

ASSISTING VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES



Guidelines For Providing Help To
Voters' Requesting Assistance

“YOU NEED HELP”



A REAL LIFE SCENARIO



VOTER ASSISTANCE

General Assistance

Who can ask for assistance?

Any voter with a disability that resides in Oregon can request assistance for:

✓ Registering to vote

✓ Voting their ballot

✓ Returning their voted ballot



VOTER ASSISTANCE

General Assistance - continued

Where can a person ask for assistance?

- ❑ Asking for assistance is simple:
 - ✓ Call the county elections office in the county that the person requesting assistance lives
 - ✓ Call the Oregon Voter Information Toll-free line to request assistance 1.866.ORE.VOTES
1.866.673.8683
 - ✓ Ask for assistance from their caretaker or their care provider



VOTER ASSISTANCE

General Assistance - continued

What is the Provider's Responsibility to offer assistance?

❑ All Congregate living facilities should let their residents know that assistance is available to them. The facility may:

- ✓ Form a Facility Assistance Team*
- ✓ Call on a County Voter's Assistance Team*

**Teams must be made up of two registered voters that do not have the same political party affiliation*

VOTER ASSISTANCE

General Assistance - continued

Who **CAN** provide assistance?

- A County Voter's Assistance Team
- A Facility Voter's Assistance Team
- With some exceptions a person chosen by the voter to assist them can provide assistance.



VOTER ASSISTANCE

General Assistance - continued

Who **CANNOT** provide assistance?

- ❑ The person(s) providing assistance cannot be:
 - ✓ The employer of the person requesting assistance
 - ✓ An agent of the employer
 - ✓ A union officer or agent of a union that the voter requesting assistance is a member of

“THIS IS WHAT’S BEST FOR
YOU”



REAL LIFE SCENARIO



VOTER ASSISTANCE

General Assistance - continued

Tools to help inform voters?

- The State of Oregon Voters' Pamphlet published by the Secretary of States' office
- League of Women Voters simplified voters' guide
- Voting guides published by local advocacy groups
- Web sites offering non-partisan and unbiased information

VOTER ASSISTANCE

General Assistance - continued

Tools to help inform voters?

Any tools used to assist voters in voting their ballot must be:

✓ Non-partisan

✓ Unbiased



VOTER ASSISTANCE

General Assistance - continued

Tools to help inform voters?

❑ The person or person using these tools to assist voters should **NOT**:

- ✓ Summarize information with a bias toward one view
- ✓ Editorialize the text so as to influence the voters' choice
- ✓ Make comments while reading the information to the voter that is meant to persuade or coerce the voter to vote a certain way



VOTER ASSISTANCE

General Assistance - continued

For those assisting a voter: DO NOT

- Display things that suggests a political preference or party allegiance
- Try to influence the person you are assisting to choose or not choose a particular political party



VOTER ASSISTANCE

General Assistance - continued

For those assisting a voter: DO NOT

- Try to influence the person you are assisting to vote their ballot in a particular way

- Wear anything that would reasonably be understood to be associated with a past, present or future political party or political preference

VOTER ASSISTANCE



Voting The Ballot

“VOTE FOR JOE!!”



REAL LIFE SCENARIO



VOTER ASSISTANCE

Voting The Ballot

When assisting an individual to vote their ballot DO:

- Respect the voter's request for privacy
- Respect the voter's right to secrecy, do not share how the voter voted with anyone.
- Check the instructions on the ballot and have the voter use either a pen (blue or black ink only) or a No. 2 pencil
- Make sure the voter has completely filled in the oval or completed the arrow to the left of the voter's choice



VOTER ASSISTANCE

Voting The Ballot

When assisting an individual to vote their ballot DO:

- Explain that the voter **DOES NOT** have to vote on every contest if they choose not to. Contests voted on by the voter will still be counted
- Explain that if the person voting votes **BOTH** “Yes” and “No” or if they vote for more candidates than allowed it is an overvote. Overvotes **DO NOT** count for that particular measure or candidate



VOTER ASSISTANCE

Voting The Ballot - continued

When assisting an individual to vote their ballot DO:

- Offer to correct a mistake made by the voter to indicate the voter's true intent
- Provide opportunity for the voter to get a Replacement Ballot* (slide 26) if the voter requests one
- Check the back of the ballot for additional election contests



VOTER ASSISTANCE

Voting The Ballot - continued

When assisting an individual to vote their ballot **DO NOT**:

- Make any stray marks outside any of the selected ovals or arrows
- Force the voter to vote for all candidate races or issues on the ballot



VOTER ASSISTANCE

Voting The Ballot - continued

When assisting an individual to vote their ballot DO NOT:

- Change the vote unless requested to do so by the voter you are assisting
- Coerce or pressure the voter to vote in a certain way or for a certain candidate



VOTER ASSISTANCE

Replacement Ballot

A replacement ballot can be requested if the voter:

- Makes a mistake (votes for the wrong candidate, overvotes, etc);
- Damages or spoils their ballot (it is torn, something is spilled on it, etc.);
- Loses their ballot; OR
- For ANY OTHER REASON
- Contact your county elections office to request a replacement ballot



VOTER ASSISTANCE

Returning The Ballot

When assisting an individual to RETURN their ballot DO:

