Voters with Disabilities

Voters with disabilities can face obstacles when trying to exercise their right to vote. Accessibility to the polling place can be a part of that; accessibility is an issue because many times voting is held in buildings that are accessible by stairs, such as church or school basements and are controlled by the local elections board.

Another accessibility issue is the use of electronic voting machines. These machines can pose problems because they may malfunction where there are no back-up machines available or where election staff don’t know how to operate them.

There are federal election laws such as Voting Accessibility for the Handicapped and Elderly Act and Help America Vote Act (HAVA) which require polling places to be physically accessible to people with disabilities for federal elections. If there is no accessible location available to serve as a polling place, another way of casting a ballot must be made available; another requirement is for states to make available registration and voting aids for voters with disabilities and elderly voters, including information by TTYs (also known as TDDs) or similar devices.

http://www.aapd.com/what-we-do/voting/
American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD): Voting
AAPD advocates for policies that allow people with disabilities to fully participate in the voting process by ensuring the accessibility of polling places and by promoting the availability of accessible voting technology.

AAPD: National Disability Voter Registration Week

http://www.ada.gov/ada_voting/ada_voting_ta.htm
The American with Disabilities and Other Federal Laws Protecting the Rights of Voters with Disabilities
Provides guidance to states, local jurisdictions, election officials, poll workers, and voters on how the Americans with Disabilities Act and other federal laws help ensure fairness in the voting process for people with disabilities.

http://www.accessiblesociety.org/topics/voting/
The Center for an Accessible Society: People with Disabilities and Voting
Despite state and federal laws - including the Americans with Disabilities Act - which require polling places to accommodate disabled voters, more than 20,000 polling places across the nation are inaccessible, depriving people with disabilities of their fundamental right to vote.

Disability.gov: Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and the Handicapped Act and the Help America Vote Act
Information about making polling places accessible to people with disabilities.

http://www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-with-a-disability/
Nonprofit Vote: Voting with a Disability
Provides a state by state list of information on voting with disabilities

RespectAbilityUSA.com:
Offers a Scorecard on how candidates rank in disability stances.

http://www.rootedinrights.org/disabilityvote/
Rooted in Rights: Disability Vote
Rooted in Rights provides resources for voters with disabilities.

https://www.ada.gov/votingck.htm
U.S. Department of Justice: ADA Checklist for Polling Places
The Department of Justice today released an updated technical assistance publication on polling place accessibility for voters with disabilities. The publication, “ADA Checklist for Polling Places,” (PDF) includes a survey to guide election officials in evaluating the accessibility of facilities used or being considered for use as polling places. To find out more about the ADA, call the Justice Department’s toll-free ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 or 800-514-0383 (TTY), or access its ADA.gov website.

U.S. Election Assistance Commission: Resources for Voters with Disabilities

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