



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

Real-Time Captioning, and the PowerPoint Presentation are available through the Webinar Platform. Audio Connection is available through the webinar platform/telephone/Mobile App.

Listening to the Webinar

- The audio for today's webinar is being broadcast through your computer. Please make sure your speakers are turned on or your headphones are plugged in.
- You can control the audio broadcast via the Audio & Video panel. You can adjust the sound by "sliding" the sound bar left or right.
- If you are having sound quality problems check your audio controls by going through the Audio Wizard **which is accessed by selecting the microphone icon on the Audio & Video panel.**



Listening to the Webinar by Mobile

- iPhone, iPad, or Android (including Kindle Fire HD):
- Individuals may listen** to the session using the Blackboard Collaborate Mobile App (available free from the Apple Store, Google Play or Amazon).



** Blackboard Collaborate Mobile App does not display Closed Captioning, has limited accessibility for screen reader and Voiceover users, and will not show the "Web Tour" portion of today's program.



Captioning

- Real-time captioning is provided during this webinar.
- The caption screen can be accessed by choosing the "CC" icon in the Audio & Video panel.
- Once selected you will have the option to resize the captioning window, change the font size and save the transcript.



4

Submitting Questions

- If you are listening by phone you will be instructed by the Operator on how to ask a question.
- Webinar participants may type and submit questions in the Chat Area Text Box or press Control-M and enter text in the Chat Area. You will not be able to see the question after you submit it but it will be viewable by the presenters.
- 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



Please note: This webinar is being recorded and can be accessed on the ADA Audio Conference Series website at www.ada-audio.org within 24 hours after the conclusion of the session. The edited written transcript will be posted at this same site within 7 business days following the conclusion of the session.



5

Customize Your View

Resize the whiteboard where the presentation slides are shown to make it smaller or larger, by choosing from the drop down menu located above and to the left of the whiteboard. The default is "fit page".



6

Customize Your View, *continued*

• Resize/Reposition the Chat, Participant and Audio & Video panels by “detaching” and using your mouse to reposition or “stretch/shrink”.

• Each panel may be detached using the  icon in the upper right corner of each panel.



7

Technical Assistance

• If you experience any technical difficulties during today’s session:

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)



8

The Right to Vote: Access for People with Disabilities

Michelle Bishop, Voting Rights Specialist
October 2018

9



NDRN

- National Disability Rights Network
- The nonprofit membership organization for the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems for individuals with disabilities



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.



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.”



Elections Are Coming

- 2018 Midterm General Election:
Tuesday November 6
- Learn more:
www.vote411.org

13



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

14



Voting Accessibility Laws

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

15



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



16

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



17

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.



18

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



19

Path of Travel: Parking to Booth

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



20

The Voting Booth

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



21

Types of Impediments

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



22

Types of Impediments (Cont)

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



23

The Bottom Line

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



24

Options for Voters

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



35

Researching Your Options

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



36

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



37

The Bottom Line

- Don't forfeit your right to vote.



Thank You

Michelle Bishop, MSW
Voting Rights Specialist
National Disability Rights Network
(202) 408-9514
michelle.bishop@ndrn.org
www.ndrn.org


