



SECTION 14

ACCESSIBILITY & EXPRESSVOTE

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ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility is a vital consideration both before and on election day. The concept of accessibility covers two things needed to minimize barriers to voting:

1. How you interact with voters who have different kinds of disabilities.
2. The physical layout of your polling place (inside and outside).

Reminder: You have an ExpressVote ballot marking device at each precinct. The ExpressVote is especially helpful to voters with vision, physical, or language issues. However, any voter can use the ExpressVote!

HELPING VOTERS WHO NEED ACCESSIBILITY ASSISTANCE

GENERAL GUIDANCE ON ETIQUETTE

- Do not assume, based upon appearance or disability, that a voter requires assistance to vote, or that the voter is unable to make an informed choice.
- Ask before you help; don't assume the person needs help. If the setting is adequately accessible, some senior citizens and persons with disabilities can vote without assistance. If a person does need assistance, allow the person to indicate how best to assist them before taking action.
- Voters with disabilities may be accompanied by companions, aides, or a sign language interpreter. Speak to the voter directly and make eye contact.
- Some people may need more time to process information for a variety of reasons – do not rush them, finish their sentences, or become impatient. Don't show impatience—pay attention to what your body language/facial expressions are conveying.
- Be sensitive about personal contact. Touching someone, even if you intend to give assistance, could knock the person off balance and can feel demeaning and intrusive.
- Be sensitive about contact with assistive devices such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, and guide dogs. These aids are part of an individual's personal space.
- Relax when talking with someone with a disability. Treat the person the same as you would any other voter, and don't be embarrassed if someone with a disability corrects your etiquette.

WORKING WITH FRAIL OR ELDERLY VOTERS

- Ask the voter first whether they would like assistance. Do not assume or insist.
- At your discretion, you may move very frail or disabled voters to the front of the line - most "able-bodied" voters will not object. Provide chairs for these voters if there are long waits in the lines.
- Keep the magnifying glass and magnifying sheet visible on the ballot table so voters know that they are available.

ACCESSIBILITY

WORKING WITH VOTERS WHO ARE BLIND OR HAVE A VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

- Always identify yourself and others with you when meeting someone with a visual impairment. When conversing in a group, be sure to identify the person to whom you are speaking.
- Introduce yourself by name and identify yourself as an election officer so that the voter knows they are working with the correct person.
- Give specific directions to locations in the polling room, such as “the ExpressVote marking device is located straight ahead about 15 feet on the right”, not just that it is toward the back of the room.
- If you guide a person, state that you are offering your (left or right) arm and describe the path ahead as you move.
- Let the person know when you are leaving their presence.

WORKING WITH VOTERS WHO ARE HEARING IMPAIRED

- When speaking with someone who has a hearing impairment, speak directly, clearly, slowly, and expressively. Speak directly to the voter, not the assistant.
- Use a normal volume of voice; hearing aids are generally tuned to normal speech volume.
- Keep mouth and lips visible while speaking (use the clear face mask).
- If you need to get someone’s attention, wave your hand or lightly tap their shoulder from the front.
- Make eye contact before pointing to something or to another part of the room.

WORKING WITH VOTERS WHO ARE WHEELCHAIR USERS

- Ask permission before touching a wheelchair, which is part of that individual’s personal space.
- If the voter is having difficulty navigating an obstacle, ask if the person needs assistance before pushing the wheelchair.
- Keep the paths for moving within the polling space and especially within the voting room clear of obstacles.

WORKING WITH VOTERS WHO HAVE SERVICE ANIMALS

- Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, people using service dogs are not required to provide a certificate, license, or any other type of identification. You may ask if the dog is a service dog.
- Service dogs are not required to be on a leash, which may interfere with their job, but they must be always under the handler’s control.
- The service dog must concentrate on its task, so don’t pet, talk to, distract, or offer treats to the animal.

ACCESSIBILITY

CONFIGURE THE POLLING PLACE TO BE AS PHYSICALLY ACCESSIBLE AS POSSIBLE. MONITOR BARRIERS THROUGHOUT ELECTION DAY.

PARKING

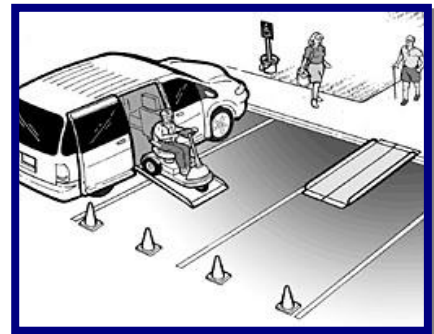
There may be several things you need to remember about parking on election day.

Some precincts use temporary solutions to address accessibility issues such as movable signs and parking cones.

It may not be your duty to put these solutions in place, but it will be your duty to ensure they remain in place throughout the day.

The picture to the right gives an example of temporary solutions.

