

Elections for everyone

Experiences of people with disabilities at the 8 June
2017 UK Parliamentary general election

November 2017

Other formats

For information on obtaining this publication in alternative formats, please contact the Electoral Commission:

Tel: 020 7271 0500

Email: publications@electoralcommission.org.uk

Audio, large print and easy read summary versions of this report are available on our website.

The Electoral Commission is the independent body which oversees elections and regulates political finance in the UK. We work to promote public confidence in the democratic process and ensure its integrity.

Contents

Summary	1
1 Elections for everyone.....	2
2 Making sure everyone can vote	5
3 Supporting people to vote	11
4 How do candidates and parties tell people about themselves.....	13
5 Support we give at elections	15
6 Examples from other countries.....	17

Summary

This report is about registering to vote and voting from the view of someone with a disability. It tells you about the problems voters with a disability have when they vote and how they would like to see things change for the better. It also tells you what should be done to help make elections more accessible for everyone.

- There should be **no barriers** to voting for people with a disability.
- Everyone should have the right to **vote on their own and in secret**. Voting should be a good experience for everyone.
- People with disabilities don't always know about their voting rights. They need to know that they can vote and that they can have support to vote.
- **Care and support workers** need to know how they can support the people they care for when they vote.
- **People running elections** need to understand the needs of people with disabilities so they can support them and make it easy for them to register to vote and to vote.
- **Candidates and parties** should make sure information is in easy to read formats and available in good time before the election so people have the time to read it.
- When political parties publish their manifestos, they should make sure accessible formats are available at the same time. People with a disability should have just as much time as anyone else to understand what the parties stand for. It is important that everyone has plenty of time to think about their decision before they vote on election day.

The Government should look at different ways that people with disabilities can vote so that they have greater flexibility and choice.

The Electoral Commission wants to work with people and organisations to help make sure everyone's experience of voting is as easy as possible.

1 Elections for everyone

1.1 We would like to thank everyone who told us about their experience of registering to vote and voting at the general election. We heard from people with learning and physical disabilities as well as people living with mental illness. **This report could not be written without you.**

1.2 We **help the people who run elections** to make sure that everyone can register to vote and have a good experience of voting.

1.3 There should be **no barriers** to voting for people with a disability. Everyone should have the right to vote on their own and in secret. Some people told us they **feel excluded** from elections.

1.4 We want voting to be a good experience for everyone. But voting can be a difficult and scary experience

- if you don't know how to complete the ballot paper and
- if you don't know what support is available if you need it

1.5 The Electoral Commission wants to work with individuals and organisations to make sure **everyone's experience** of voting is clear, easy and convenient.

1.6 We **work with disability organisations** to provide information in accessible formats for voters on voting and registering to vote.

Why have we written this report?

1.7 After the general election on 8 June, **we sent out a questionnaire** asking people with different disabilities to tell us about their experiences of voting. This has not been done for a long time. We want to know about the experiences of people with disabilities today.

1.8 RNIB also asked people with a visual impairment about their experience of voting at the general election. You can see their findings [here](#).

1.9 We asked organisations to help us write and send out our questionnaire. These were:

- MENCAP for people with learning disabilities
- SCOPE for people with disabilities and their families
- United Response for people with learning disabilities, mental health needs or physical disabilities
- RNIB for people with visual impairments
- MIND a mental health charity
- Central and North West London NHS Trust
- Inclusion Scotland the disabled people's organisation

- Cabinet Office
- Association of Electoral Administrators
- Scottish Assessors Association

1.10 Our questionnaire was filled in by 188 people. After the election we did a bigger survey. We asked 3,519 people across the UK about their experiences of voting at the general election.

1.11 Generally, most people who filled in our **questionnaire** said they are happy with voting in elections. But, people with a disability were less likely to say that the general election was well-run – 72% compared to 80% of people without a disability.

