

2014

Voters with Disabilities Election Report



“Having a disability is not the problem with voting, it is having the accessible equipment, accessible locations, and respect to do so!”

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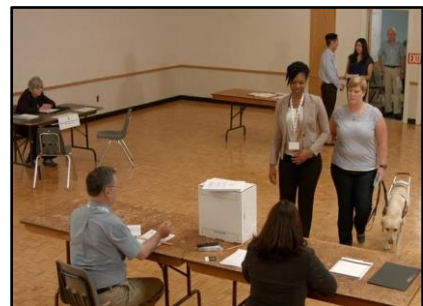


Since 2000, Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), a national self advocacy organization led by people with developmental disabilities for people with developmental disabilities, has taken action to increase the number of voters with disabilities. This national campaign has been led by three people with disabilities (Nancy Ward, OK; Tia Nelis, IL and Teresa Moore, AZ). With support from the University Center for Excellence and Developmental Disabilities in Oregon, The Kennedy Foundation, federal funding and the passage of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) in 2002; SABE continues the work of the National Technical Assistance Center (NTAC) on Voting and Cognitive Access.

The purpose of the Center is to investigate issues around voting for people with disabilities; and, to provide technical assistance to improve their voting experiences and increase the number of voters. In addition, the Center supports the efforts of the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) organizations to build partnerships with Self Advocacy organizations to educate people with disabilities about their voting rights.

SABE began this campaign by asking the question WHY, why were people with disabilities not voting?

- Was it because they did not know they had the right to vote as a citizen of this country?
- Was it because they did not know how to vote or what to expect?



- Were there barriers like:
 - Lack of transportation
 - Not knowing if they could enter the polling location and voting area
 - Could they use the equipment
 - Fear
 - Cultural reasons (Their families believed that their vote did not matter, so they were raised to think that way too)
 - They tried to vote in the past and were told they could not vote because they could not read, or could not see, or could not understand how to use their ballot
 - Guardianship used to limit the rights of voters

Regardless of the exact reason why, SABE's Voter Project, as part of the NTAC, knew about barriers to exercising one's right to vote had to be removed through:

- Policy changes;
- Physical and cognitive accessibility
- Education for people with and without disabilities
- Knowledgeable election officials and poll workers, voters own, parental, and guardian attitudes
- Public and professional community awareness

SABE's Voter Project began by disseminating information to voters about their right to vote and how to vote; information to Boards of Election, and Poll Workers to understand that people with disabilities could not be denied their right to vote; and ideas on how to improve physical and cognitive accessibility for voters. As the Vote Team traveled around the country teaching voters with disabilities about their right to vote, they taught about the "WHY" questions and from those answers were able to create the VOTE Toolkit. The Toolkit was

written by people with disabilities for people with disabilities. The VOTE Toolkit has been revised six times since first released in 2002, and is available on the SABE website, www.govoter.org to read, to learn, and to teach others about voting. Many resources, training videos, and current information about voting issues, and training opportunities are featured.

Even with the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965; and, the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990; people with disabilities continue not to vote. It was not until the passage of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) in 2000 that more people with disabilities began voting. The Act outlined specific regulations that all elections must follow:

- Be held in accessible locations
- Use ballots that encourage (or give confidence) to people to vote rather than discourage (or put off)
- Allow voters to cast their ballot privately and independently

This meant many changes for all of the states. Congress recognized the challenge they placed on the states and allocated funding to help Secretary of State Offices and Election Officials across the country to meet these regulations.

The legal mandate to provide accessible equipment, ballots, polling locations, and voting areas along with the training of Election staff and Poll Worker, has been very slow and challenging. Also, included in HAVA legislation was the allocation of money to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) to support the education and training of people with disabilities. AIDD awarded funds to the existing state Protection and Advocacy systems with the mandate to insure that these voting rights were upheld. Grants were

also funded to assist the P&As in meeting their objective through training and technical assistance. SABE, National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) and the Federation of the Blind were all funded to assist the P&As in meeting their goal. This Report is about how these partners have worked together to collect the information for this report, in order to evaluate if these changes have made a difference in the voting experiences of voters with disabilities.

This Report will present the findings of a “Voter Experience Survey” completed by voters with disabilities about their voting experiences and introduce a survey that collects data on “Polling Place Accessibility”. For purposes of this report,

% = All Voters

(%) = New Voters



APPROACH

The purpose of this report is to determine, from the voter’s perspective, if they were able to cast a private and independent ballot as mandated by law in HAVA for the 2014 election. This includes both the physical accessibility and actual voting experience of the voters. With assistance from a newly formed Vote Assessment Advisory Committee made up representatives from the SABE Vote Team, P&As across the country, state self advocacy leaders, and the Federation of the Blind. Committee members agreed to **ALL** use the same survey instruments to collect this data. By using this approach, more voters could be surveyed from a larger geographic area. Comparisons can be made by state, disability groups, age to name a few. In the past, each group used a different instrument to gather this type of information.

“Number of surveys measuring the personal experiences of voters was 364 collected from 24 states.”

That approach did not allow for any comparison, like can be provided in this report, and kept the survey number small.

Specific areas of interest are:

- Determining if one disability group over another had more voters and/or better voting experiences
- Assessing voter technology
- Assessing accessibility inside and outside the polling location
- Determining impact poll workers have on voting experiences
- Different ways people voted and why

Survey questions asked of voters: “Do you know who to call if you are having problems voting?” or “Did you receive any training about voting?” Information helped the P&As and the SABE Voter Project to know if they needed to be more aggressive about the services they offered.

Attachment A is a copy of the 2014 Survey Instruments. Twenty-four P&As and self advocacy groups volunteered to participate in this study. The majority of the data was collected from Louisiana (23%), Wisconsin (20%), Maryland (13%), Florida (10%) and Georgia (6%). **Table 1** lists all of the participating states.

Our goal was to collect 1000 Voter Experience Surveys and 100 Polling Place Accessibility Surveys. Our outcome was less than our goal; but, the findings from the data collected are very helpful in learning about the self-reported experiences of voters.



Recommendation(s):

- Continue to use the surveys approved by the Vote Assessment Advisory Committee for the 2016 Presidential Election
- Continue to convene and add more members to the Vote Assessment Advisory Committee so more states will be involved and increase the number of surveys
- Get more self advocacy groups to partner with P&As on using the surveys
- Invite more groups to use the surveys, like National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) Self Advocacy Advisory Committee (SAAB), etc.



STRATEGY

With the support of NDRN, SABE's Voter Project convened a Vote Assessment Advisory Committee of interested P&A staff and a representative from the Federation of the Blind to explore the possibility for P&As to use a standardized assessment instrument to collect Election Day experiences of voters with disabilities. **Attachment B** is a membership list of the newly created Vote Assessment Advisory Committee. The Committee reviewed existing instruments from SABE's Voter Project, P&As across the country and the Federation of the Blind. The Vote Assessment Advisory Committee recommended the usage of the two surveys (**Attachment A**) for the 2014 Election.

