

Election Accessibility

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INDIANA

DISABILITY RIGHTS

Marie Stuart Edwards



Peru, IN; Miami County
1880-1970

Founder, League of Women Voters

Image Credit: <https://blog.library.in.gov/marie-stuart-edwards-suffragist-and-social-reformer/>



Objectives

- Learn about Indiana Disability Rights (IDR) and How It Helps Clerks
- Review Election Accessibility Basics
- See Accessible Voting Examples
- Get Your Questions Answered



Intro to IDR



You May Know IDR From

- County Clerk Conference 2022
- Early voting site accessibility surveys
- 2023 settlement creating accessible absentee voting options for voters with print disabilities



Mission

To uphold, promote, and advance the rights of individuals with disabilities through empowerment and advocacy to achieve a more equitable society.



Who We Are

- Advocates
- Attorneys
- Other experts
 - Policy and Special Projects
 - Finance
 - Operations



What We Do

- Information and referral
- Self-advocacy training
- Individual advocacy
- Systemic advocacy



Issue Areas

- Abuse, Neglect, and Discharge
- Community Access
- Education
- Employment
- Health Care
- Housing
- Representative Payee
- Self-Determination
- Voting



Voting Rights

- Ensure that elections are accessible to voters with disabilities
- 2023 initiatives
 - Provide technical assistance to County Clerks
 - Survey early voting sites for accessibility
 - Educate and empower voters with disabilities



Making Elections Accessible



Legal Framework

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – grants the right to a physically accessible polling place
- Help America Vote Act (HAVA) – requires each polling place to have at least one working voting machine that enables voters to vote privately and independently



Types of Accessibility

- Physical
- Informational
- Privacy and independence
 - Accessible machine
 - Voter assistance
 - Absentee options



Accessible Voting Examples



Common Accessibility Concerns Identified in 2022

- Parking: Absence of “Van Accessible” signs
- Exterior Path of Travel: Potholes, absence of accessible entrance signs
- Interior Path of Travel: Protruding objects
- Voting Area: Accessible voting machine



Van Accessible Parking Signs (1 of 2)

- Relevant Law: ADA
- Van accessible parking spaces must be designated as such on the sign at these spaces



Van Accessible Parking Signs (2 of 2)



Potholes (1 of 2)



Potholes (2 of 2)

- Relevant Law: ADA
- Route of exterior travel should be free of surface openings greater than one-half inch
- Solutions
 - Work with county, company, etc. to repave
 - Cover with ramp or other stable object
 - Place cone inside pothole



Accessible Entrance Signs (1 of 2)

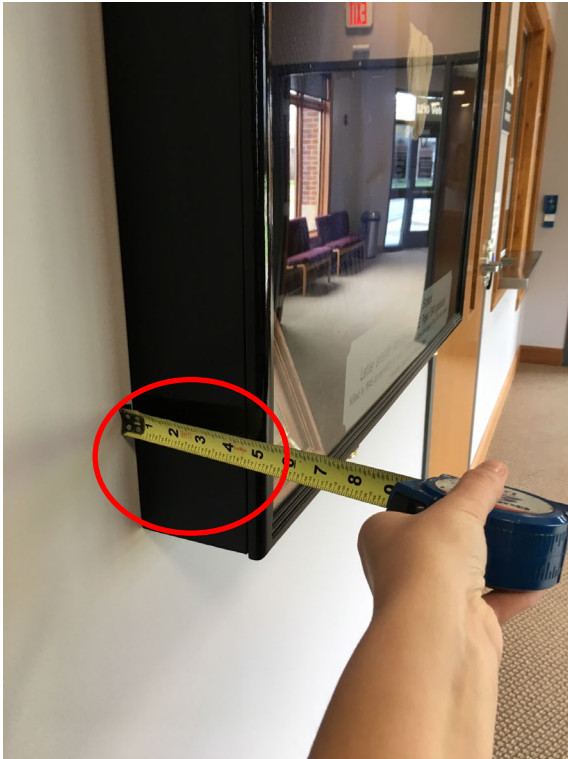
- Relevant Law: ADA
- At least one accessible entrance required
- Inaccessible entrances must have signs directing voters to the accessible entrance



Accessible Entrance Signs (2 of 2)



Protruding Objects (1 of 2)



Protruding Objects (2 of 2)

- Relevant Law: ADA
- If a wall-mounted object is higher than 27 inches, it must not protrude more than four inches into the path of travel
- Place an object or a barrier, such as a traffic cone, below the protruding object in the cane-detectable area
- Includes underside of stairs



Accessible Voting Machine

- Relevant Law: HAVA
- At least one accessible voting machine be placed in each polling place
- Turned on
- Tested to ensure functionality

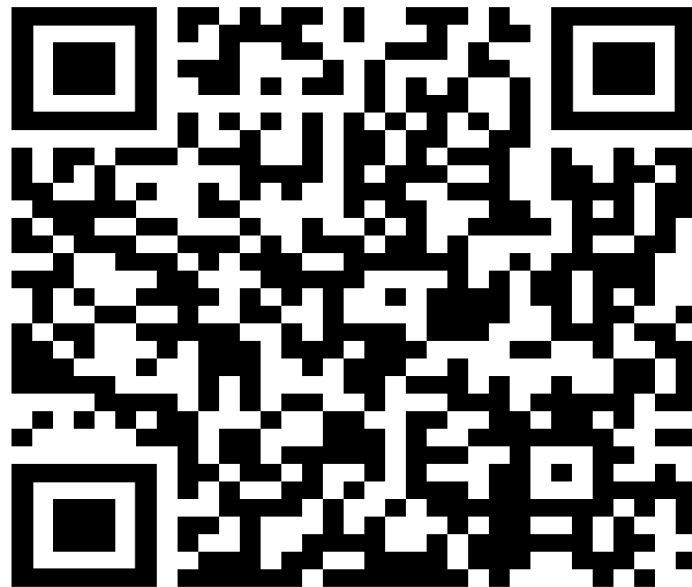


How IDR Can Help



Download this Presentation

- To download a copy of the slides from today's presentation, scan the QR code or visit <https://www.in.gov/idr/hoosiers-vote/making-polls-accessible/>



Free Polling Place Accessibility Review Process

1. Virtual meeting to identify focus areas and potential concerns;
2. Site visits up to five polling places;
3. Detailed accessibility report for each site; and
4. Access to additional resources.



Obtaining a Polling Place Accessibility Review

- If you would like an IDR Advocate to proactively review county election sites with your team, contact Kristin Dulaney.
- Request deadlines
 - March 10 for Primary Election
 - September 8 for General Election
- IDR will issue a review to the first 10 requesting counties



Q&A



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Contact IDR

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Thank you!



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