1.12 At the All Party Parliamentary Group on Learning Disability (5 September 2017) Chris Skidmore MP, who is the UK Government’s Minister for the Constitution, launched a [Call for Evidence on how people with disabilities experience registering to vote and voting.](#)

1.13 Mr Skidmore has held events with people with different disabilities to understand how voting is for them.

1.14 This report is our response to Mr Skidmore. It looks at registering to vote and voting from the view of someone with a disability. It tells you:

- about the problems they face when registering to vote and voting and their ideas on how things can be made better
- what the Commission can do to help the people running elections to make elections more accessible, and
- how some other countries support voters with disabilities

What next?

1.15 We have listened to people’s experiences of registering to vote and voting.

1.16 Government should:

- **make changes to election forms** so they can be easily understood
- look at different ways that people with disabilities can vote so they have **greater flexibility and choice**
- change the law so that people with disabilities have **more choice about who they can take to the polling station** with them

1.17 Political parties and candidates should:

- make sure the information they send is **easy to read**
- make sure they **publish easy read manifestos at the same time** so people with a disability have the same time as everyone else to understand what the parties stand for and make an informed decision

- make sure they **send information in good time** so that people have time to read it.

1.18 People running elections should:

- look at ways they can make registering to vote and voting more accessible
- look to make their **helpline more helpful**
- make sure they are **ready to support anyone** if they ask for help to vote

1.19 Carers and support workers need to know:

- people with disabilities **can vote**
- they **can support** the people they care for to register to vote and vote

1.20 The Commission will:

- continue to **work with the Government and disability organisations** to see what can be done to make registering to vote and voting accessible for everyone
- update the information we give to people running elections and will talk to accessibility groups about what should be in it.

2 Making sure everyone can vote

2.1 The people running elections need to make sure that everyone can register to vote and can cast a vote in elections.

2.2 Most people with disabilities told us that they are happy with voting at elections. Most said it was easy to:

- register to vote
- vote by post
- vote in their polling station

2.3 **But not all people with disabilities have a good experience. Sometimes they cannot vote easily or in secret.** It is their views that we talk about in this report.

2.4 People with disabilities face different types of barriers when they want to register to vote and cast their vote. Some people do not have the confidence to register or cast their vote. Other people have obstacles to overcome so that they can cast their vote.

2.5 We work with disability organisations to provide information in accessible formats for voters on registering to vote and voting. We provide easy read guides at elections with:

- Mencap
- Enable Scotland
- Mencap Cymru

2.6 People told us that some of the wording on election forms was difficult for them to understand. The **wording on forms cannot be changed easily**. The law says what should be written on:

- the registration form
- the postal voting form
- the information in the polling station
- the ballot paper

2.7 To make wording easier to understand the Government would need to change the law. This would take time. However, we would like Government to make changes so that election forms can be easily understood by everyone.

2.8 Some of the changes which people have told us would make registering to vote and voting easier would cost more money. But we would like to see things changed so everyone can register to vote and vote.

Registering to vote

2.9 Registering to vote **is not easy for everyone**. Some people do not know whether they can register to vote, and those who do don't always know how to do it.

2.10 People with a learning disability have told us that the registration form (online and paper) is not easy to understand: there is **too much jargon** and the **font used** is not easy to read.

2.11 Some told us that when they call their local authority helpline they go to an automated service which is confusing and it is not clear what they should do next.

2.12 Some people said that they should be registered to vote automatically. This means that the person running the register would do it for them. This is something that the Commission has asked the Government to look at.

2.13 People told us what would make it easier to register to vote

- **easy read** information about how to register to vote
- **pictures** to show what to do
- **video** showing what to do
- **bigger text**
- **easy read** registration forms
- **a helpline which is really helpful**

2.14 Registration forms were in [easy read](#) and [large print](#) for 2017. Some people may not know this.

Poll cards

2.15 Before an election people who can vote are sent a poll card. This tells people where their polling station is. It also tells people if they have decided to vote by post.