For 2014, data collectors focused primarily on the Voter Experience Survey rather than the Polling Place Accessibility Survey. The Polling Place Accessibility Survey was developed and field tested by University Legal Services (Washington, DC, P&A). It collects useful information and is reported to be an easy to use instrument for P&A staff, people with disabilities and volunteers to use. Also, the Voter Experience Survey includes some basic physical accessible questions to get a general view of polling place accessibility. Because so few surveys (12) were collected, this study will not report on the findings of the Polling Place Accessibility Survey.

This Report will include both recommended survey instruments. It is the project's goal to use these proven instruments to measure the voter experience and accessibility outcomes for this Election and for comparison with future Elections.

Survey Monkey was used to collect and analyze the data. Both surveys were placed on Survey Monkey and linked to the P&A, self advocacy groups, NDRN and AIDD websites and newsletters. This allowed voters a number of outlets to connect with the survey. By using Survey Monkey, voters with computer technology could go independently to the site and allowed those requesting assistance to do so with a person of their choice.



The surveys were designed to be flexible, allowing participants to skip sections and go directly to the parts of the survey that applied to them. For example, if the voter used an Absentee Ballot, they could skip the sections that asked about their experience with the voting machine as well as the physical layout of the voting area. The surveys were available to print out which allowed voters more options and the comforts of a “paper and pencil fill-in

surveys” to do so. Surveys were collected by local Self Advocacy Groups and P&As and mailed to the Voter Project staff to input manually in Survey Monkey.

Unfortunately, some voters had difficulties connecting to and/or saving their answers to Survey Monkey. As a result, data was lost which resulted in a small data set. This Report analyzes the 364 Voter Experience Surveys that were completed.

Overall, the SABE Voter Team and Advisory Committee members considered Survey Monkey a good way to collect data. It allowed a voter the choice of completing it independently or with assistance. The survey can also be flexible based on the voter’s personal method of voting.



Recommendation(s):

- Revise SABE’s Voter Project budget to include upgrade plan that will allow for consultation with an expert from Survey Monkey to correct the problems voters had when saving their finished surveys
- Use the data collected from surveys to compare the experiences of voters with and without disabilities
- Consider if the information collected in the Voter Experience Survey adequately covers physical accessibility questions so that only one survey could be used?



FINDINGS

The findings in this Report are presented by sections:

- 1) Voter Experience Survey
- 2) Polling Place Accessibility Survey
- 3) Overall Experiences
- 4) Accessibility
- 5) Poll Workers
- 6) Voting Equipment
- 7) Absentee Ballot
- 8) Voter Education

1. Voter Experience Survey

The findings in this Report are organized by questions and presented in Tables. Each Table compares the answers by “All Voters” and “New Voters”. Throughout this Report comparisons are made of the answers of All Voters with New Voters to find any differences, if any, between the two. For purposes of this report, all voters comments will be represented by percentages, percentages in parenthesis refer to New Voters.

Some comparisons are also by age and disability. Voter’s options included: having a disability, what type of disability, their age, and gender. In this survey, if someone completing the survey did not indicate as having a disability, the survey ended.

The information gathered from the 364 completed surveys was collected primarily from five states or 72%, Louisiana, Wisconsin,

Maryland, Florida and Georgia. The remaining 28% were completed in 19 other states listed in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Comparison of Voters By State

State	All Voters	New Voters
AZ	7%	4%
CA	0%	1%
DE	0%	6%
FL	3%	11%
GA	7%	6%
IL	7%	2%
IN	0%	>1%
LA	48%	20%
MA	0%	1%
MD	3%	14%
ME	0%	2%
MN	0%	>1%
MO	0%	>1%
NH	3%	3%
NJ	0%	1%
NM	0%	1%
NY	0%	1%
OH	0%	1%
PA	0%	1%
SC	0%	>1%
TN	0%	>1%
TX	0%	1%
WI	15%	21%
NA	0%	2%

The largest disability represented was intellectual disabilities 33% (65%), then physical disabilities 32% (19%), visual 22% (3%), and mental health 15% (6%). Surveying voters with an intellectual disability can be difficult because many of these voters are non-readers and require more time to complete the survey. The SABE Voter Project has a long history of effectively working with people who have developmental disabilities, especially intellectual disabilities. **Table 2** lists the complete breakdown by disability and provides a comparison of disability types for all Voters. The category of “other” was used by participants to be more specific as to what type of disability they have.

Table 2: Comparison of Voters by Disability

Disability*	All Voters	New Voters
Intellectual	33%	65%
Physical	32%	19%
Visual	22%	3%
Mental Health	15%	6%
Autism	7%	6%
Hearing	5%	10%
Other**	11%	6%

*Voters could check more than one disability so totals are more than 100%

**Down syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Epilepsy, Traumatic Brain Injury, Schizoid-Affective Disorder, Diabetes, Depression/Anxiety, Dyslexia, Polio, Behavioral, Multiple Sclerosis, Learning Disability, and Did Not Want to Disclose

The majority of voters between the ages of 18-25 were New Voters (30%) and the majority of voters between the ages of 56+ (26%) were repeat voters. Efforts were made across the country to reach new voters at a younger age. As shown in **Table 3** some progress has been made in this area.

Table 3: Comparison of Voters by Age

Age Range	All Voters	New Voters
18-25	10%	30%
26-39	29%	22%
40-55	36%	41%
56+	26%	7%
No Response	7%	0%

In this study, 55% (63%) of the voters were female and 44% (37%) male and one person identified themselves as transgender.

Table 4: Comparison of Voters by Gender

Gender	All Voters	New Voters
Male	44%	63%
Female	55%	37%
Transgender	1%	0%



Recommendation(s):

- Continue to target voters with intellectual disabilities to complete the survey
- Increase the number of first time voters completing the survey
- Increase the number of Young Voters so the project can include the youth perspective

2. Polling Place Accessibility Survey

This Report did not include results for this survey, only a copy of it in **Attachment A**. The Vote Assessment Advisory Committee recommended this Polling Place Accessibility Survey (developed by Washington Legal Services, Washington, DC) as the Committee’s choice to collect this type of information. It has been used by P&A staff and volunteers. They reported the survey to be easy to use and understand which is important to the project because people with disabilities also served as volunteers to collect the information.

The major areas surveyed were:

- Parking
- Accessible Entrance
- Accessible Route
- Door Bell or Call Bell
- Voting
- Comments



On Election Day, many P&As had already collected this type of information. If a large number of groups from across the country were to use the **same** surveys, we can learn a lot about the accessibility of polling locations nationally.

3. Overall Experiences

When voters were asked, “Did they feel good about their voting experience?” 99% (97%) of the voters said yes. In the past, the voting experience of voters with disabilities was not as positive as the seen in the findings in this report.

**“Vote as if your
life depends on it,
because it does!”
~Justin Dart**

Why do so few citizens vote? As the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) plans future elections, it is currently taking a close look at the successful methods currently used by voters. Should the EAC consider?

