

Accessible Voting Plan



Okanogan County Disability Advisory Committee

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Okanogan County Disability Advisory Committee
Plan to Improve Accessibility of Elections
For Voters with Disabilities

1. Number of Poll Sites

Okanogan County will have one poll site for the accessible voting devices. The poll site will be open for 18 days prior to the election from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Election Day from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

2. How the number of Poll Sites was determined

Okanogan County currently has 2 Disability Access Units (DAUs) to service the entire county. It was determined that the optimum availability to the DAU would be achieved by placing it in the Okanogan County Courthouse for 18 days prior to the election. To date, all outreach materials published and mailed have indicated that the DAU is available in the Auditor's Office of the Okanogan County Courthouse. The location will allow us to determine if mobile access is necessary and to what extent it is necessary.

3. Locations

Poll Site and Drop Off Site: Okanogan County Courthouse
Auditor's Office – 1st Floor
149 3rd Ave N.
Okanogan, WA 98840

Drop Box Sites: Okanogan County Courthouse
Auditor's Office – 1st Floor
149 3rd Ave N.
Okanogan, WA 98840

Omak City Hall
North Side Parking Lot
2 N. Ash St
Omak, WA 98841

Tonasket City Hall
209 S Whitcomb Ave
Tonasket, WA 98855

Pateros City Hall
Lakeshore DR W.
Pateros, WA 98846

4. Community Outreach

Okanogan County will produce flyers on the AVU for outreach on the website, bulletin boards as well as news releases. Every voter in Okanogan County will receive a notice with their ballot that the Disability Access Voting Device will be available for 18 days prior to the election and on Election Day at the Courthouse.

5. Transportation of Voting Devices

No transportation is required at this time.

6. Implementation of the provisions of HAVA

The committee helped us devise a plan to help accommodate disabled voters in Okanogan County. The Auditor's Office is strategically located to the handicapped parking and access ramp. The Elections Deputy will greet and assist voters with casting their ballot on the AVU.

7. Training in respectful communication

All Okanogan County Auditor's Office staff has had training in customer service and communications.

8. Training on how to help voters use the equipment

Hart, the vendor for our voting equipment, provided training to the staff as well as assisted in the design of informative outreach materials for our Disability Access Voting Devices.

9. Identify areas where people with disabilities can participate by assisting in the process as workers.

We will begin looking for volunteers who could demo our AVU at Senior Centers, schools, etc.

10. Annual meetings to be held the **First Thursday of April and October.**



What is a DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

As a result of a Washington State Law -RCW 29A.46.260, each county has an advisory committee that includes people with disabilities. One purpose of the disability advisory committee is to provide input to county election departments on reasonable accommodations that might be needed to ensure equal access to vote so that voters with disabilities are able to vote independently and privately.

Priority 3 – Accessible ballot drop boxes	
Use of Funds:	Purchase and install accessible ballot drop boxes prior to October 19, 2012, the start of the voting period.
Eligible Applicants:	<p>County Auditors</p> <p>Counties that do not currently have a Disability Advisory Committee are allowed to apply under the following circumstances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Document the formation of a DAC by 2/28/2012 2. The DAC must meet by 3/31/2012 to discuss the location of the ballot drop boxes among other accessibility related issues 3. Provide a copy of the meeting minutes to the HAVA Coordinator <p>Counties that do not have at least two drop boxes and have not received funding for accessible ballot drop boxes under previous grants will be given priority consideration.</p>
Maximum funding:	\$6,000
Reporting:	Photograph documentation of the installed ballot drop box must be electronically submitted to the HAVA Coordinator prior to reimbursement requests.

RCW's

RCW 29A.46.010

"Disability access voting location."

"Disability access voting location" means a location designated by the county auditor for the conduct of in-person disability access voting.

[2004 c 267 Â§ 301.]

Notes: **Effective dates -- 2004 c 267:** See note following RCW [29A.08.651](#).

RCW 29A.46.030

"In-person disability access voting."

"In-person disability access voting" means a procedure in which a voter may come in person to a disability access location and cast a ballot during the disability access voting period.

