



ADA Audio Conference Series October 16, 2018 The Right to Vote: Access for People with Disabilities

This session is scheduled to begin at
2:00pm Eastern Time

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- If you are connected via a mobile device you may submit questions in the chat area within the App
- Questions may also be emailed to webinars@ada-audio.org



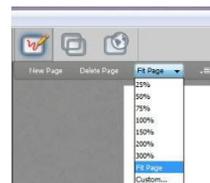
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Customize Your View, *continued*

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 1. **In webinar platform:** Send a private chat message to the host by double clicking “Great Lakes ADA” in the participant list. A tab titled “Great Lakes ADA” will appear in the chat panel. Type your comment in the text box and “enter” (Keyboard - F6, Arrow up or down to locate “Great Lakes ADA” and select to send a message); or
 2. **By Email** webinars@ada-audio.org ; or
 3. **Call** 877-232-1990 (V/TTY)

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The Right to Vote: Access for People with Disabilities

Michelle Bishop, Voting Rights Specialist

October 2018

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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

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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.

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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."

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Elections Are Coming

- 2018 Midterm General Election:
Tuesday November 6

- Learn more:

www.vote411.org

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Why Our Vote Is So Important

- Disability voter turnout is 6% behind non-disabled Americans
- That's about 3 million missing voters
- That's enough voters to win any election

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Voting Accessibility Laws

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Help America Vote Act (HAVA)
- Voting Rights Act (VRA)
- ...and there are more.

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ADA and Voter Access

- Architectural access standards apply
- <https://www.ada.gov/votingck.htm>
- Same-day modifications can be used
- To check a specific polling site:
 - Contact your local elections official
 - Contact your P&A

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HAVA and the Voting Booth

- Private and independent ballot
- Replacement of punch card systems
- Voluntary Voting System Guidelines
- US Election Assistance Commission
 - www.eac.gov

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Voting Rights Act

- Section 208 provides for voters who need assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write.
- Any such voter may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of the employer or officer or agent of the voter's union.

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The Current State of Poll Access

- US Government Accountability Office:
<https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-18-4>
- Surveys in 2000, 2008, and 2016
- Must be requested by Congress

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Path of Travel: Parking to Booth

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

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The Voting Booth

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

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Types of Impediments

- Not set up for privacy:
 - 2008: 23%
 - 2016: 28%
- Not wheelchair accessible:
 - 2008: 29%
 - 2016: 42%

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Types of Impediments (Cont)

- No earphones:
 - 2008: 6%
 - 2016: 9%
- Voting system powered off:
 - 2008: 5%
 - 2016: 7%

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The Bottom Line

- Polling places are slowly becoming more accessible.
- Voting stations are becoming less accessible.

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Options for Voters

- Curbside voting
- Early voting
- Absentee balloting
- Ballot machine delivery
- Relocation of polling place

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Researching Your Options

- Your state elections website
- Your local elections officials
- Your P&A: www.ndrn.org
- www.electionary.info

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When Voting Goes Wrong

- Call your P&A: www.ndrn.org
- Call Election Protection: www.866ourvote.org
- NAD's ASL Hotline
- The Arc's voter app

The Bottom Line

- Don't forfeit your right to vote.

Thank You

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