

Voters with Specific Needs

Voters with Disabilities

All Voters with Disabilities have the right to vote. As a Precinct Election Official, it is your duty to work with voters who have disabilities to find the most suitable method of casting a ballot.

Some “voters value” guidelines are listed below that apply to all voters:

1. Be courteous and respectful
2. Common sense will provide an answer to most questions
3. Don't underestimate people with disabilities. Disability does not equal inability.
4. Be considerate of the extra time it may take for a person who is disabled or elderly to get things done; and give unhurried attention to a person who has difficulty speaking.
5. Always speak directly to the voter and not to a companion, aide, or interpreter.
6. Ask before you help. The person may not want any assistance. Don't insist – take “no” for an answer.
7. But, don't be shy about discreetly offering assistance. Your courtesy will be appreciated.
8. If your voting location is in a building with several routes through it, be sure that there are sufficient signs to direct a person to the most accessible way around the facility.

Voters Who Have Speech or Hearing Impairments

1. A voter who cannot speak can give a name and address simply by providing identification to the assisting Precinct Election Official. The Precinct Election Official then reads the name and address out loud.
2. Follow the voter's cues to determine whether speaking, gestures, or writing are the most effective method of communication.
3. When speaking, do so calmly, slowly, and directly to the voter. Do not shout. Your facial expressions, gestures, and body movements help in understanding. Face the voter at all times, and keep your face in full light (not backlit).
4. Rephrase, rather than repeat, sentences that the voter does not understand.

Voters Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

A voter who is blind may choose to use an assistant.

1. Any disabled voter may receive assistance from anyone he/she designates or from two Precinct Election Officials (of opposite parties).
2. Identify yourself and state that you are a Precinct Election Official as soon as you come in contact with the voter.
3. If guiding a voter who is blind, verbally offer your arm to the voter then, if permitted, gently placing your arm under the hand of the voter, rather than taking the voter's arm.
4. If a person has a guide dog, walk on the opposite side of the voter from the dog. Do not pet or otherwise distract a guide dog without permission from the owner.
5. When giving directions to navigate the voting location, be as specific as possible, and indicate obstacles in the path of travel.
6. If you are going to leave a person who is blind, let the person know.
7. Offer magnifier sheet to any voter whose vision is impaired.
8. Visual impairment or blindness does not equal a hearing impairment. It is not necessary or courteous to shout at another person, even if you are trying to be helpful

Voters with Mobility Impairments

1. Make sure chairs are available for disabled, ill, elderly, or pregnant voters.
2. Make sure signs are posted inside and out with regard to parking and other conveniences.
3. Do not push or touch another person's wheelchair without prior consent. People using adaptive equipment often consider the equipment as part of their personal space. You may break a wheelchair or piece of equipment with which you are not familiar.
4. Try to sit or kneel at the same level as the person in the wheelchair so that person does not have to look up at you to communicate.
5. Ask before helping. Grabbing someone's elbow may just throw the person off balance. A person with mobility impairments might lean on a door while opening it. Quickly opening the door for them may cause the person to fall.
6. Either fasten mats and throw-rugs securely or move them out of the way. A person with mobility impairments could trip.
7. Keep floors as dry as possible on rainy or snowy days.
8. Keep the ramps and wheelchair-accessible doors to the voting location unlocked and barrier-free.



THE BEST ADVICE FOR ASSISTING VOTERS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS IS TO DO FOR THAT PERSON WHAT YOU WOULD WANT DONE FOR YOU AND TREAT THAT PERSON AS YOU WOULD WANT TO BE TREATED.

Audio Ballot Instructions

Audio-Assisted Voting

A headset is provided for use on any of the voting machines for Audio-Assisted Voting. The headphones can be found in the Voting Machine Supply Box. Instructions available through the audio headsets prompt users through the voting options. Audio-assisted voting provides blind and visually impaired voters, and voters who have difficulty with reading, with a private and secure way to independently cast their vote.




iVotronic Audio Ballot Instructions





Precinct Election Officials assisting voters who wish to use the Audio option will begin with **ALMOST** the same procedures as with the voters not using the Audio option:

- Plug the headset into the machine on the lower, right-hand side of the machine.
- Hand the headset to the voter.
- Start the ballot for the voter by inserting the BLUE Supervisor PEB.
- Select the correct ballot style or if a Provisional voter requires an audio ballot, select Provisional ballot on the screen, enter the Provisional Ballot Application number, then select the ballot style.
- Remove the BLUE Supervisor PEB.
- Audio will begin automatically.

The Precinct Election Official can

- Press the diamond shaped button  to select the Audio-Only ballot.
- Remove the BLUE Supervisor PEB. Screen will display "Audio Assisted Ballot is Selected."
- The Precinct Election Official leaves the voter to vote in private.

The Voter can

- Press the Up or Down arrow button   several times to "skip ahead" to a desired race, candidate, or letter of the alphabet, or character.
- Press the Up Arrow  to repeat the instructions
- Press the round purple  button to change the audio volume.