[2004 c 267 Â§ 303.]

Notes: **Effective dates -- 2004 c 267:** See note following RCW [29A.08.651](#).

RCW 29A.46.110

When allowed â€” Multiple voting prevention.

In-person disability access voting must be available starting twenty days before the day of a primary or election and ending the day of the election. During this period, the county auditor must make available a voting system certified by the secretary of state for disability access. The auditor shall maintain a system or systems to prevent multiple voting.

[2006 c 207 Â§ 6; 2004 c 267 Â§ 304.]

Notes: **Effective dates -- 2004 c 267:** See note following RCW [29A.08.651](#).

RCW 29A.46.120

Locations and hours.

The county auditor has sole discretion for determining locations within the county and operating hours for disability access voting locations.

[2004 c 267 Â§ 305.]

Notes: **Effective dates -- 2004 c 267:** See note following RCW [29A.08.651](#).

RCW 29A.46.130

Compliance with federal and state requirements.

In-person disability access voting must be conducted using disability access voting devices at locations that are acceptable and comply with federal and state access requirements.

[2004 c 267 Â§ 306.]

Notes: **Effective dates -- 2004 c 267:** See note following RCW [29A.08.651](#).

RCW 29A.04.223

Vote by mail impacts on voters with disabilities — Mitigation — Advisory committee, plan.

(1) The legislature finds that the elimination of polling places resulting from the transition to vote by mail creates barriers that restrict the ability of many voters with disabilities from achieving the independence and privacy in voting provided by the accessible voting devices required under the help America vote act. Counties must take appropriate steps to mitigate these impacts and to address the obligation to provide voters with disabilities an equal opportunity to vote independently and privately, to the extent that this can be achieved without incurring undue administrative and financial burden.

(2) Each county shall establish and maintain an advisory committee that includes persons with diverse disabilities and persons with expertise in providing accommodations for persons with disabilities. The committee shall assist election officials in developing a plan to identify and implement changes to improve the accessibility of elections for voters with disabilities. The plan shall include recommendations for the following:

(a) The number of voting centers that will be maintained in order to ensure that people with disabilities have reasonable access to accessible voting devices, and a written explanation for how the determination was made;

(b) The locations of ballot drop-off facilities, voting centers, and other election-related functions necessary to maximize accessibility to persons with disabilities;

(c) Outreach to voters with disabilities on the availability of disability accommodation, including in-person disability access voting;

(d) Transportation of voting devices to locations convenient for voters with disabilities in order to ensure reasonable access for voters with disabilities; and

(e) Implementation of the provisions of the help America vote act related to persons with disabilities.

Counties must update the plan at least annually. The election review staff of the secretary of state shall review and evaluate the plan in conformance with the review procedure identified in RCW [29A.04.570](#).

(3) Counties may form a joint advisory committee to develop the plan identified in subsection (2) of this section if no more than one of the participating counties has a population greater than seventy thousand.

[2011 c 10 § 44; 2010 c 215 § 5; 2006 c 207 § 7. Formerly RCW [29A.46.260](#).]

Notes:

Notice to registered poll voters -- Elections by mail -- 2011 c 10: See note following RCW [29A.04.008](#).

Findings -- 2010 c 215: See note following RCW [50.40.071](#).

Washington Office of the Secretary of State

Accessible Ballot Drop Box Guidelines

These guidelines are effective October 1, 2008 for the purpose of receiving a grant under the Accessibility Grant Program

1. Walkway or path of travel to the drop box must be ADA Accessible.
2. The path of travel must be safe and clear of obstacles.
3. The drop boxes should be easily accessible via public transportation routes unless an exception is requested.
4. The area surrounding the drop box must accommodate a five foot safe turning radius for chair users.
5. The drop box should be usable without manually opening.
6. Opening should be no higher than 48 inches and no lower than 15 inches from the ground.
7. Ballot drop box should not have pointed or sharp edges.
8. Any written information on the drop box should be no less than 3 inches with non-glare finish. Characters and symbols should contrast with their background -- either light characters on a dark background or dark characters on a light background.
9. Placement of the drop box should be done in consultation with the local Disability Accessible Committee.

