WELCOMING VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES

Tips to make the voting experience welcoming, fair, and accessible

The disability community is large, diverse, pays attention to a wide range of issues, represents all political ideas, and cares about the policies that affect their everyday lives. People with disabilities have the right to vote.

Outside the Polling Place - Signs and Parking

• Place signs directing voters to accessible parking and accessible entrances.
• Place accessible parking spots nearest to the accessible entrance.
• Create an accessible path from the parking areas to the polling place entrance.
  - Make sure there are no obstacles (such as a curb, trash cans, or signage).
  - Make sure the polling place door can be easily opened.
  - If there are no designated accessible parking spots, create a spot by placing an “accessible parking” sign.

Inside the Polling Place

• Place chairs or benches for people with difficulty standing for periods of time.
• Provide a clear, accessible path from the entrance to the registration table.
• Provide a clear, accessible path from the registration table to the voting booth.
• Post a written notice that assistance is available.

Service Animals

Service animals must be admitted to the voting location.
• DO NOT pet or distract a service animal as they are a working animal and not a pet.
• If a disability is not obvious, you may ask two questions of a service animal handler:
  - Is this animal required because of a disability?
  - What is the animal trained to do for you?
• You may not ask for documentation of the service animal.
• You may not ask the handler to demonstrate what service the animal performs.

Assistance and Interacting with Voters with Disabilities

• A poll worker must offer assistance if the voter is unable to:
  - See or mark the ballot.
  - Operate the voting equipment.
  - Enter the voting booth without assistance.
• A written notice that assistance is available must be posted at the polling place.
• In most cases, the voter can choose who may assist them when voting.
• If a person is blind or has low vision, identify yourself and offer assistance.
• Provide magnifying devices for people who request them.
• Recommended size for large print is an 18-point sans-serif font.
• Have a pad of paper and pen handy in case a person is Deaf or unable to speak.
• Provide private voting station with maximum height of 34 inches for wheelchair users and people who need to sit.

Remember The Golden Rule: Treat Others as You Would Like to Be Treated

• Be courteous and respectful. Always ask if the voter wants help before offering assistance.
• Be considerate of extra time a person with a disability may need to cast their ballot.
• Be patient with a person who has difficulty moving, seeing, speaking, or hearing.
• Speak directly to the voter, not their companion, aide, or interpreter.