

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.