- Methods similar to Mail-in Ballots like used in Oregon and/or Absentee Ballots
- Increasing the number of dates and times for early voting
- Investing in accessible voting equipment to better meet the needs of all voters using accessible equipment
- The “Mega-Center” approach where multiple precincts vote in the same locations

Table 5 summarizes the methods used by the voters surveyed for this Report. The findings on the methods voters used to vote are compared by voters with disabilities and the general population of voters (also in 2014 Election). The percentages for the general population of voters were provided by the Election Assistance Commission as reported in their 2015 Report.

This report found that voters with and without disabilities used Absentee Ballots about the same, 15% (10%) and 18%. Polling place voting on Election Day is the most popular way to vote, 75% of all voters with disabilities and 60% of voters without disabilities used it. However, as this Report shows there are still barriers encountered by people with disabilities using all three of the voting methods.



If changes are made to the methods of voting whether it be Absentee Ballots, accessible voting machines or consideration of the “mega-

center” approach, **people with disabilities must be included in the discussion**. For example, each voting method must consider the needs of voters with disabilities: print on Absentee Ballots is too small and directions are confusing; voters and poll workers had problems using the accessible electronic equipment; voters needed to know the location and times of Early Voting location, so they can make arrangements for transportation; and, voters who had used Mega-Centers reported that they were too crowded, too loud and difficult to find their precinct voting area.

Table 5: Comparison of All Voters, New Voters with Disabilities and Voters in U.S. by How They Voted

How Voted	All Voters	New Voters	Voter Across U.S.*
Absentee Ballot	15%	10%	18%
Polling Place	75%	80%	60%
Early Voting Site	10%	10%	11%

*percentages represent how voters with and without disabilities voted in 2014 Election as reported by the EAC 2015 Report.

Table 6 answered the question, “*What could have made your voting experience better?*” Voter responses were:

- To improve the physical accessibility of the voting place (12%)
- Improve voter privacy and signage (4%)
- And increase equipment availability and accessibility (8%)

Concerns were expressed about Poll Workers:

- Lack of equipment knowledge (9%)

- Lack of disability etiquette (7%)
- Impatient and rude
- showed a lack of respect to voters and made them feel like they were a bother to them (voter comment).

Eleven percent (11%) of the voters admitted that their voting experience would have been much better if they were personally better prepared about candidates and issues. Six percent (6%) of the voters had problems using the Absentee Ballot like print too small, did not understand the ballot and did not receive the ballot in time to use. New Voters had no comments for this question.

Table 6: What could have made your voting experience better?

Need	All Voters	New Voters
Better Physical Accessibility	12%	0%
More Vote Education	11%	0%
Poll Worker Knowledge of Equipment	9%	0%
Equipment Problems	8%	0%
Poll Worker Disability Etiquette	7%	0%
Registration Problems	7%	0%
Absentee Ballot Process	6%	0%
More Privacy/Better Signage	4%	0%
Other	8%	0%
Nothing	28%	100%

When voters were asked, “How did you cast your ballot?” (**Table 7**), the majority said they voted independently; 62% (48%). The next most popular response was getting assistance from family/friends, 21% (24%) and 10% (12%) asked the poll worker for assistance.

Table 7: How did you cast your ballot?

Cast ballot...	All Voters	New Voters
Independently	62%	48%
With Assistance from Friend/Family	21%	24%
With assistance from Poll Worker	10%	12%
Provisional Ballot	1%	0%
Some Other Way	6%	16%

Tables 8 and 9 presented findings from voters on being able to vote privately and independently. Ten percent (10%) of the voters surveyed indicated they did not feel privacy was provided when using accessible voting machines. They reported other voters could see how they were marking their ballot. However, 96% of the voters stated they were able to vote independently.

A reminder, that HAVA legislation specifically outlines that all elections must:

- Be held in accessible locations
- Use ballots that encourage (or give confidence) to people to vote rather than discouraged (or put off)
- Allow voters to cast their ballot privately and independently

Table 8: Were you able to vote privately (where no one else could see your ballot)?

Able to Vote Privately	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	90%	96%
No	10%	4%

Table 9: Were you able to vote independently (vote by yourself or with support that you choose?)

Able to Vote Independently	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	96%	100%
No	4%	0%



Recommendation(s):

- Encourage the P&As and the Voter Project Staff to join the Voluntary Voting Systems Guidelines Public working groups in their state. They can choose from four different groups:
 - Cyber Security
 - Human Factors including Accessibility and Usability Interoperability
 - Testing and Certification
- If changes are made to the methods of voting, **people with disabilities must be included in the discussion:**
 - Absentee Ballots, with larger print and clearer instructions
 - Accessible voting machines that are easy to operate
 - Consideration of the “mega-center” approach
- Training for poll workers on how to treat people with disabilities and training on how to set up and operate accessible voting equipment
- *Voters need to know their voting rights; poll workers and election officials need to be aware of them.*

4. Physical Accessibility

Transportation to polling locations is often a problem for voters with disabilities because voting locations are not required to be on public transportation lines or within walking/wheelchair distance from their home. Most voters must plan ahead for transportation provided by family/friends/service providers. Eighteen percent 18% (13%) of voters drove themselves to vote. Service providers and family/friends provided transportation for 65% (75%) voters.

“Often the priorities of people with disabilities are not the same as those families, friends and providers they depend on to help them.”

This arrangement can be an asset as well as a barrier for the voters. If an emergency arises or if that person decides they just do not feel like taking the voter to vote; regardless of the fact they are prepared and looking forward to it. Often the priorities of people with disabilities are not the same as those families, friends and providers they depend on to help them.

Table 10: How did you get to the polling place?

Transported by	All Voters	New Voters
Family/Friends	33%	17%
Service Provider	32%	58%
Own Car	18%	13%
Walked/Used Wheelchair	10%	4%
Public Transportation	8%	8%

On average, 95% of voters surveyed reported accessible parking, finding the entrance, and getting into the building as not a problem. This was an improvement from years past.

Tables 11-16 presented the findings on accessibility of the polling location. The following percentages were reported as having problems: enough space available for voters who use a wheelchair to move around once they voter entered the area (7%); parking (6%); finding the entrance to the polling location (5%); getting into the building (4%); elevators and ramps available and working (4%);and, signage to find the voting area 8% (4%).

Table 11: Did you have any problems finding accessible parking?

Accessible Parking	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	6%	0%
No	57%	79%
Not Applicable	37%	21%

Table 12: Did you have any problems finding the entrance to your polling location?

Finding Entrance	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	5%	0%
No	95%	100%

Table 13: Did you have any problems getting into the building?

Getting into Building	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	4%	4%
No	89%	96%
Not Applicable	7%	0%

In **Table 14**, when voters who used ramps and elevators were asked about their usability, 78% (87%) of voters reported they did not need them. Eighteen percent 18% (13%) of the voters who used a ramp or elevator considered them easy to use. Three percent reported none were available and 1% found them too steep.

