



Helping Voters with Disabilities

A handout for poll workers

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a person with a disability as someone with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a history or record of such an impairment, or who is perceived by others as having such an impairment.¹ Not all disabilities are visible, and some people may identify as having more than one disability. Though an individual's disability(ies) may be a part of their identity, they are not defined solely by their disability(ies). Everyone is deserving of respect, dignity, and kindness.

Can Poll Workers Help People with Disabilities Vote?

Yes! Individuals with disabilities have the legal right to voting assistance.² Voters with disabilities are permitted to have someone of their choice assist them with the voting process or casting their vote. However, if they do not have someone with them, they may request assistance from a poll worker.

What Can Assisting a Voter Look Like?

Poll workers are legally permitted to assist voters with disabilities in casting their vote in a variety of ways, including (but not limited to) reading a ballot to the voter, marking their indicated choice(s), and assisting a voter with an accessible voting device.³

Tip: When assisting a voter, be sure to answer questions in a manner that does not influence the voter's opinion. You may not tell them how to vote.

¹ Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.

² Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965

³ Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq., Help America Vote Act of 2002

What If I'm Not Sure Someone Needs My Help?

Use “people first” language, speak directly to the voter, and be patient and respectful. Do not assume that a voter needs assistance. If they indicate they need assistance, be sure not to express any judgment.

Tip: Try making a general announcement every so often when new groups of voters arrive that you are available for assistance.



How Can Poll Workers Help with Accessibility?

Poll workers can help in many ways. Some common examples include ensuring posted signs are simple, easy to read, and in multiple spots inside and around the polling place; ensuring that polling centers and drop boxes are free from physical hazards or barriers; and ensuring that accessible modifications (i.e. voting machines) are available and functional.⁴

What If Poll Workers Have More Questions?

Visit the Disability Justice Voting Rights page: <https://disabilityjustice.co/know-your-rights/voting/>



***DISCLAIMER: This is not intended as legal advice, but rather for informational purposes only. Always consult a lawyer if you have questions about your legal rights.* Last updated: September 17, 2026**

⁴ Additional information can be found through the [Colorado Secretary of State](#)