

May I vote?

Yes. Each county has at least one Accessible Voting Unit (AVU), also called Disability Access Unit (DAU), that presents your ballot on a monitor. You select choices

Is equipment available to help me vote?

If you are told by an election worker that you may not vote, and you think you are registered, ask for a **provisional ballot**.

You may **not** register to vote if you are:

- Presently denied your civil rights due to felony conviction; or
- Judicially declared mentally incompetent and not allowed to vote.

To register and vote you must be:

- A citizen of the United States;
- A legal resident of Washington; and
- 18 years old by Election Day.

Go to a voting center in your county on or Election Day. If you receive your ballot in the mail, take it with you to the voting center. An election worker will show you how to use the AVU. Your county elections department may arrange time in advance for you to practice using the AVU.



How do I use an AVU?

by touching the screen, using a select wheel, or by using a tool. You can also use headphones and listen to your ballot. Machines can be fitted with sip-and-puff tools.



Accessible Voting

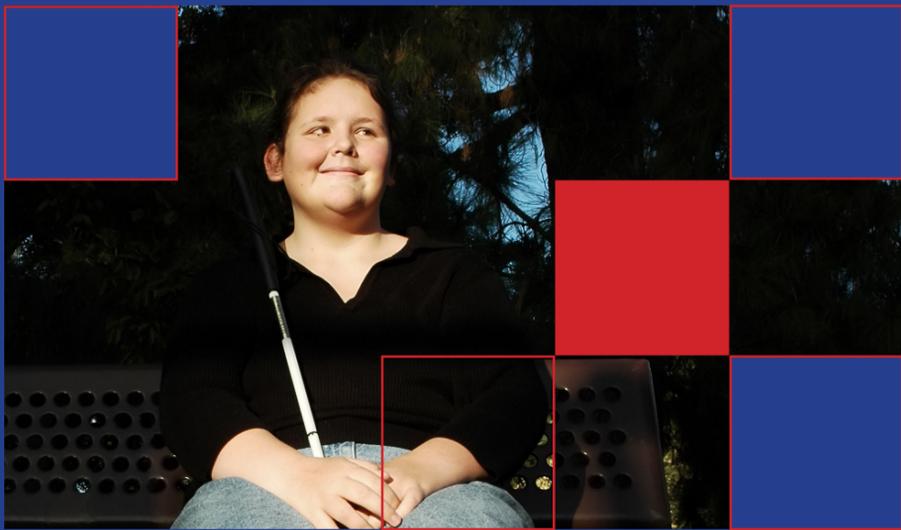
Questions Frequently Asked by **Voters** with **Disabilities**

Alternate formats at www.vote.wa.gov



Postage Required

Washington Secretary of State SAM REED
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Where can I find an Accessible Voting Unit (AVU)?

Every county must have at least one AVU at each voting center. In counties that vote by mail, the elections department office is a voting center. To learn the address of a voting center in your county, call (800) 448-4881.

When may I vote?

AVUs are available for the 20 days before Election Day and on Election Day.

May I ask for help?

Yes, voters with disabilities may choose to ask for help filling out their ballots. You may bring a person with you to the voting center or you may ask for two election workers – one from each political party – to help you fill out your ballot.



Why are voting machines provided?

The federal government passed a law called the Help America Vote Act. This law and other state laws require elections officials to provide voting equipment that allows voters with disabilities to vote as privately and independently as possible.



How does an AVU protect my rights?

The AVU makes it possible for you to make and change your votes before casting your ballot. You will be informed if you have made too many selections (overvoting). In the case of visually impaired voters, an audio warning is provided. AVUs provide a permanent paper record that could be used in an audit or a hand recount.

“We have the fundamental responsibility to protect the right to vote for every citizen, including those with disabilities.”

— Secretary of State Sam Reed

What about guardianship and voting?

A person who has a guardian may still be able to vote and should not be turned away from a voting center by an election worker. Guardianship papers indicate if an individual has the right to vote. If there is ever doubt about a person's voting status, the person should vote a **provisional ballot**.

What is an accessible voting center?



Voting centers must meet all the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. In addition, the AVU must be wheelchair-accessible and it must be screened from other voters to maintain privacy.

What should I do if my voting center is not accessible?

If you or someone you know is concerned about a voting center's accessibility, please contact the Office of the Secretary of State at (800) 448-4881.