



**Vote Independently!**

Accessible Voting  
in Mason County

## The Accessible Voting Unit (AVU)

is an electronic voting device that increases the opportunity for Mason County citizens with disabilities to fully participate in the voting process and guarantees their right to vote privately and independently.

The AVU presents ballots on a monitor and is equipped with technology that allows the voter with vision, hearing, and mobility issues to view, vote and cast a ballot.

This voting equipment is available to any voter who wishes to use it, but it is especially beneficial to voters with disabilities. Special features of this voting equipment include:

- **Audio-access:** Headphones are available to provide an audio version of the ballot.
- **Tactile Switches:** A device to assist voters with limited upper-body mobility or dexterity.
- **Navigation Buttons:** Large, distinct buttons and braille for navigating through the ballot for voters who are blind or visually impaired.
- **Sip and Puff:** A device capable of assisting voters with quadriplegia.



DAU eSlate

# Make Your Vote Count!

The Accessible Voting Unit (AVU) is available at the Auditor's office at least 18 days prior to each election during regular business hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, closed for lunch 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Monday thru Friday, and until 8 pm on Election Day.

AVUs are wheelchair-accessible and curtained off from other voters to maintain privacy.

The AVUs are available for voter outreach events and to organizations that provide services to persons with disabilities.

For more information and updates on accessible voting, visit our website at: [www.co.mason.wa.us/auditor](http://www.co.mason.wa.us/auditor).



*"The AVU was so easy to use! The staff was very helpful and I look forward to using it again."*

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

## Voter Accessibility Enhancements

Using federal grant money, the Auditor's office has recently completed several projects to improve accessibility for our voters!



New accessible parking spaces and curb cut-outs were added to provide easier and safer access to the Auditor's office.



Stairs in Building 1, leading up to the Auditor's office were retread to include grip rails, vertical risers, and slip-proof padding. The first step was painted bright yellow to assist voters with vision impairment.



Pull-out trays have been installed at each customer service window to assist anyone who uses a wheelchair or is unable to reach the counters.

All five ballot drop boxes were lowered to meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

A part-time Accessibility Coordinator was hired to assist with voter outreach and education.



## **Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee**

The Auditor's office has established and maintains a Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC). Members of this committee include persons with diverse disabilities and those with expertise in providing accommodations for persons with disabilities.

The purpose of this committee is to advise the Auditor and the Elections Office on ways to improve the accessibility of elections. The goal is to ensure that all voters are fully able to participate in the voting process and have the opportunity to vote privately and independently.

The committee has expanded its focus and plans to address and recommend ways to better serve voters with cognitive issues and language barrier issues. Additionally, they plan to look into ways to assist voters who are currently homeless or displaced.

The committee meets regularly and all scheduled meetings are posted on the Auditor's website at: [www.co.mason.wa.us/auditor](http://www.co.mason.wa.us/auditor).

If you would like to join this committee, please contact the Elections Office.

Mason County has five ballot drop boxes installed throughout the county. Ballots can be deposited without a stamp and it is the most secure method to ensure ballots are received on time.

Outdoor boxes are open 24 hours a day for convenience and are emptied regularly by two elections staff members. The boxes are opened the day ballots become available, at least 18 days prior to an election, and remain open until 8:00 pm on Election Day.

In recent elections, over 50% of all ballots were returned through accessible ballot drop boxes.



### **Belfair**

Next to Rite Aid  
23910 NE State Route 3  
Belfair, WA 98528



### **Shelton**

Auditor's Office  
411 North Fifth St.  
Shelton, WA 98584



### **Shelton**

Timberland Regional Library  
710 W Alder  
Shelton, WA 98584



### **Hoodsport**

Hood Canal Visitor Center  
150 N Lake Cushman Rd  
Hoodsport, WA 98548



### **Alllyn**

Port of Alllyn  
18560 E State Route 3  
Alllyn, WA 98524



For more information regarding the Accessible Voting Unit (AVU) or for a demonstration, please contact the Elections Department at (360) 427-9670 ext. 470, [elections@co.mason.wa.us](mailto:elections@co.mason.wa.us) or visit us at [www.co.mason.wa.us/auditor](http://www.co.mason.wa.us/auditor).

## **Mason County Auditor's Office**

PO Box 400  
411 N. 5th Street  
Shelton, WA 98584

