

Disability Vote Matters

Your Right to an Accessible Voting Polling Place!

The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act has required since 1984 “that all polling places for Federal elections are accessible to handicapped and elderly voters.”

In 1990 Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act. The A.D.A. requires that any time a new site like a polling place is selected; an accessible site must be selected. 28 C.F.R. §42.503(b)(4).

Since 1992, Pennsylvania law has required polling places to be accessible for all State elections.

The Problem:

Twenty years later, Pennsylvania still has over 1,500 inaccessible polling places!

If your polling place is inaccessible:

And, you have a disability, or you're 65 or older, then you can cast either:

An Absentee Ballot; or

An Alternative Ballot (longer deadlines than Absentee Ballots)

Apply for these ballots at your County Election Office. For help locating your county office, call 1-877-VOTES-PA (1-877-868-3772), or go to www.VotesPa.com.

Type of Ballot	Deadline to apply	Deadline to be received by:
Absentee Ballot	one week before Election Day Day	5:00pm, Friday before Election Day
Alternative Ballot	8:00pm on Election Day	8:00pm on Election Day

Return your ballot to the County Election Office in person or by U.S. Mail. An Alternative Ballot may be returned by another adult with written permission of the voter.

No more delays! 20 years is long enough!

After Election Day, work with your County Election Office to make all polling places accessible.

- Help them out by finding some alternate accessible locations.

- Write to your county officials, and also to:

Pedro A. Cortes
Secretary of the Commonwealth
302 North Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

- If that doesn't work, please call us at 412-391-5225.

Voting is your right!

Look for all the brochures in the series:

- Voting ID requirements

- Your right to get assistance in the voting booth
- The role of Disability Service Organizations in voting
- Voting rights of ex-offenders
- Accessible polling places — your right
- Absentee voting

Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania
429 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1901
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Tel: 412-391-5225
TDD: 412-467-8940
www.drnpa.org