“We are talking about accessibility not disability when voting!”

One person reported that the ramp she needed was not easy for her to use because the entrance to the ramp was blocked with weeds and garbage. Determined, she proceeded to use the ramp anyway. As a result, her wheelchair tipped and she fell out. She was fine just a little shaken. Small barriers like this make a big difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

Table 14: If you needed a ramp or elevator to enter the building or voting area, how was your experience?

Ramp Elevator	All Voters	New Voters
Easy to Use	18%	13%
Too Steep	1%	0%
Elevator Hard to Use	0%	0%
None Available	3%	0%
Didn't Need	78%	87%

When reporting the lack of signage at polling places it can be confusing for election officials. In their opinion, they might feel they had plenty of signs posted but voters with disabilities disagree. Factors to remember are that they might not be large enough or placed in areas where voters might not see them. Election officials must continue to be vigilant about signage because as reported in **Table 15**, 8% (4%) voters consider it a problem.

Table 15: Once you entered the building, were there enough signs to find the voting area?

Enough Signs	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	68%	62%
No	8%	4%
Entered Directly	24%	29%

When voters who use a wheelchair were asked if they had enough space to move around the voting area, 27% (17%) of voters had problems. **Table 16** shows voter responses.

Table 16: If you use a wheelchair, were you able to easily move around the voting area?

Space for Wheelchair	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	20%	17%
No	7%	0%
Not Applicable	73%	83%



Recommendation(s):

- Service Providers need to know that when they tell the voter they can arrange transportation for them
- Service Providers need to follow through. If they don't, then they are violating the civil rights of the voter
- Election Officials must continue to be concerned about physical accessibility, signage accommodations, and ease of access of Polling Locations
- Voters should publically express thanks to people who support them to get to their polling locations
- Remind Election Officials to have plenty of space by the accessible voting machines; so voters using a wheelchair can get to it to cast their private and independent ballot

5.Poll Workers

“Having a disability is not the problem with voting, it is having the accessible equipment, accessible locations, and respect to do so!”

Poll workers play a major role in the voting experiences of voters. When you go to your polling location and the poll worker greets you with a smile and a good morning, it makes you feel welcome and sets a positive tone for you to vote. Many voters with disabilities do not get that same type of greeting from poll workers. In 2012 the National Council on Disability survey (N=900)

showed that 25% of voters with disabilities identified untrained poll personnel as a barrier to their voting experience. Meaning, one out of every four voters did not have a good experience with a poll worker. Tables 17-21 summarize the results of this survey when asking voters with disabilities questions about how poll workers treated them.

Table 17 answers the question;” *Did the poll worker treat you with the same respect as other voters?*” Eight percent (4%) of voters reported they were NOT treated with the same respect. For example, a voter with a disability overheard a poll worker say to another poll worker, “Oh no, another one!” Words like that take away the excitement and eagerness to cast one’s vote.

Table 17: Did Poll Worker treat you with the same respect as other voters?

Same Respect	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	92%	96%
No	8%	4%

Many people, not just poll workers, make the assumption that because a person has a disability they cannot do things, like voting. **Table 18** answers the question, “*Did the poll workers treat you like you were NOT able to vote because you have a disability?*” Eleven percent of All Voters (8% of New Voters) of the voters reported they were treated like they were NOT able to vote. That is about 1 in 10 voters with disabilities in this study were treated that way.

Table 18: Did Poll Workers treat you like you were NOT able to vote because you have a disability?

NOT Able to Vote	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	11%	8%
No	89%	92%

When voters with disabilities were asked in **Tables 19-20**, *if they felt rushed or they were bothering the poll worker*; 4% said they felt rushed and 5% (4%) of the voters felt like they were bothering them.

Table 19: Did Poll Workers make you feel rushed?

Felt Rushed	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	4%	0%
No	96%	100%

Table 20: Did Poll Worker make you feel like you were bothering them?

Felt Like a Bother	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	5%	4%
No	95%	96%

When 1 in 10 voters reported that the “Poll Worker made them feel like they were not able to vote independently,” (**Table 21**), it reinforces the need for more disability awareness education for poll workers. Ten percent 10% (4%) of the voters felt like poll workers did not feel they could vote independently.

Table 21: Did Poll Worker make you feel like you were NOT able to vote independently?

Not Able to Vote Independently	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	10%	4%
No	88%	83%
Not Sure	2%	13%



Recommendation(s):

- Again, training for poll workers and election officials on how to respect people with disabilities. People with disabilities should be invited to do this training
- Advocacy organizations like People First should know about poll worker training. Then it can become a priority for the group as a way to support their local voting election officials in their communities

6.Voting Equipment

The method that voters use to vote can be a reflection of their comfort level with the voting process and equipment. Twenty percent (20%) of the voters in the survey reported that they were Early Voters or used an Absentee Ballot. Some reasons people with disabilities preferred Early Voting and using an Absentee Ballot was that it was less stressful for the voter.

Table 22 asked, “Were you offered or did you request to use an accessible voting machine?” About one third of the voters reported being offered to use an accessible voting machine. However, nearly half 48% (46%) of the voters were not even asked if they wanted to use the accessible voting machine. Eleven percent (17%) of voters self-reported they did not know how to operate the accessible equipment. **Table 23** asked, “Was the accessible voting machine up and running when you arrived at your polling place?” 17% of the voters said no.

Table 22: Were you offered or did you request to use an accessible voting machine?

Offered Accessible Machine	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	34%	33%
No	48%	46%
Didn't feel I needed one	26%	13%
Didn't want to bother anyone	1%	4%
Didn't know how to operate machine	11%	17%
Requested Provisional Ballot	0%	0%
No accessible machine available	3%	8%

Table 23: Was the accessible voting machine up and running when you arrived at polling place?

Accessible Machine Up and Running	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	83%	100%
No	17%	0%

Waiting time to use an accessible voting machine was less than 15 minutes for 97% (100%) of the voters.

Table 24: About how long did you wait for an accessible machine?

Minutes Waiting	All Voters	New Voters
Less than 5	62%	75%
5-15 minutes	29%	25%
16-30 minutes	1%	0%
Greater than 30 minutes	2%	0%

As reported in **Table 25**, poll workers did have some problems setting up and/or activating the accessible voting machine. 33% of All Voters and 25% of New Voters said the poll worker had to get someone else to help set up the accessible equipment. Some specific problems voters reported about the poll workers: 17% did not know how to activate the audio ballot; 5% did not know how to adjust the volume; and, 5% could not find the headsets. In regards to poll workers getting someone to help with setting up the accessible machine, maybe the voting location has designated one poll worker at each location who is the “expert” in operating the equipment. This could explain why that percentage is so high.

Table 25: Did Poll Workers have any problems setting up or activating the accessible voting machine?

