

2018 Florida Polling Place Accessibility Survey

(Updated 10/1/2018)

County _____ City _____

Polling place name &/or precinct number: _____

Polling place address/location: _____

Type of Facility:

- Library
- Church
- Club/Lodge/Association
- Fire Station
- School
- Senior Facility
- Other Non-Public Building (Specify) _____
- Other Public Building (Specify) _____

Describe the general terrain around the polling site area (flat, hilly, sandy, etc.)

INSTRUCTIONS

Purpose: This form is being used to evaluate select 2018 Florida polling places for access by voters with disabilities, as part of an ongoing effort to assure Floridians barrier-free voting access.

How to use this form: Inspect each polling place by going from the parking area to the voting area. Answer every question on the form by marking either "YES", "NO", or "N/A" (not applicable), as appropriate.

Polling places may be inaccessible for more than one reason. Please respond to every item on the survey, as appropriate. Accessibility concerns not addressed in a question may be noted in the comments sections.

For assistance, please contact:

Disability Rights Florida Voter Helpline: (800) 342-0823 ext. 6000 / www.accessthevote.org

Tony DePalma, DRF: (800) 342-0823 ext. 9737 / (850) 321-2940 (cell) / tonyd@disabilityrightsflorida.org

Survey Completed By: _____

Telephone/Email: _____ Date: _____

DO YOU IDENTIFY AS A VOTER WITH A DISABILITY? (If not, please do not complete – thanks!): _____

Section 1: Parking	YES	NO	N/A
1. Is there one or more off-street parking spaces either permanently or temporarily designated for people with disabilities?			
2. Are there an adequate number of accessible parking spaces? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(For every 25 regular spaces there should be one accessible space.)</i> 			
3. Are accessible parking spaces sufficiently-sized? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(Spaces should be 12-feet wide, with a 5-foot aisle and 98 inches of vertical clearance; measured from the center line of stripe to the corner line of stripe.)</i> 			
4. Is the parking area surface stable, firm and slip-resistant (concrete, asphalt, no gravel)?			
5. Is the accessible parking space in the closest location to the accessible entrance to the polling place?			

Comments:

Section 2: Path of Travel from Parking Area to the Voting Area	YES	NO	N/A
1. Is an accessible route (level surfaces/free from debris and loose gravel/sufficiently-wide) provided from accessible parking spaces to the accessible entrance(s) to the building?			
2. Is there signage clearly posted on the inside and outside of polling site to guide persons with disabilities?			

Comments:

Section 3: Ramps	YES	NO	N/A
1. If there are stairs at the main entrance, is there also a ramp or lift, or is there an alternative accessible entrance?			
2. Are all ramps sufficiently-sized, and appropriate for accessible travel (free from debris, slip-resistant)?			
3. Do ramps have edge protection in the form of walls on each side, or wheelguides, or raised curbs, or handrails if necessary due to steepness?			

Comments:

Section 4: Elevators (if they are necessary to access the polling room)	YES	NO	N/A
1. If an elevator is required to reach the voting area, is the elevator doorway wide enough for a wheelchair user?			
2. If an elevator is required to reach the voting area, is the elevator cab sufficiently-sized so that a wheelchair user can turn around inside?			
3. Are elevator controls clearly marked with raised lettering for visually-impaired persons?			
4. Are the elevator controls low enough for a person in a wheelchair to reach them?			

Comments:

POLLING PLACE ACCESSIBILITY IS REQUIRED BY THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal civil rights law that provides protections to people with disabilities to ensure that they are treated equally in all aspects of life. Title II of the ADA requires state and local governments (“public entities”) to ensure that people with disabilities have a full and equal opportunity to vote. The ADA’s provisions apply to all aspects of voting, including polling places (or vote centers). Voting at one’s polling place allows voters the chance to interact with neighbors and candidates who talk with voters outside the polling place. Simply put, voting in person at a local polling place is the quintessential American voting experience.

In communities large and small, people cast their ballots in a variety of facilities that temporarily serve as polling places, such as libraries, schools, and fire stations, or churches, stores, and other private buildings. Voters include people with a variety of disabilities, such as those who use wheelchairs, scooters, or other devices, those who have difficulty walking or using stairs, or those who are blind or have vision loss. They are people, young and old, who have come to their polling place to exercise their right to vote. Many public entities report that their polling places are accessible. However, the Government Accountability Office estimates that only 27% of polling places were accessible to people with disabilities in the 2008 elections. This means that 73% of the polling places used in 2008 had architectural barriers that made it difficult or even impossible for people with disabilities to enter their polling place and vote side by side with their neighbors.

People with disabilities must have the opportunity to be full participants in an integrated civic event. The ADA requires that public entities ensure that people with disabilities can access and use all of their voting facilities. Because a mix of public and private facilities are used as polling places, public entities may ensure Election Day accessibility of a polling place by using low-cost temporary measures, such as portable ramps or door stops, rather than necessarily making permanent modifications to a facility. [...] The use of temporary measures to provide access to polling places on Election Day does not change a public entity’s obligations under the ADA to ensure that its programs and services are accessible to people with disabilities, nor does it mean that a temporary remedy would be appropriate in a public facility on an everyday basis.

(Reprinted from the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, “ADA Checklist For Polling Places” – available for review at: <https://www.ada.gov/votingchecklist.pdf>).

Additional Resources:

- U.S. Election Assistance Commission, “Help America Vote Act (HAVA)” available at: <https://www.eac.gov/about/help-america-vote-act/>
- Florida Division of Elections, “Accessible Voting for Persons with Disabilities” available at: <https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/voting/accessible-voting-for-persons-with-disabilities/>
- Florida Division of Elections, “The Florida Election Code: Chapters 97-106, Florida Statutes” available at: <https://dos.myflorida.com/media/699702/election-code.pdf>
 - Section [101.56062](#), Florida Statutes – “Standards for accessible voting systems”
 - Section [101.715](#), Florida Statutes – “Accessibility of polling places for people having a disability”
 - Section [102.031](#) Florida Statutes – “(3)(a) *No person may enter any polling room or polling place where the polling place is also a polling room, or any early voting area during voting hours, except the following: [...] 5. Persons there to vote, persons in the care of a voter, or persons caring for such voter.*”

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