Polling Place Access: Practical Resources

Michelle Bishop April 19, 2017



- Selection and planning:
 - Get creative with locations! Expo areas, car showrooms, etc.
 - Think about the end to end path of travel, even in accessible locations like schools.
 - Have a plan for tech specialists to deal with electronic voting equipment.
 - Temporary modifications (portable ramps, temporary parking signs, etc.) should be in your bag of tricks.



- Parking and paths of travel:
 - Don't let poll workers take up all the accessible parking spaces.
 - Make sure elevators are working and won't be locked.



- Doors and entry ways:
 - If they aren't power assist, prop them open.
 - The wider the better. Open both sides of a double door and consider any bar in the middle when measuring.
 - Watch which way doors swing into the path of travel.
 - Ensure signage for accessible entries.



- In the polling place:
 - Tape down power cords.
 - There needs to be space around voting machines, but PLEASE arrange them for privacy.



A Word on Poll Workers

- Poll workers can be the "be all, end all" of polling place accessibility.
- Integrating voters with disabilities throughout your standard training increases retention and eases anxiety.
- They won't remember what you said give them good job aids.
 - https://www.eac.gov/payments-and-grants/-clemsonuniversity-research-alliance-for-accessible-voting/



Know Your ADAAG

- DOJ's ADA Polling Place Checklist <u>https://www.ada.gov/votingchecklist.htm</u>
- Solutions to Five Common ADA Problems:
 https://www.ada.gov/ada_voting/voting_s
 olutions_ta/polling_place_solutions.htm



The Best Advice

- Talk to Disability Rights Pennsylvania.
 - http://www.ndrn.org/en/ndrn-memberagencies.html
- Include people with disabilities in the process up front.
- Think expansively about disability partnership.



Thank you!

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