Any Problems	All Voters	New Voters
No	55%	75%
Couldn't find headset	5%	0%
Couldn't turn off the screen	0%	0%
Didn't know how to activate the audio ballot	17%	0%
Didn't know how to adjust the volume	5%	0%
They had to get someone else to help	33%	25%

Voters reported in **Table 26** that 21% of the poll workers did not provide clear instructions on how to use the accessible voting machine; New Voters felt the instructions were clear.

Table 26: Did Poll Worker offer you clear instructions on how to use the accessible voting machine?

Clear Instructions	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	52%	100%
No	21%	0%
Did not need instructions	26%	0%

In **Table 27**, 7% of the voters felt the instructions were too complicated and 5% too simplistic. Fifty two percent (100%) of voters felt the instructions were “just right”. And, 38% of voters reported they did not need any assistance.

Table 27: Did you feel instructions given by the Poll Worker were...

Instructions given were...	All Voters	New Voters
Too complicated	7%	0%
Too simplistic	5%	0%
Just right	50%	100%
Didn't need instructions	38%	0%

When voters were asked, “*Did you experience any problems with the accessible voting machine while casting your Ballot?*” 87% (100%) of voters said no. Those voters who had problems could not adjust the audio speed (11%) or they could not review selections (3%).



Table 28: Did you experience any problems with the accessible voting machine while casting your vote? If yes, what did you encounter?

Problems with accessible machine	All Voters	New Voters
No	87%	100%
Couldn't change selections	0%	0%
Couldn't review selections	3%	0%
Couldn't adjust audio speed	11%	0%
Unable to turn monitor off	0%	0%

In **Table 29**, 19% (50%) voters report the most frequently used accessibility feature to be large and regular print. Fifty percent of voters reported they use audio, non-visual features.

Table 29: When you used the accessible voting machine, what features did you use?

Features Used	All Voters	New Voters
Large Print	19%	50%
Regular Print	31%	50%
Audio	50%	0%

86% (100%) of voters felt they were able to cast a secret ballot using an accessible voting machine. Reasons voters felt they could not cast a private ballot was: 7% of All Voters said that the voting machine not in a private area; 5% poll workers could not operate the voting machine; and, 2% felt more comfortable with assistance.

Table 30: Were you able to cast a secret ballot using an accessible voting machine? If no, select all that apply.

Able to Cast a Secret Ballot	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	86%	100%
No working accessible machine	0%	0%
Poll Worker could not operate voting machine	5%	0%
Poll Worker could not find head sets	0%	0%
Voting machine not in private area	7%	0%
Felt more comfortable with assistance	2%	0%



Recommendation(s):

- Voters and poll workers must learn how to use accessible voting machines
- Poll workers need to remember to place the accessible voting machine in a private area so other voters cannot see the ballot of the voter. If a
- Find out if instructions to use the accessible voting machine come in braille
- Poll workers need to make sure all audio equipment is in working order

7.Absentee Ballot

Table 31 shows that 74% (68%) of voters, who use absentee ballots, do so, because they prefer to vote at home. However, 2% (33%) of voters could not understand the ballot. Also, 19% (33%) of voters using the Absentee Ballot did so because they felt they could not vote privately at the polling place. Voters with disabilities felt that they could not get privacy at voting locations; so they voted by Absentee Ballot.

**Table 31: Tell us about your absentee ballot voting experience?
(Choose all that apply)**

Absentee Ballot Experience	All Voters	New Voters
I like voting at home	74%	68%
I could not understand the ballot	2%	33%
Print on ballot too small	9%	0%
Not my idea to use	2%	0%
Used because I was out of town or could not vote on Election Day	16%	0%
Used because I felt I could not vote privately if I went to polling place	19%	33%
Had to use because I had no support to go to voting location	5%	0%
Took my absentee ballot to voting location	9%	0%



Recommendation(s):

- Research, if any, accommodations that have been made to Absentee Ballot voters in the past or plans for the future; if so, what; if not why not. People with disabilities should be a part of this process
- Encourage the Secretary of State Office to make the print on Absentee Ballots large enough for everyone to see and with clear instructions so that all voters can understand
- First time voters need training on how to complete Absentee Ballots

8. Vote Education

When voters were asked, “If they know who to call if they had any voting problems”, 63% (48%) said yes. P&A and Voter Hotlines were the number one resource for 32% of the voters; Board of Elections (27%); County Clerk/City Hall (17%); Family/Friends (12%); Poll Workers/Secretary of State Office (8%); and calling 311 or 911 was last at 4%.

Most states have Voter Hotlines run by the P&A and/or the Secretary of State offices. When voters call the Hotlines, they get an immediate answer to their question and/or assistance to solve their problem.



Table 32: Do you know who to call if you have any problems voting?

Do I Know Who To Call	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	63%	48%
No	37%	52%
Comments, were to call:		
P&A's/Voter Hotlines		32%
Board of Elections		27%
County Clerk/City Hall		17%
Friends/Staff/Family		12%
Poll Workers/Secretary of State		8%
311 or 911		4%

One of the greatest barriers reported by voters to a good voting experience was their own lack of education on candidates and issues. One out of every four voters surveyed has not studied the candidates or issues before voting. Voters reported four different ways they used to learn about candidates and issues:

- Family and Friends: 32% (32%)
- Computer: 29% (7%)
- Television: 24% (11%)
- Vote Classes :12% (4%)

Table 33: How have you gotten information about voting in the past?

Information From	All Voters	New Voters
Family/Friends/Staff	32%	52%
Computer	29%	7%
Television	24%	11%
Vote Classes	12%	4%
None	28%	26%

The SABE Voter Project wanted to know if the www.govoter.org website is being used or even known by voters. 82% (93%) of voters said they have never visited the website or did not what it was. Only 18% (7%) of voters were familiar with the website. These were disappointing statistics that make it clear that the SABE Voter Project needs to do a better job of letting people know about the website.

Table 34: Have you visited SABE’s www.govoter.org website?

Visited SABE’s www.govoter.org website?	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	18%	7%
No	50%	56%
Don’t know what it is	32%	37%

Only 14% (7%) of the voters knew about the SABE VOTE Toolkit. The SABE Voter Project has been teaching the SABE VOTE Toolkit for over 12 years; and, 3 years ago placed the Toolkit on its website. Members of the SABE Voter Project used to travel to specific locations and partner with the state P&A and self advocacy group to do 2.5 day VOTE Toolkit training. This was an expensive and time intensive training strategy but the SABE Voter Project team and people with disabilities consider it to be the most effective way to learn about voting.

Two years ago, the Project began Webinar Trainings and has found them successful. Four states are invited to participate on the Webinars at one time. Teams are created consisting of state P&A staff and state self advocacy leaders. Specific requirements must be met for a state to be selected to participate in the SABE Voter Project.