2.16 People told us what they thought about the poll card

- the print was **too small**
- it used **unfamiliar words** and jargon
- **it had an unhelpful map** of the polling station
- **it was difficult to read** as it had black words on white paper

People's experience - What could be done to make the information better for you?

"It was **complicated** and used **unfamiliar words** and was black on white which is horrible to try to read with dyslexia and Mears-Irlen Syndrome".

“Not only did the map not cover the area where I live in order to relate it to the polling station, but the main road, the A230, which any voters from this area would need to use to reach the polling station barely clipped one corner and was unlabelled. I ended up having to use Google Earth to locate the polling station”.

2.17 People told us how the poll card could be better

- **larger print**
- **an easy read** version
- **pictures** to show information
- **bullet points**
- **audible versions**
- links to information online, such as a **video** to show someone where to vote and what they need to do to vote

Voting by post

2.18 Some people need to vote by post because they cannot get to the polling station. One person told us they vote by post: “because it is the most accessible option to me. I am registered blind and unsure if the location or setup of the polling station would be easy for me to navigate”.

2.19 Our bigger survey shows us that people with disabilities were more likely to say they voted by post than people without disabilities - 35 % compared to 19%. But for some people voting by post creates **further barriers**.

2.20 Most people said it was easy to fill in and send back their postal vote, and that they could vote on their own and in secret. But this was not the same for everyone.

2.21 Some people who voted by post told us they **did not understand the instructions** on their postal vote. Other people said there were **too many bits of paper** and it was not easy to know which bits of the postal vote went in which envelope.

2.22 The law says that information must be sent to people who vote by post about how they can get

- **translations into other languages** of any instructions sent with the ballot paper
- a **translation into Braille** of the instructions
- a **graphical representation** of the instructions
- the instructions in **any other form** (including audible)

2.23 But **some people do not know that alternatives are available**. One person told us that they did not know they could ask for their postal vote instructions in easy read or large print.

People's experience - What could be done to make it [postal voting] better and more accessible for you?

"Postal vote instructions are **confusing and difficult to follow** and postal vote papers are not available in alternative formats for Mears-Irlen Syndrome".

2.24 People told us how it could be made easier to vote by post

- **audible** versions of the instructions telling people how to fill in their postal vote and send it back
- **digital information online** showing how to apply for a postal and proxy vote, and how to fill in the postal vote
- **clearer information** so that people know they can ask for an alternative versions of the postal voting instructions
- **easy read** version of the postal voting instructions
- **pictures and symbols**
- **clearer instructions** on what to do and **less jargon**
- using **different colours** to make it easier to read

Voting at a polling station

2.25 Most people said that they are happy with voting at the polling station, **but it can be made better.**

2.26 We have heard of times when someone with a disability has not been able to vote. They have gone to the polling station and been **sent away** or they have **not been able to get in**. Other people said that voting at their polling station made them feel **uncomfortable**.

Getting into the polling station

2.27 Polling stations are more accessible than they used to be, but there are still some polling stations that are not accessible. Some people can't get in.

2.28 Our bigger survey found that 5% of people with a disability said it was hard for them to get into the polling station. No one without a disability said it was difficult.

People's experience: What could be done to make it [the polling station] better and more accessible for you?

"I suffer from M.E. and walk with crutches. The **polling station had steps** at the doorway to get in and then more steps leading to the room being used for the election. There was **no sign of any disabled access.**"

"I am lucky in that my local polling station is accessible, and that if it weren't I can independently complete a postal vote, but **many of my friends can't access their local stations**. Whilst postal voting is an important and valuable

option (especially for those with mental health issues) the feeling of casting a vote into an actual ballot box should be open and **accessible to everyone.**"

Inside the polling station

2.29 Accessibility is not just about getting into the polling station and it is not only about people with a 'visible' disability. People with different disabilities have problems once they are inside. Some people find it hard to move around inside the polling station. Some people find it hard to fill in their ballot paper.

People's experience: What could be done to make voting better for you?