- Notice the cones and the temporary signpost.
- Also notice that election officers have blocked off other spaces to ensure persons with disabilities can have clear access to the temporary ramp. You may need to do this at your precinct.



You should also be aware of who is parking in the designated accessible parking space. If a person without an official DMV marked plate or hanging parking permit has parked in the accessible space, you can either have the vehicle towed or locate the violator and have them move the vehicle immediately.

EXTERIOR DOOR ACCESS

Barriers may be present at the entrance of the polling place which may require adaptation. The most common is an inaccessible door handle. To address this issue, many localities will prop the door open on election day. You or your election officers must make sure that the door stays open throughout the day or find another ADA-acceptable solution.

ACCESSIBILITY

EXTERIOR PATH OF TRAVEL

Path of travel is one of the most important areas to watch on election day. There are several barriers that may impede a person's ability to reach the polls, and in some cases, could even cause injury. Be sure to inspect the path of travel from time to time on election day.

When considering how to maintain the path of travel, use common sense. You must keep the path of travel free from debris such as gravel, snow, and ice.



For blind and vision impaired voters there will be two common barriers that can be easily fixed on election day:

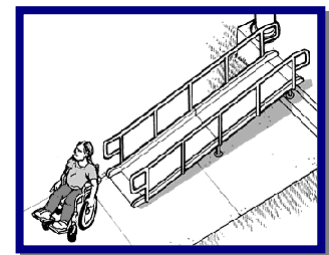
- All over-hanging objects should be trimmed or removed prior to election day. However, changes in structures and vegetation occur often. Be sure to check these barriers before election day and inform the proper personnel if a potential problem is found.
- When objects extend into the path of travel you can easily remove this barrier by placing an object under the object so the voter will be sure to strike the object with their cane before walking into the barrier.



For voters with mobility impairments that require assistive devices such as wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, or canes, the election officer must be sure that:

- There is a wide (at least 36") path of travel from the parking lot to the entrance.
- All signs marking accessible path of travel are placed prior to the opening of the polls.

Treatment for ramps is generally fairly easy for election officers. Simply remember your common sense and keep ramps free from debris. The rest of the care for the ramp should come from whoever has installed it.

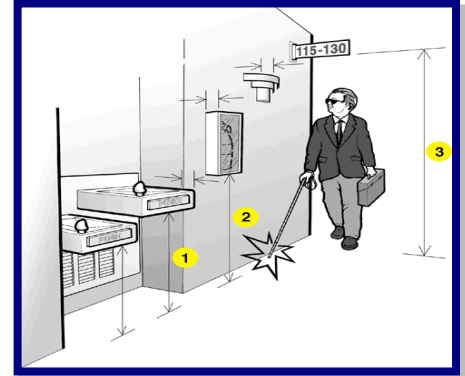


ACCESSIBILITY

INTERIOR PATH OF TRAVEL

Interior paths of travel to the polling room can be treated similarly to exterior paths. Election officers need to be primarily aware of interior doors and objects in path of travel.

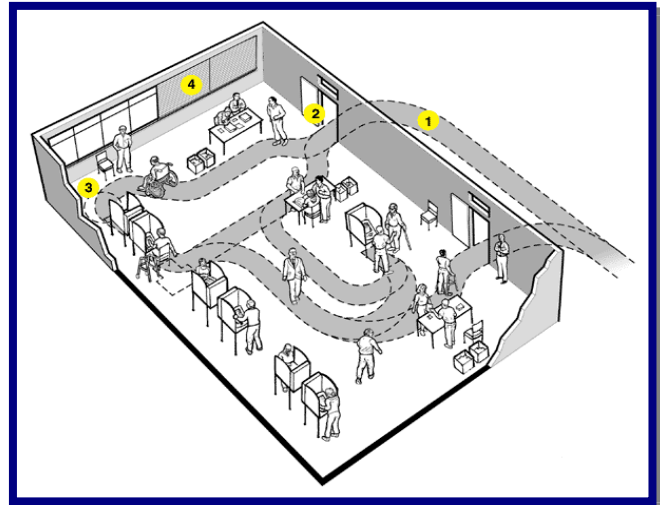
- Interior doors may have the same barriers as exterior doors. Be aware of any temporary solutions that may be in place. It is a good idea to prop open the interior doors if possible.
- Objects protruding and overhanging into the path of travel will be the most common barrier in the interior path of travel. Also, the path of travel should always be at least 36" wide.



INSIDE THE POLLING ROOM

The biggest factor contributing to the accessibility of the polling room is the design of the path of travel through the room.

- Strive for a smooth path of travel that doesn't require a lot of turning.
- Strive for roomy aisles between voting machines.
- Watch for and remove obstacles that might impede the progress of a wheelchair user.



Provide chairs for those who have difficulty standing for longer periods of time.

EXPRESSVOTE – ACCESSIBLE BALLOT MARKING DEVICE

What is an ExpressVote?

