

# **Considerations for People with Disabilities and Members of the Transgender Community**

**ROVAC – September 8, 2022**



**Let's Hear from Connecticut Voters with Disabilities**

# **10 Things to Make Your Election More Welcoming to People with Disabilities**

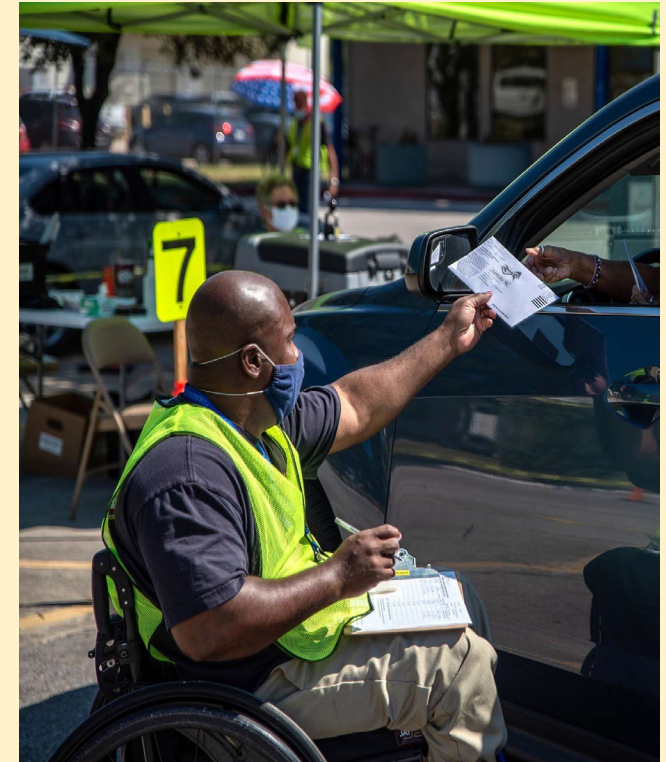
## **Check Your Polling Place(s) for Accessibility**

- **Two Accessible Parking Spaces?**
- **Path of Travel – 36” wide and free of cracks and grates over ½” wide?**
- **No stairs!**
- **Doors open with 8 lbs of force for exterior doors and 5 lbs of force for interior doors?**
- **Door handles able to be opened with closed fist?**

# **10 Things to Make Your Election More Welcoming to People with Disabilities**

## **Hire Poll Workers with Disabilities**

- **Representative of community.**
- **Good source of poll workers.**



# **10 Things to Make Your Election More Welcoming to People with Disabilities**

## **Train All Poll Workers on the Ballot Marking Device**

- **Have poll workers try the ballot marking device during training.**
- **Encourage poll workers to vote using the ballot marking device.**
- **Train poll workers to call it the ballot marking device not the “handicapped machine”**
- **Ballot Marking System is for anyone to use!**

# **10 Things to Make Your Election More Welcoming to People with Disabilities**

## **Ensure the Ballot Marking Device is Set Up and Ready to Use at 6:00 AM**

- **At polling place(s).**
- **At the EDR location.**
- **Private Area – so others can't see the screen.**
- **Use a privacy screen.**

# **10 Things to Make Your Election More Welcoming to People with Disabilities**

## **Treat All Voters with Disabilities with Respect**

- **Talk directly to the voter, not the companion.**
- **Use person-first language.**
- **Do not make assumptions about capacity to vote based on your perceptions about a voter's disability.**

# 10 Things to Make Your Election More Welcoming to People with Disabilities

**Allow a Voter with a Disability to move to the front of the line if disability prevents them from standing and waiting.**





# **10 Things to Make Your Election More Welcoming to People with Disabilities**

## **Welcome Service Animals (Dogs or Miniature Horses)**

- **Can only ask two questions:**
  - **1. Is the animal required because of a disability?**
  - **2. What tasks is the animal trained to perform?**
- **Do not pet or distract a service animal – It is working**
  - **May be dangerous for the handler**
  - **Always ask permission to pet, but do not take offense if the answer is no.**

# **10 Things to Make Your Election More Welcoming to People with Disabilities**

## **Don't Assume – Ask**

- **Offer assistance to voters with disabilities but don't assume what the person needs it.**
- **If the voter declines the assistance, don't force it.**
- **People with disabilities will tell you what they need and how you can help.**

# **10 Things to Make Your Election More Welcoming to People with Disabilities**

**Have accessible booths for voters who use wheelchairs.**

- **The ballot marking system should also be on an accessible table.**
- **Access path the booths.**
- **Knee clearance of “27”**
- **Space in front of table – 30”**



# **10 Things to Make Your Election More Welcoming to People with Disabilities**

**Allow a Voter with a Disability to Receive Assistance from a person of their choice.**

- **Exceptions – employer, union, candidate on ballot.**
- **Can't require them to accept assistance.**
- **Can't require the assistance of a**
- **poll worker.**



# **Transgender Considerations**

# Transgender Discussion

- Increasingly transgender voters have been harassed or challenged at the polls because their gender expression or name differs from the ID presented to poll workers.
- Creates fear of being challenged at the polls
- Potentially suppresses the vote.

# Transgender Discussion

**Potential Situation** – A person approaches the checker line and presents as a gender identity that does not match their ID .

- Poll workers should not be distracted or comment on the voter's appearance when evaluating the ID.
- Do not ask personal questions – may be out of curiosity and is not appropriate.

# Transgender Discussion

- ❖ **Transgender voters are doing nothing wrong and are not trying to deceive you.**
- ❖ **They have a right to vote like anyone else.**
- ❖ **Responsibility of the poll workers and election officials to ensure that everyone can vote without embarrassment or hassle.**





# Transgender Discussion

- Sometimes a transgender voter is unable to get their official documentation changed due to a number of factors such as cost or timing.
  - This is not illegal.
- If the voter data matches the ID they supplied, the voter has the right to vote.
- If ID does not match and the poll worker has concerns, quietly contact the Moderator.



# Questions?

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