P&A and self advocacy groups must partner with each other to:

- Commit to attending 4 webinars
- Complete assigned home work
- Develop a Training Plan for their state
- Do one training
- Training Evaluation within three months of the training
- Send reports to SABE’s Voter Project
- Complete the SABE Voter Project overall Evaluation Survey
- Continue their State Training Plan

The SABE Voter Project has made the SABE VOTE Toolkit available to everyone on the www.govoter.org . The Toolkit is designed so that each state can make it specific to their state’s Election Process. Not every state uses the same process.

Table 35: Have you participated in SABE’s Vote Training?

Vote Training	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	14%	7%
No	60%	78%
Don’t know what it is	26%	15%

When voters were asked, “*Will you vote in another election?*” 97% (93%) voters said yes. It is concerning that 7% of the New Voters reported they will NOT vote in the next election. This brings up another question, “Why” they would not vote in another election.

This forces the writers of this report to take a closer look at some other responses to questions by New Voters.

- 29% had problems when they signed in at their polling location
- 14% said poll workers needed to become more comfortable working with people with disabilities
- 8% said poll workers treated them like they could not vote because they had a disability
- 17% said they did not know how to use the accessible voting machine
- 8% said there were not an accessible voting machine at their polling location
- 33% reported they did not understand the layout and the print size of the Absentee Ballot
- 33% reported that they had to use an Absentee Ballot because they reported that they could not vote privately at the polling location
- 29% reported that they were not familiar with the candidates or prepared to vote on the issues
- 52% stated that they do not know who to call if they had problems voting
- 93% were not familiar or do not know about the SABE VOTE Toolkit training
- 93% are not familiar or do not know about the www.govoter.org website.

First impressions and experiences tend to stay with a person. If the points above are some reasons first time voters' report they do not intend to vote again, then these issues and more should be addressed.

Table 36: Will you vote in another election?

Vote in Another Election	All Voters	New Voters
Yes	97%	93%
No	3%	7%
Comments: Polling Place does not accommodate for my disability (visual); Polling Place not accessible and no accessible voting machine.		

Most voters that completed the survey, 87% (85%) voters, said they would use the same method to vote in the next election. If not the same, 8% (7%) of the voters would go to polling location and use an accessible voting machine, 2% (4%) voters would go to polling place with family/friend/staff to use the accessible voting machine, and 3% (4%) would vote by mail/Absentee Ballot.

Table 37: Would you use the same method or a different one to vote next election? If different, what method?

Method You Would Use	All Voters	New Voters
Same	87%	85%
At polling place using accessible machine	8%	7%
At polling place with assistance from poll workers	0%	0%
At polling place with assistance from family/friends	2%	4%
By mail/absentee ballot	3%	4%



Recommendation(s):



- Increase the number of voters about who to call, if they have problems on Election Day:
 - P&As, self advocacy groups, and the Secretary of State Offices provide better education about their Voter Hotline numbers to help voters get their voting questions answered
- Get out information developed by non-partisan groups, like the League of Women Voters, to learn about candidates and issues
- Work with non-partisan groups, like the League of Women Voters, to make their non-partisan information on candidates and issues easy for voters with disabilities to understand
- Make a YouTube video on how voters can learn more about candidates and issues, i.e. each state could develop a video and read an easy to understand version of non-partisan information
- Place a link to the website, www.govoter.org , for videos created by the SABE Voter Project
- Ask each P&A and Secretary of State Office to place a link on their websites to www.govoter.org
- Contact a non-partisan group, like the League of Women Voters, to see if the website could be placed in their publication
- SABE needs to update their website information on a more regular basis

- Get the SABE Board and Regions more involved with the SABE Voter Project
- SABE Board Members living in the states where the training is offered should participate in the training in their state
- SABE Voter Project will have a conversation with NDRN to help create a Glossary of difficult election terms for interested self advocacy groups



HIGHLIGHTS OF REPORT FINDINGS

Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) Voter Project's purpose is to investigate issues around voting for people with disabilities; and, to provide technical assistance to improve their voting experiences and increase the number of voters. In addition, the SABE National Technical Assistance Center on Voting and Cognitive Access supports the efforts of the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) organizations to build partnerships with self advocacy organizations and groups to educate people with disabilities about their voting rights.

Since 2012, this Project has been working on ways to evaluate the voting experience of voters with disabilities, in particular cognitive disabilities; and, the physical accessibility of voting locations. The process and survey used for this Report was a collaborative effort between P&As, Federation of the Blind, self advocacy groups, and SABE. A comprehensive Report is available

The following is highlights from the findings in the report.

- Since 2000, Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), a national self advocacy organization lead by people with developmental disabilities for people with developmental disabilities, has taken action to increase the number of educated voters with disabilities



- The purpose of this report is to determine, from the voter's perspective for the 2014 Election, if they were able to cast a private and independent ballot as mandated by law in HAVA.
- *Survey Monkey* was used to collect and analyze the data
- The information gathered from the 364 completed surveys was collected primarily (72%) from five states, (Louisiana, Wisconsin, Maryland, Florida and Georgia)

- The largest disability represented was intellectual disabilities 33% (65%); then physical disabilities 32% (19%); visual 22% (3%) and mental health 15% (6%)



- The majority of voters between the ages of 18-25 were first time voters (30%); and, the majority of voters between the ages of 56+ (26%) were repeat voters

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- 55% (63%) of the voters were female and 44% (37%) male. One person identified themselves as transgender
- The Vote Assessment Advisory Committee expanded the 2012 Voter Experience Survey, developed by SABE's Voter Project to use with voters with disabilities in the 2014 elections
- The Vote Assessment Advisory Committee recommended the Polling Place Accessibility Survey (developed by Washington Legal Services, Washington, DC) as the Committee's choice to collect Polling Place Accessibility information
- When voters were asked, "Did they feel good about their voting experience," 99% (97%) of the voters said, "yes."
- Voters with and without disabilities used Absentee Ballots about the same, 15% (10%) and 18% for voters without disabilities
- Polling place voting on Election Day is the most popular way to vote for 75% of all voters with disabilities and 60% of voters without disabilities
- 6% of the voters had problems using the Absentee Ballots
- 11% of the voters admitted that their voting experience would have been much better if they were personally better prepared about candidates and issues
- The majority of voters said they voted independently 62% (48%); getting assistance from family/friends, 21% (24%) and 10% (12%) asked the Poll Worker for assistance

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- 10% of the voters surveyed indicated they did not feel privacy was provided when using the accessible voting machines
- 96% of the voters stated they were able to vote independently
- 18% (13%) of voters drove themselves to polling location
- Service providers and family/friends provided transportation for 65% (75%) voters
- On average, 95% of voters surveyed reported accessible parking, finding the entrance, and getting into the building as not a problem
- Physical accessibility problems reported were: signage to find the voting area 8% (4%); enough space for voters who use a wheelchair to move around once they entered the voting area (7%); parking (6%); finding the entrance to the polling location (5%); getting into the building 4%; elevators and ramps available and working (4%)
- Poor signage was a problem for 8% (4%) voters
- 27% (17%) of voters, who used wheelchairs, had problems moving around the voting area
- 8% (4%) of voters reported they were NOT treated with the same respect as voters without disabilities by poll workers
- 11% (8%) of the voters reported poll workers treated them like they were NOT able to vote