- Insert the ballot inside the Secrecy Envelope and seal it (unless the voter requests NOT to use the Secrecy Envelope)
- Insert the Secrecy Envelope inside the Return Identification Envelope and seal it

VOTER ASSISTANCE

Returning The Ballot - continued

When assisting an individual to RETURN their ballot DO:

- Make sure the voter:
 - ✓ Signs the Return Identification Envelope; or
 - ✓ Stamps their Return Identification Envelope with their signature stamp; or
 - ✓ Puts their mark on the Return Identification Envelope

VOTER ASSISTANCE

Returning The Ballot - continued

When assisting an individual to RETURN their ballot DO:

Signature Stamp Attestation

** If the voter, due to a disability, is unable to sign the Return Identification Card they may use a stamp or put their mark on the Return Identification Envelope. In order for this to be a valid signature the voter must have submitted a “Signature Stamp Attestation” card to their County Elections Office at the time they registered or while updating their registration that indicates how they will be signing their voted ballot.*

VOTER ASSISTANCE

Returning The Ballot - continued

When assisting an individual to RETURN their ballot DO:

Immediately:

- ✓ Mail the sealed Return Identification Envelope if the voter provides postage
- ✓ Hand-deliver the sealed Return Identification Envelope to any official ballot drop site or county elections office if the voter does not provide postage
- ✓ Deposit the sealed Return Identification Envelope in the locked portable drop box provided by the Assistance Team

VOTER ASSISTANCE

Paper Trail Log

SIGNATURE OF ASSISTANCE TEAM MEMBERS	NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING ASSISTANCE	DATE	SIGNATURE OF FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE	DISPOSITION OF BALLOT



VOTER ASSISTANCE

Contact Information

Visit: <http://www.oregonvotes.org/>

Call: 1.866.ORE-VOTES
(673.8683)

Frank Garcia, Jr. 503.986.1527
mailto: frankgarcia-jr@state.or.us

Gene Newton 503.986.1506
mailto: gene.a.newton@state.or.us



VOTER ASSISTANCE

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, SERVICE,
AND COMMITMENT TO HELPING ENSURE
THE CONTINUED INTEGRITY OF
ELECTIONS IN OREGON AND FOR
ASSISTING OTHERS TO CAST THEIR VOTE***

QUESTIONS?

“THEY CAN’T VOTE!!”



REAL LIFE SCENARIO

Things to Vote On

Check off the things to vote on.

- President
- Senator
- Representative
- Governor
- Mayor
- County Commissioner
- City Council Members
- Measures, Propositions
- Taxes, Bonds
- School Board Members
- Others?



Facilitator Instructions Topic #2

How Does Voting Fit into Your Life? 30 minutes

- 1). Discuss how voting fits into our lives. The facilitators will share a story about how voting has made a difference for them.

We have been talking about what voting means in our lives. Each of us has our own reasons for voting. Please share with us a personal story about how voting fits into your life.

- 2). Questions to ask to get the conversation going could be:

What types of things or people have you voted for, such as, presidential candidates, state senators and representatives, tax changes, state measures?

How did it make you feel to vote and cast a ballot?

What is your responsibility as a citizen to vote?

- 3). Pass out Handout “Things to Vote On.”

Put up Overhead “Things to Vote On” for a visual.

- 4). Go over the Overhead list and ask:

Who voted on this? Please raise you hand as I mention these things and let us know if you have voted on any of these.

- 5). Ask what other things participants vote on?
- 6) Questions?



Oregon Voters' Bill of Rights

- You have the right to vote.
 - Even if you have a guardian (unless a judge has said you can't vote)
 - Even if you need help reading or filling out the ballot
- You have the right to ask for help.
 - From elections staff
 - From a friend or family member
- You have the right to choose what party to join.
 - For example, Democrat or Republican
- You have the right to be told if you are registered.
- You have the right to have your vote be secret. You don't have to tell anyone how you voted.
- You have the right to vote for the person you want. You can even write in someone else's name if you don't like the choices you are given.



Bill of Rights, continued

- You have the right to vote “yes” or “no” on any issue.
- You have the right to leave some choices blank, if you want.
- You have the right to get a special ballot called a “provisional ballot”, even if you are told you are not registered. They will check later to make sure you are registered, and then count your vote if you are.
- You have the right to get a new ballot if you make a mistake on your ballot.
- You have the right to use a signature stamp (but you must fill out a form first).
- You have the right to be shown how to use voting machines and to practice on them before voting your ballot.
- You have the right to vote on election day, if you are in line at the election office by 8:00 p.m.



My Vote

By Jeffery Ridgeway

They say I can't vote.
They say the decision is not mine.
They say I don't understand.
I guess they think they're being kind.
I wonder what they would say or think if they only knew
that when they call the President "Our President,"
I want to call him mine, too.
If I never get the chance to vote –
pulling the lever, punching the card or writing his name down –
I stay the same – dumb, misinformed, unchanged, unempowered.
That is what this world expects me to be.
But I want so much more!!!
I want to be the most educated – the most informed –
the most totally changed – the most totally empowered person I can be when
I vote.
I can make a difference and then I can say with pride,
"Not yours, not theirs, but my President
because I helped put him there."