

DROP-IN ARTICLE

Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate said, "I'm proud that Iowa is one of the nation's leaders in voting accessibility. I am committed to helping each eligible Iowan be a voter. Whether it's curbside voting, voting by mail, or using accessible equipment at the polling place, it's important Iowans know there is help available when casting their ballot. Voter turnout among people with disabilities increased in 2018 and we hope that positive trend continues."

Voting can present a unique set of challenges to individuals with disabilities. To ensure that all eligible Iowa voters can cast their ballot, Iowa has taken many steps to ensure accessibility. Here are a few ways Iowa is making it easier for eligible Iowans to vote:

- Voters have the right to have assistance. They may choose who helps them as long as it is not their employer or an officer of their union. If you need assistance from the Precinct Election Officials, just let them know. You will need to sign an Affidavit Requesting Assistance.
- Voters can request an absentee ballot before Election Day. To receive an absentee ballot, submit a written request on or before Saturday, October 24th. Fill out the ballot and return it in-person or by mail to your county auditor. To request an absentee ballot, visit sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/absenteeballotapp.pdf. A second option is to vote absentee in person. To do this, visit your county auditor's office, starting October 5th, during business hours or on the last two Saturday prior to the November 3rd election and fill out a ballot. You can also locate a satellite polling place in your community. To find out if your county has any satellite polling places, call your County Auditor's Office at: <PHONE NUMBER OF COUNTY AUDITOR>.
- Voters have the right to use accessible voting equipment. Each polling place will have an electronic accessible voting machine that has a braille keypad and can read and mark the ballot for you.
- Voters can vote curbside. To vote curbside, look for the curbside voting sign at your polling place and call the number on the sign. You can also call your County Auditor's Office: <PHONE NUMBER OF COUNTY AUDITOR> ahead of time to pre-arrange curbside service. A bipartisan team of Precinct Election Officials will be sent out to your car so you can vote.

The Iowa Secretary of State's webpage sos.iowa.gov/disabilities acts as a one-stop resource to help Iowans with disabilities vote. There, you can register to vote online, download an absentee ballot request form and learn more about assistance you can receive at your polling place. You will also find several videos that detail how to register to vote, what to expect at your polling place and how to use electronic voting machines specifically designed for accessible voting.