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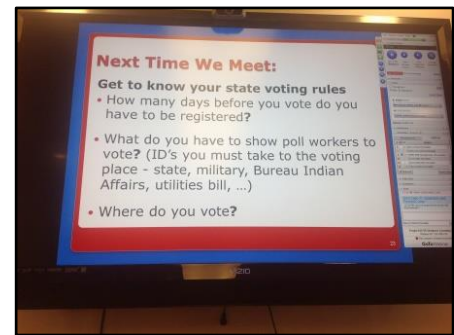
- 4% of the voters said they felt rushed by poll workers; and, 5% (4%) of the voters felt like they were bothering them
- 10% (4%) of the voters felt like poll workers did not think they could vote independently
- About one third of the voters reported poll workers offered them the use of an accessible voting machine
- Nearly half 48% (46%) of the voters were not asked if they wanted to use the accessible voting machine
- 11% (17%) of voters self-reported they did not know how to operate the accessible equipment
- 17% of the voters said the accessible voting machines were not up and running when they arrived at the polling location
- Waiting time to use an accessible voting machine was 15 minutes or less for 97% (100%) voters
- Some specific problems voters reported about the poll workers: 17% did not know how to activate the audio ballot; 5% did not know how to adjust the volume; and 5% could not find headsets
- 21% of the poll workers did not provide clear instructions on how to use the accessible voting machine
- 7% of the voters stated that the instructions were too complicated and 5% too simplistic



- 52% (100%) of voters felt the instructions were “just right”; and, 38% of voters reported they did not need any assistance operating the accessible voting machine
- Problems reported by voters using the accessible voting equipment were: could not adjust the audio speed (11%) or they could not review selections (3%)
- 19% (50%) voters reported the most frequently used accessibility feature to be large and regular print
- 50% of voters reported they used the audio, non-visual features
- 86% (100%) of voters felt they were able to cast a secret ballot using an accessible voting machine
- Reasons voters felt they could not cast a private ballot was: 7% voting machine was not in a private area; 5% Poll Workers could not operate the voting machine; and, 2% felt more comfortable with assistance
- 74% (68%) of voters, who used Absentee Ballots, did so, because they preferred to vote at home
- 19% (33%) of voters used the Absentee Ballot and did so because they felt they could not vote privately at the polling place
- One of the greatest barriers reported by voters to a good voting experience was their own lack of education on candidates and issues

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- One out of every four voters surveyed has not studied the candidates or issues before voting
- Ways that voters learn about candidates and issues: Family and Friends 32% (32%); Computer 29% (7%); Television 24% (11%); and, Vote Classes 12% (4%)



- Only 18% (7%) of voters were familiar with the SABE's website www.govoter.org
- Only 14% (7%) of the voters knew about the SABE VOTE Toolkit training
- 97% (93%) voters said yes they would vote in the next election
- 7% of the New Voters reported they will NOT vote in the next election
- Most voters who completed the survey, 87% (85%), said they would use the same method to vote in the next election
- If voters did not choose the same method to vote, 8% (7%) of the voters would go to polling location and use an accessible voting machine, 2% (4%) voters would go to polling place with family/friend/staff to use the accessible voting machine, and 3% (4%) would vote by mail/Absentee Ballot

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For a more in depth analysis of the findings please refer to the Report, *2014 Voters with Disabilities Election Report*. If you would like a copy of the full Report, please go to www.govoter.org.

If you have questions about the Report or SABE's Voter Project, please contact Nancy Ward, nancyward50@gmail.com or Teresa Moore, mooreadvocacy@hotmail.com, Co-Directors, National Technical Assistance Center for Voting and Cognitive Access.

ATTACHMENT A

Voter Experience Survey And Polling Place Accessibility Survey

VOTER EXPERIENCE ELECTION DAY CHECKLIST

We are interested in learning more about the voting experience of people with developmental disabilities this past election. Voters can complete this survey on-line, fill out the survey with help or alone or be interviewed.

****If you are completing this survey on-line or on paper by yourself or with help, please go to question #1.**



Name of Organization for Interviews: _____

Address: _____

County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name/Organization of Interviewers: _____

Interviewers: _____

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Do you have a disability? ___Yes ___No

2. If you are comfortable, please check type of disability:

___ Intellectual ___ Autism ___ Physical ___ Visual ___ Hearing

___ Mental Health ___ other _____

___ Intellectual ___ Autism ___ Physical ___ Visual ___ Hearing

___ Mental Health ___ other _____

****This survey is meant to be filled out by individuals with disabilities.****

****If you don't have a disability, please stop here.**



3. Did you vote in the last election? ___Yes ___No

If no, why not? _____

***** If you did not vote in the last election, please stop here.***



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4. Was this your first time voting? ____ Yes ____ No

5. Did you feel good about your voting experience? ____ Yes ____ No

6. What could have made your voting experience better?

7. How did you vote?

- ____ absentee ballot
- ____ polling place
- ____ early voting site, date voted _____

8. Did you cast your ballot independently or with the assistance of poll judges, with the assistance of a family member or friend, by provisional ballot, or some other way?

- ____ independently
- ____ with the assistance of poll judges
- ____ with the assistance of a family member or friend
- ____ provisional ballot
- ____ some other way (describe) _____

****If you voted by absentee ballot, go to question #28.**



If you voted at your polling place or early voting site, please answer the following questions.

INPERSON VOTING QUESTIONS

9. How did you get to the polling place?

- ____ public transportation (including paratransit)
- ____ your own car
- ____ service provider
- ____ family/friend

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10. Did you have any problem(s) finding an accessible parking place at your polling location?

Yes No Does not apply

11. Did you have any problems finding the entrance to your polling place?

Yes No

If yes, please explain? _____

12. Did you have a problem getting into the building?

Yes No Does not apply, explain?

13. If you need a ramp or elevator to enter the building or the voting area, how was your experience?

Easy to use Too Steep Elevator hard to use none available at the location

Did not need a ramp or elevator Other _____

14. Once you entered the building, were there enough signs to find the voting area?

Yes No

Entered directly into the voting area

15. If you use a wheelchair, were you able to easily move about the voting area?

Yes No Does not apply

16. Did the poll workers treated you with the same dignity as other voters?

Yes No Explain _____

17. Did the poll workers treated you like you lacked the ability to vote?

Yes No Explain _____

18. Did the poll workers make you feel rushed?

Yes No Explain _____

19. Did the poll workers make you feel like you were a bother?

Yes No Explain _____

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20. Did the poll workers treat you as if you were not capable of voting independently?