For more detailed information on ADA regulations visit <http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/>

DOJ Accessible Route

4.3 Accessible Route.

4.3.1* General. All walks, halls, corridors, aisles, skywalks, tunnels, and other spaces that are part of an accessible route shall comply with [4.3. Appendix Note](#)

4.3.2 Location.

(1) At least one accessible route within the boundary of the site shall be provided from public transportation stops, accessible parking, and accessible passenger loading zones, and public streets or sidewalks to the accessible building entrance they serve. The accessible route shall, to the maximum extent feasible, coincide with the route for the general public.

(2) At least one accessible route shall connect accessible buildings, facilities, elements, and spaces that are on the same site.

(3) At least one accessible route shall connect accessible building or facility entrances with all accessible spaces and elements and with all accessible dwelling units within the building or facility.

(4) An accessible route shall connect at least one accessible entrance of each accessible dwelling unit with those exterior and interior spaces and facilities that serve the accessible dwelling unit.

4.3.3 Width. The minimum clear width of an accessible route shall be 36 in (915 mm) except at doors (see [4.13.5](#) and [4.13.6](#)). If a person in a wheelchair must make a turn around an obstruction, the minimum clear width of the accessible route shall be as shown in [Fig. 7\(a\)](#) and [\(b\)](#).

4.3.4 Passing Space. If an accessible route has less than 60 in (1525 mm) clear width, then passing spaces at least 60 in by 60 in (1525 mm by 1525 mm) shall be located at reasonable intervals not to exceed 200 ft (61 m). A T-intersection of two corridors or walks is an acceptable passing place.

4.3.5 Head Room. Accessible routes shall comply with [4.4.2](#).

4.3.6 Surface Textures. The surface of an accessible route shall comply with [4.5](#).

4.3.7 Slope. An accessible route with a running slope greater than 1:20 is a ramp and shall comply with [4.8](#). Nowhere shall the cross slope of an accessible route exceed 1:50.

4.3.8 Changes in Levels. Changes in levels along an accessible route shall comply with [4.5.2](#). If an accessible route has changes in level greater than 1/2 in (13 mm), then a curb ramp, ramp, elevator, or platform lift (as permitted in [4.1.3](#) and [4.1.6](#)) shall be provided that complies with [4.7](#), [4.8](#), [4.10](#), or [4.11](#), respectively. An accessible route does not include stairs, steps, or escalators. See definition of "egress, means of" in [3.5](#).

4.3.9 Doors. Doors along an accessible route shall comply with [4.13](#).

4.3.10* Egress. Accessible routes serving any accessible space or element shall also serve as a means of egress for emergencies or connect to an accessible area of rescue assistance. [Appendix Note](#)

Help America Vote Act

HAVA, is a United States federal law which passed in the House 357-48 and 92-2 in the Senate and was signed into law by President Bush on October 29, 2002. Drafted (at least in part) in reaction to the controversy surrounding the 2000 U.S. presidential election, the goals of HAVA are:

- a) Replace punchcard and lever-based voting systems;**
- b) Create the Election Assistance Commission to assist in the administration of Federal elections; and**
- c) Establish minimum election administration standards.**

Almost two million ballots were disqualified in the 2000 election because they registered multiple votes or none when run through vote-counting machines.

HAVA mandates that all states and localities upgrade many aspects of their election procedures, including their voting machines, registration processes and poll worker training. The specifics of implementation have been left up to each state, which allows for varying interpretations of the Federal law.

Accessibility

Polling place

The Secretary of Health and Human Services is authorized to make payments to state and local governments for making polling places, including the path of travel, entrances, exits, and voting areas of each polling facility, accessible to individuals with disabilities, including the blind and visually impaired, in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) as for other voters; and providing individuals with disabilities and others with information about the accessibility of polling places, including outreach programs to inform the individuals about the availability of accessible polling places and training election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers on how best to promote the access and participation of individuals with disabilities in elections for Federal office.

Notes: