

Disability Rights IOWA

Law Center for Protection and Advocacy™

What Accommodations at the Polling Place Can I Get to Ensure Voting is Accessible for Me?

Polling Place Accessibility for Voters with Disabilities: All polling places must be accessible and useable by voters with disabilities unless a Temporary Waiver of Accessibility Requirements has been granted by the Iowa Secretary of State. If you are unable to enter the building where the polling place is located because of a disability, curbside voting is available at each precinct. Two precinct election officials, one from each political party in partisan elections, will take voting materials out to you in your vehicle. You can then mark your ballot in your vehicle. If you need to utilize curbside voting, it is a good idea to call the County Auditor's office before you go to the polling place so the County Auditor can call ahead and let the precinct election officials know you will be needing assistance voting from your vehicle [Iowa Code § 49.90; Iowa Admin. Code 721-21.50].

During sign-in and waiting

- You may ask to move ahead in line due to fatigue or anxiety
- You may ask for a chair to sit in while waiting
- If you are not physically able to sign the forms, you can use a rubber stamp or a mark to sign
- You may ask for a chair to sit at the booth while you are voting
- You may bring an unofficial sample ballot into the voting booth to help you vote
- If you “spoil” your ballot you can request a new one. The election officials will give you another ballot to vote again

Accommodations in the Voting Booth:

- Polling places are required to be accessible and have at least one voting machine for individuals who want to use a machine that speaks to the voter
- As a voter with a disability, you may ask anyone you want to help you in the voting booth
- You can ask a poll worker for voting information in Braille, in large print, on tape, or other accessible formats

- You may request a paper ballot if you cannot use the voting machine due to your physical disability

(Over)

- If you cannot understand the written information, the machine can read out loud and have information explained in a simpler language
- If you cannot read or understand English, you can have someone of your choice to assist you that speaks in your native language
- The person who assists you is not allowed to try and influence you to vote a certain way

Accommodations for curbside voting

- Two election officials, one Democrat and one Republican in partisan elections, will bring the application, affidavit to request help and portable ballot out to you
- They will give you any assistance you request, verify the ballot inside (letting you know if you under or over-voted)
- They will give you a chance to vote again, if you wish and then deposit the ballot in its envelope in the ballot box inside the polling place

Disability Rights Iowa

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