"There is nothing to help autistic people know that places are accessible for us too. For example warnings about **flickering lighting**, huge machinery noise in a space. Only people who get written guidance are wheelchair users, Blind, Deaf or Learning Disabled. 2 million autistic people get nothing written for us. And **most staff don't know how to help autism**, only LD {learning disability}. It's a different thing."

2.30 Here are some things people told us about why it was difficult for them to vote when they were inside their polling station. They said:

- it was **too noisy and too many people were inside** which made it stressful and made them feel anxious
- the **polling booth was not wide enough** for their wheelchair
- staff did not know how to use the tactile voting device or did not offer it to people who might need it
- people did not know they could ask for a tactile voting device
- staff or other voters could see how people voted – they **could not vote in secret**
- people **could not vote by themselves**
- staff were unhelpful and unfriendly
- the pencil was too hard to hold
- the large print ballot paper was not useful
- the **instructions were not clear** about how to vote

People's experience: What, if any, additional help and support would you like when voting at a polling station?

"**More space to move around.** Narrow space meant people bumped into me a lot. Also staff knowing how to remove the tactile device after I fill out the ballot so I could vote privately."

2.31 Our bigger survey found that people with a disability who told us it was hard to fill in their ballot paper said it was because there was no help, no tactile voting device or no large print format.

2.32 There are changes that people said can be made both outside and inside the polling station to make things easier:

- making sure the **building is accessible**
- **good lighting**
- **clear instructions** on how to vote
- staff who know what people with a range of disabilities need in order to vote
- bigger pencils that are easier to hold

Other ways to vote

2.33 We know that not everyone has the same experience when registering to vote and voting. We think that the Government should look at different ways that people with disabilities can vote so they have greater **flexibility and choice**. This would mean people would be able to choose which way of voting suited their needs.

2.34 People told us it would be easier to vote online. But the people running elections would need to be sure it was safe before this could happen. This means the Government should look at other ways to vote such as:

- **choosing** which polling station to vote in
- voting on **days other than on a Thursday**, for example the weekend
- voting in mobile polling stations in **hospitals, nursing homes or care homes** and in **remote areas**

2.35 We would be happy to work with the Government and disability organisations to see which methods are best. Any new ways of voting must make sure **people are able to vote in secret** and **for who they want to**.

3 Supporting people to vote

3.1 Most people who filled in our questionnaire said they knew they could vote in elections. But some people **didn't know that they could take someone with them to the polling station to help them or that polling station staff could help them.**

People's experience: What extra help would you like when voting at a polling station?

"Information noting that they can help and what can be expected. There is nothing to say what they can and can't help with."

3.2 A person with a physical or visual disability can take someone with them to the polling station to help them to vote. Who they can take is in the law. The law says that the person must be:

- someone who is entitled to vote as an elector at the election, or
- the father, mother, brother, sister, spouse, civil partner, son or daughter of the voter who is more than 18 years old

3.3 For some people, this makes it hard for them to find someone who can go with them to vote. We think the:

Government should change the law so people with disabilities have more choice about who they can take to the polling station with them.

3.4 Information needs to be available in care services which tells support workers how they can make sure people get the right information about how to register to vote and vote. It should also tell them how they can support someone to do this.

3.5 People running the polling station must make sure that it is accessible for everyone and be ready to support anyone if they ask for help to vote.

3.6 People with disabilities told us there needs to be **better awareness:**

- about the support available to help voters with disabilities: voters with a disability need to know they can have support when they register to vote and vote
- carers and support workers need to know they can support the people they care for to register to vote and vote
- people running elections need to know what support and help people with disabilities can have

3.7 They said there should be:

- more **information about the help people can ask for** when they vote by post, proxy or in a polling station
- more information for people running the polling station
- **accessible information about the help people can ask for** when they vote by post, proxy or in a polling station.
- accessible information available to **carers and support workers**
- a **change to the law** so more people can go with someone to help them vote at a polling station.

