

Disability Vote Matters

Your right to get assistance in voting

Any voter who needs help to vote because of:

- blindness,
- disability,
- or inability to read or write

may be given assistance by anyone the voter chooses, other than:

- the voter's employer or agent of that employer, or
- officer or agent of the voter's union, or
- the Judge of Elections.

A voter has a right to receive this assistance in the voting booth, or when voting by Absentee Ballot or Alternative Ballot.

Requirements:

To qualify to get help in voting, you will need one of the following:

1. Your voter registration card may note that you need assistance; **or**
2. You must fill out and sign a form provided by the poll workers, explaining your disability.

Unlike some states which permit self-declaration of disability, Pennsylvania requires voters to give the name and phone number of their physician.

Safeguards:

Voters have historically been required to vote alone, due to

concerns of voter intimidation, bribery or fraud. As a result, the voting process is very formal, and records are kept of everything.

When a voter receives assistance in voting, the Judge of Election is required to enter in the “Record of Assisted Voters” -

- (1) the voter's name;
- (2) a statement of why the voter needs assistance; and
- (3) the name of the person who helped.

This Record is returned to the county board of elections, and may be examined only upon the written order of a judge of the court of Common Pleas.

Vote like your life depends on it... because it does!

- Justin Dart

Look for all the brochures in the series:

- **New ID requirements**
- **Your right to accessible polling places**
- **Importance of Voting**
- **Voting rights of ex-offenders**
- **Disability Service Organizations**
- **Absentee voting**

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