Physical Access for Voters with Disabilities

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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
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.”
The Current State of Polling Access

According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO):

• In 2000, 84% of polling places were not fully accessible.
• In 2008, 73% of polling places were not fully accessible.
The Current State of Polling Access

According to voters with disabilities:

• No accessible entrance, path of travel, or parking.
• Lack of signage.
• Elevators locked or out of service.
• Voting equipment not set up or in use.
• Misinformed poll workers.
Know the Regs

• Voting Rights Act
• Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act
• Americans with Disabilities Act
• National Voter Registration Act
• Help America Vote Act
Collect Resources

• www.eac.gov

• http://sfgov.org/elections/poll-workers-poll-providers

• Clemson University: Research Alliance for Accessible Voting

• https://www.ada.gov/archive/votingscrn_old.pdf
If You Remember 3 Things…

• Start right now.
• Focus on poll worker training.
• Call your state’s P&A.
Thank You

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