

DISABILITY RELATED INFORMATION FROM OHIO LEGAL RIGHTS WEBSITE:
http://olrs.ohio.gov/asp/pub_VoterRights.asp#eligible

Voting Identification

Before casting your ballot, you will be asked to sign your name or make a mark in the polling book or poll list. The board of elections must make reasonable accommodations in the signing/marking process, including, for example, allowing the use of any available assistive technology or device to help you sign your name or mark. If despite accommodations you are physically unable to make a mark or signature, you can have another adult resident of this state sign the polling book for you if you file with the board of elections a document authorizing that person to sign for you (as an “attorney in fact”).

Assistance with Casting Your Ballot

Voters with disabilities have a right to equal access to their polling location, and to cast a private ballot. Voters with disabilities who have complaints about access, meaningful accommodations, assistance, or other rights violations can contact OLRs.

If you want to, you may bring a sample ballot into the voting booth with you. If you need help in voting, you may bring a person of your choice into the voting booth to assist you. However, that person may not be a candidate on the ballot, and may not be an agent of your employer or your labor union. If you need help in voting but have no one to assist you, two poll workers will provide assistance to you in marking your ballot.

It should be noted that until recently some confusion existed in this regard among poll workers. However, a change in Ohio election law has brought state law on this subject into conformity with both federal law and the Glancy consent order. (Ohio Revised Code Section 3505.24, as amended, effective August 28, 2001. The Ohio Revised Code is online at LAWriter Ohio Laws and Rules - Ohio Revised Code.) This development should end any further misunderstanding among poll workers on this subject.

Challenges

A person attempting to vote may not be challenged on the basis of his/her mental capacity. A person may be challenged only on qualifications such as age, residency, and citizenship.

Accessibility

All polling places must be physically accessible to persons with disabilities unless an exemption has been granted by the Secretary of State for good cause. You may contact the county board of elections to confirm that your polling place is accessible. (Refer to the Ohio County Boards of Election Directory on the Ohio Secretary of State Web site.)

If your polling location is not accessible you can make a complaint to OLRs. If it is not accessible, you can require the board of elections to reassign you to an accessible voting location or to provide you another means of casting your ballot on election day. The federal government has published an ADA Checklist for Polling Places to help voting officials understand what makes a polling place accessible.

The Ability Center of Greater Toledo

5605 Monroe Street, Sylvania, OH 43560 • 419.866.5733 • 866.885.5733 • abilitycenter.org

OUR MISSION: *to assist people with disabilities to live, work and socialize within a fully accessible community.*

OUR VISION: *We believe in and support equitable and inclusive communities for people living with disabilities.*