4 How do candidates and parties tell people about themselves

“1 million voters with a learning disability risk being overlooked if political parties fail to produce accessible Manifestos” – Mencap, 5 May 2017

4.1 Candidates and political parties send information to ask people to vote for them. People told us that they do not always find the information they get from candidates and political parties easy to read or to understand: **“it was over my head”**.

4.2 This was because the information used **complicated words, jargon, small font size**, and had **poor design and layout**.

4.3 People said that information from candidates and parties should:

- be in **easy read**
- include more **pictures**
- use **plain and simple words**
- use **less words**
- use **bigger print**
- use **colour** to help them to read different sections of text
- be available in **audio**
- be available **online**
- be sent by **email**
- be sent as **paper copies**

4.4 People also said they would like to **get information earlier** because it gives them longer to look at it and decide who to vote for. Parties published their manifestos in good time before the election, but their **easy read versions were not always available until later** and often very close to Election Day. See the table below.

4.5 Easy read material makes confusing and difficult language accessible. People need to understand what the parties are promising so they can make an informed decision about who to vote for.

Table 1: Dates party manifestos were published

Party	Manifesto published	Easy read version published	Days before the 2017 General Election easy read version published
Lib Dems	17th May	17th May	22
Greens	22nd May	22nd May	17
Labour	16th May	24th May	15
Plaid Cymru	16th May	31st May	8
Conservative	18th May	1st June	7
SNP ¹	30th May	2nd June	6

4.6 The late publication of some party manifestos also meant that support workers **had less time to tell** the people they supported what the parties stood for, so that they could use this information to decide who to vote for.

4.7 People have told us that political parties should publish **accessible formats of their manifestos at the same time** so that people with a disability have as much time as everyone else to understand what the parties stand for and make an informed decision.

4.8 Some people said it was harder and more stressful for them to decide how to vote if they felt rushed – **“it is very hard to make up my mind if I am rushed”**. People also said that information must be in accessible formats and in good time before the election so people have the time to read it.

4.9 Some people also suggested that candidates and parties should meet people with different disabilities to tell them in person what they stand for – **“there needs to be information about what each party is going to do for people with learning disabilities.”**

¹ The SNP delayed the launch of their manifesto by one week due to the suspension of campaigning following the terror attack at Manchester Arena

5 Support we give at elections

5.1 In the Call for Evidence, the Minister, Chris Skidmore MP, asks about what people and organisations do to help people with disabilities register to vote and vote in elections.

5.2 We help the people who run elections make sure that everyone can register to vote and have a good experience of voting. Those running the elections must offer information in different formats such as:

- poll cards
- postal voting forms
- proxy forms

5.3 They offer information in, for example:

- audio
- braille
- easy Read
- large print
- British Sign language
- telephone support (including textphone and text messaging)

5.4 We give the people running elections information about voting that they can give to support workers and carers, so they can help the people they work with to register to vote and to vote.

5.5 People running elections make sure that the polling stations are accessible for everyone, including voters with a disability. To help we give them:

- [polling station handbooks](#) which gives information on how to run the polling station.
- [information](#) that can be used for training staff
- [checklists](#) for making sure that the polling station is accessible

5.6 For example, our polling station checklist gives information on things they need to do such as :

- signs and entrances to polling stations
- car parking
- level access to the polling station
- set-up inside the polling station, including good lighting
- low-level polling booths and ballot boxes
- displaying information for voters on how to vote
- large-print ballot papers and hand-held sample copies

- tactile voting devices for use by blind or partially sighted voters
- seating for those who need it

5.7 We say to the people running elections that the people who work in the polling station should:

- make sure that the tactile voting template should always be available
- make sure that they can use the tactile voting device
- know how they and a companion can help someone to fill in their ballot paper

5.8 We have a **helpline which people can call if they have problems registering to vote and voting**. We got calls from people just before election day and on election day not able to vote, for example people who use a wheelchair not being able to get into their polling station. We tell people to get in touch with the people running the election in their local area.