Yes No Explain _____

21. Were you able to vote privately (where no one else could see your ballot choices)? Yes No Explain _____

18. Were you able to vote independently (vote by yourself or with support that you choose)? Yes No

19. Were you offered or did you request to use an accessible voting machine?

Yes No

I didn't feel I needed one

I didn't want to bother anyone

I didn't know how to operate voting machine

I requested a provisional ballot

No accessible machine available at my polling place

Other, explain _____

****If you did not use the accessible voting machine, go to question #28**



20. Was the accessible voting machine up and running when you arrived at the polling place?

Yes No Explain _____

21. About how long did you wait for an accessible machine?

Less than 5 minutes

5-10 minutes

11-15 minutes

16-20 minutes

21-25 minutes

26-30 minutes

Greater than 30 minutes

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22. Did the poll workers have any problems setting up or activating the accessible voting machine? (check all that apply)

- Yes, what problems did they have No
- Couldn't find headset
 - Couldn't turn screen off
 - Didn't know how to activate audio ballot
 - Didn't know how to adjust volume
 - Had to get someone else to help
 - Other, explain _____

23. Did poll worker off you clear instructions on how to use the accessible voting machine or did you not need instructions?

- Yes No Didn't need

24. Did you feel the instructions given by the poll worker were too complicated, too simplistic, or just right?

- Too complicated
- Too simplistic
- Just right
- I didn't need instructions

25. Did you experience any problems with the accessible voting machine while casting your vote?

- Yes What problems did you encounter?
- Couldn't change selections
 - Couldn't review selections
 - Couldn't adjust audio speed
 - Unable to turn monitor off
 - Other, explain _____

26. When you used the voting machine did you use large print, regular print or audio non visual?

- Large print
- Regular print
- Audio non visual, or
- Other, explain _____

27. Were you able to cast a secret ballot on an accessible voting machine?

- Yes If no, why not? (Select all that apply)
- No working accessible machines
 - Workers couldn't operate machine
 - Could not find headsets
 - Machine was not in a private area
 - Felt more comfortable with assistance
 - Other, explain _____

****If you did not vote by absentee ballot, go to question #29.**



ABSENTEE BALLOT QUESTIONS

28. Tell us about your absentee ballot voting experience. (Choose all that apply)

- I like voting at home
- could not understand the ballot.
- print of ballot too small.
- was not my idea to use an absentee ballot.
- used an absentee ballot because I was out of town or was not able to vote on Election Day.
- used an absentee ballot I did not feel I could vote privately if I went to polling place.
- Had to use absentee ballot because I had no supports to go to the voting location.
- I took my absentee ballot to the voting location.
- Other, _____

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

29. Do you know who to call if you have any problems voting?

- Yes No Who? _____

30. How have you gotten information about voting in the past?

- Information from the computer Attended voting class None
 Other, explain: _____

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31. Have you used the www.govoter.org website?
___ Yes ___ No ___ Do not know what it is?

32. Have you participated in SABE's Vote training?
___ Yes ___ No ___ Do not know what it is?

33. Will you vote in another election?
___ yes ___ no
If no why not? _____

34. Would you vote using the same method or a different one?
___ Same ___ Different, what method would you use
___ at poll independently using an accessible voting
Machine
___ at poll with assistance of judges
___ at polling place with assistance of friend/family
___ By mail/absentee ballot
___ other, explain _____

35. Where do you live? _____ County _____ State

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS

36. What age range are you:
___ 18-25
___ 26-39
___ 40-55
___ 55 and over

37. What is your gender?
___ Male ___ Female ___ Transgender

Thank you for your time!

POLLING PLACE ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY

Name and Number of Precinct: _____

Address: _____

Name/Organization of Monitor:

PARKING

- Polling place does NOT have a parking lot.

- Polling place has a parking lot, but the route to the accessible entrance is not accessible. Why?

- Polling place has a lot with an accessible route to the accessible entrance.

- Lot already has ____ permanently designated spaces for people with disabilities.

- Lot has no permanently designated spaces; poll workers designated ____ spaces.

- Is route from parking to accessible entrance clearly marked?
Yes No

- Is the location of designated parking clear from the main voter entrance? Yes No

- Polling place has street parking only.
- Is there an "Accessible Parking" sign posted on the street?
 - Yes
 - No

ACCESSIBLE ENTRANCE

Is the main voter entrance also the accessible entrance?

- Yes
- No, there is a separate accessible entrance at the _____ of the building.
- No, there is no accessible entrance.
- What makes the entrance inaccessible? _____

Are "Accessible Voter Entrance" and other readable signs posted to guide voters to the accessible entrance from the street and parking?

- Yes No _____
- Does the accessible entrance have a ramp?
 - Yes. Ramp is at least 36 inches wide. (Estimate is acceptable)
 - Yes No
 - Ramp has handrails. Yes No
 - Landing at top of ramp is at least 5 ft long. (Estimate is acceptable)
 - No, the accessible entrance is at ground level.
 - Yes No

ACCESSIBLE ROUTE

Instruction: Walk the path from the accessible parking space, either on the street or in the parking lot (if there is one) to the accessible voting machine. Also walk from the street in front of the main entrance using the accessible route to the accessible voting machine. Are there any obstructions that might make it difficult for someone in a wheelchair to navigate this path? Yes No If so, please explain:

Are all doorways along the path at least 32 inches wide? Yes No

Is the path free of an abrupt rise greater than ½ inch? Yes No

Is the route free of objects projecting into the path that could not be detected by a person who is blind using a cane? Yes No

Are doors without external handles or that are otherwise difficult to open (heavy or with a handle that requires grasping or twisting of the wrist) propped open? Yes No

Are any loose mats or rugs secured with duct tape? Yes No

Must a voter in a wheelchair use an elevator to reach the polling place?

Yes. If so, is the elevator working Yes No

Can a voter in a wheelchair reach the call buttons (42 in. high)?

Yes No

Are controls marked with raised or Braille characters? Yes No

Does the elevator have audible floor indicators? Yes No

Is the doorway of the elevator at least 36 inches wide?

Yes No

Is elevator big enough to accommodate a wheelchair user?

Yes No

DOOR BELL OR CALL BELL

Where is the door/call bell placed?

Is the door/call bell working? Yes No

Do poll workers respond? Yes No

VOTING

Are magnifying glasses available at the voting demonstration table?

Yes No

Are magnifying glasses available at the check-in table?

Yes No

Is the audio headset available at the touch-screen machine?

Yes No

Is the touch screen machine placed so that the screen is not visible to other voters? Yes No

Does the voter have privacy? Yes No

Is touch screen machine placed in an area that provides 5 ft of turning space in front of machine? Yes No

Can the touch screen be reached by a wheelchair user? Yes No

COMMENTS

Monitors please note any obstructions or other problems below. Report any serious problems immediately by speaking to the polling captain or by phone to the Board of Elections at _____.

Thank you for your time!

Special thanks to
Victoria Thomas at University Legal Services for sharing their Polling Place Accessibility Checklist

ATTACHMENT B

Vote Assessment Advisory Committee Members

***Self Advocates Becoming Empowered
National Technical Assistance Center for Voting and Cognitive Access***

**Vote Assessment Advisory Committee
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