Access to the Vote: People with Disabilities

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NDRN

• National Disability Rights Network

• The nonprofit membership organization for the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems for individuals with disabilities
The P&A Network

• Established by Congress to protect the rights of people with disabilities through legal support, advocacy, referral, and education.

• In all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, US Territories, and the Native American Consortium (Hopi, Navaho and Piute Nations in the Four Corner region of the Southwest).

• Largest provider of legal advocacy services to people with disabilities in the US.
PAVA

- Protection & Advocacy for Voter Access
- Federal mandate to the P&As
- Established under HAVA to “ensure the full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities, including registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places.”
The Current State of Poll Access

- Must be requested by Congress
Path of Travel: Parking to Booth

- Accessible polling places:
  - 2000: 16%
  - 2008: 27%
  - 2016: 40%
The Voting Booth

- Voting stations with at least one impediment:
  - 2000: not studied
  - 2008: 46%
  - 2016: 65%
Types of Impediments

- Less likely to be set up for privacy
- Less likely to be wheelchair accessible
- Less likely to have earphones ready
- Less likely to be set up & powered on
The Bottom Line

• Polling places are slowly becoming more accessible.

• Voting stations are becoming less accessible.
Creating Options for Voters

• Curbside voting
• Early voting
• Online voter registration
• Absentee balloting
• Electronic delivery of blank ballots
Strengthening Our Elections Core

• Enforcing accessibility requirements
• Requirements for poll worker training
• Security/voting technology upgrades
  • Let’s talk Ballot Marking Devices
Who You Gonna Call?

• NDRN and your P&A
• www.ndrn.org
Thank You

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