The ExpressVote is an ADA-compliant ballot marking device that enables a voter to mark their ballot without assistance.

In accordance with federal law, marking devices cannot record votes. Instead, the ExpressVote acts as a pen, and prints out a marked ballot card which the voter then inserts into the DS200.

Voters may use the touch screen, keypad (includes braille), sip and puff device, or rocker paddle device. All options can be used in conjunction with an audio ballot.



How do you use an ExpressVote?

Most voters will use the ExpressVote touchscreen. To assist them:

1. Instruct the voter to insert the ballot card into the slot with the card cutout corner at upper right.
2. Instruct the voter to follow the prompts on the touchscreen to select the language.
3. Point out that the voter may use “zoom” to adjust the font or “contrast” to change the screen display.
4. Instruct the voter that they will have the opportunity to review the ballot after making selections.
5. Instruct the voter to review the ballot, then touch “print card”.
6. Insert the printed card into a privacy folder and then instruct the voter to take the card to the DS200 to have the ballot scanned and counted.

Can blind or visually impaired voters use an ExpressVote?

Yes! To assist voters who are blind or visually impaired:

1. Help the voter get seated and comfortable. (If the voter has an assistant or companion, allow the companion to take the lead in helping the voter get situated.)
2. Briefly, describe the ballot marking device (ExpressVote) and how the voter will use it.
3. Gently, place the keypad in the voter’s hand(s) and describe the various buttons and their functions. Allow the voter time to get acquainted with the arrows/buttons and to feel each shape.
4. Plug in the headphones and help the voter to put them on and adjust the volume.
5. Describe the ballot card and explain that you will insert the card (or help the voter to insert the card) to start the program/audio prompts.
6. Explain that you will step away to give the voter privacy and quiet, but that you are available (close by) if help is needed.
7. Stay at least five feet away from the voter to give them privacy.
8. After making all selections, a Summary of Selections will begin to give the voter the opportunity to review the entire ballot and make changes, if desired.
9. When the voter has completed voting, as needed, help the voter place the marked ballot into a privacy folder and take it to the DS200 to be scanned.

EXPRESSVOTE – ACCESSIBLE BALLOT MARKING DEVICE

What are the buttons on the ExpressVote keypad?

YELLOW TRIANGLES: Navigation Arrows/Buttons

- UP: go to or repeat previous voting option
- DOWN: go to (or scroll) to next voting option
- LEFT: go back to previous contest/issue
- RIGHT: go forward to next contest/issue

BLUE SQUARE: SELECT (choose) an option.

WHITE PENTAGON: HOME button – push once for language selection; push twice for help. The button opens screen with general voting instructions.

TURQUOISE HEXAGON: PAUSE button to stop/resume audio.

GREEN CIRCLE: REPEAT button to repeat the last instruction or option.

ORANGE RECTANGLE: VOLUME control. Use left (minus) to decrease volume; right (plus) to increase volume.

IMPORTANT: *The default volume is quite low. You may have to assist the voter to increase the volume when they first put on the headphones.*

PURPLE OVAL: TEMPO button can be used to decrease (minus) or increase (plus) the speed of the audio output.

BLACK DIAMOND: SCREEN display toggle will turn off/on the ExpressVote screen to protect the privacy of the voter while they are voting. Pushing the black diamond 4 times before the ballot is printed will eject the ballot card and EXIT the program.



Is there anything else I should know about the ExpressVote keypad?

- The LEFT and RIGHT arrows help the voter navigate backward and forward between contests.
- The UP and DOWN arrows help the voter navigate through the candidates/choices within the contest.
- To change a selection in a “vote for one” contest, use the UP or DOWN arrows to scroll through the choices. Press SELECT to make a new selection. The new selection replaces the previous selection.
- To change a selection in a “vote for more than one” contest, use the UP or DOWN arrows to scroll to the selection to be removed. Press SELECT to remove (de-select) the previous selection and then scroll to the new selection.
- To enter a write-in, select “write-in” and follow the audio prompts. Use the UP and DOWN arrows to scroll through the alphabet and select the letters to spell the name. (This is a very tedious process.)
- The ExpressVote will alert the voter if they have undervoted, i.e., moved on to the next contest without making selections in the previous contest. The voter may proceed, however, if they wish to skip a contest or question without voting.
- If the voter wishes, they may reinsert the ballot into the ExpressVote, to confirm the selections, before they take the ballot to the scanner.
- A damaged or mis-marked ballot card may be spoiled and exchanged for a replacement card.
- If the voter leaves before the ballot has printed (fleeing voter), an Officer must touch EXIT on the screen to eject the ballot card. Mark VOID on the ballot card and place it in the **#4 Envelope**. Record a tick mark on the **#4 Envelope** to keep track of the ballots voided (fleeing voters) during the day to record on the **SOR** after the polls close.