe standard score (0-6) and similarly, the addition of the score of all the items, the total score (0-12). For Appelbaum et al., the CAT-V cannot “determine which scores represent adequate capacity”, except in case of extreme scores.

The capacity to vote has been studied in various categories of people: persons with Alzheimer’ disease, persons with psychiatric disease, persons living in a nursing home, inpatients.

Various versions of the CAT-V are available: in English, in Spanish, in Hebrew and in French.