

# Accessible Voting

As a voter with a disability, you can request a reasonable accommodation or assistance to vote. The Office of the Secretary of State is committed to ensuring accessibility at voting centers, and that you have the opportunity to vote privately and independently.

## Voter eligibility

To register and vote in Washington you must be:

- A citizen of the United States;
- A legal resident of Washington;
- 18 years old by Election Day;
- Not under the authority of the Department of Corrections; and
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order.

## Voting centers

Federal and state laws require elections officials to provide voting equipment that allows voters with disabilities to vote as privately and independently as possible.

Voting centers must meet all Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. In addition, each county has at least one Accessible Voting Unit (AVU), also called Disability Access Unit (DAU) at each voting center. For more information contact your county department at [www.sos.wa.gov/elections/viewauditors.aspx](http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/viewauditors.aspx).

## Accessibility concerns

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

## Accessible voting units

AVUs are available 18 days before Election Day until 8 p.m. on Election Day. Every county has at least one AVU at each voting center. AVUs must be wheelchair-accessible and screened from other voters to maintain privacy.

Selections are made on AVUs 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.

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

## Assistance voting your ballot

Anyone may assist you in voting your ballot, except your employer or union representative. At a voting center, you may ask for two election workers, one from each political party, to help you fill out your ballot.

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.

## Voter's Pamphlet

Audio and plain text files of the voters' pamphlet are available online at **[www.vote.wa.gov](http://www.vote.wa.gov)**. If you don't have online access, audio files are available on CD or USB through subscription. To join, please contact the Elections Division at **(800) 448-4881** or email **[voterspamphlet@sos.wa.gov](mailto:voterspamphlet@sos.wa.gov)**. Provide name, telephone number, mailing address and if you prefer a CD or USB.