5.9 After each election, we look at **how well the people running the elections did** and **if they were accessible for everyone**. We look at whether:

- there was accessible information on how to register to vote and to vote
- people had information in accessible formats
- people had information in time for them to be able to vote
- polling stations are fully accessible

5.10 We have listened to what people have told us and will update the information that we give to the people running elections and will talk to accessibility groups about what should be in it.

6 Examples from other countries

6.1 Here are some examples from other countries about how they try to make sure that elections are accessible for all. We, together with people running elections, campaigners and political parties and the Government can all learn from what they do.

Australia - Victorian Electoral Commission

They have a [Disability action plan](#) to improve access to registering to vote and voting for Victorians living with a disability, for example.

Disability Action Plan

The goal of this Disability Action Plan is to improve access to enrolment and voting for Victorians living with a disability.

This Disability Action Plan has six key strategies:

1. Improve physical access to enrolment and voting.
2. Develop partnerships with people and peak bodies to facilitate improved access to enrolment and voting.
3. Improve the accessibility and clarity of information on enrolment and voting.
4. Provide for more Victorians to have a secret, independent vote.
5. Improve staff awareness and assistance to people living with a disability.
6. Improve the VEC's capacity to employ and appropriately task people living with a disability.

Performance measures have been included for each action relevant to each strategy. In addition, outcome measures have been included for each strategy.

Our Disability Action Plan

- [Disability Action Plan 2016–2019](#) (PDF, 473kB)
- [Disability Action Plan 2016–2019](#) (Word, 486kB)

They also have lots of information to make sure that everyone can vote.

They have a [range of services and resources](#) to ensure that the right to vote is not limited by language, disability or circumstance which are available on their website.

Assistance for voters

The VEC provide a range of services and resources to ensure that the right to vote is not limited by language, disability or circumstance.

The VEC's vision is 'all Victorians actively participating in their democracy'.

- [Languages other than English](#)
- [Voting aids](#)
- [Mobile voting and voting outside a voting centre](#)
- [Assistance and accessibility at voting centres](#)
- [Voters voice app](#)
- [Easy English guides on voting](#)

Enrolment and voting advice for carers

Enrolment and voting advice is available for families and carers of people with a cognitive disability or impairment:

- [Enrolment and voting advice for carers](#) (PDF, 279kB)
- [Enrolment and voting advice for carers](#) (Word, 328kB)

Australian Electoral Commission

People who run elections are sent to help people who cannot get to their polling station. They do this before election day and on election day.

People can also vote in some hospitals, nursing homes, prisons and remote areas of Australia.

Australia - New South Wales Electoral Commission

There is useful information on their website which tells people what help they can get [before polling day](#) and [at the polling station](#).

Voting Assistance Before Election Day

Languages other than English

A free telephone interpreter service is available to electors who require information in their language. Call 13 14 50 and an operator will arrange for an interpreter to join in a three-way conversation with an election official to ensure the elector receives answers to their questions.

The NSWEC also advertises in major multicultural media during the State election period.

For Local Government elections, each council determines the level of service and information provided in languages other than English.

General information on enrolling, elections and voting is also available to download in a number of community languages. Please see our [assistance in your language](#) page for more details.

For Hearing or Speech Impaired

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service:

TTY users phone 133 677 then ask for 1300 135 736

Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 1300 135 736

Internet relay users [connect to the National Relay Service](#) and then ask for 1300 135 736

Blind and low vision electors

Electronically assisted voting

The NSWEC will provide electronically assisted voting to enable blind and low vision electors to cast a vote at the State election without the assistance of others. The two methods available include telephone voting and an on-line system.

For more information please see [iVote](#).

Accessibility

One factor in assessing the appropriateness of each facility is how accessible it is for people with mobility difficulties including the level of wheelchair accessibility. Where the relevant Australian standards are completely met the venue is classified as fully wheelchair accessible, where most of the criteria are met it is classified as assisted wheelchair access.

The level of accessibility of these venues is displayed as follows:



full wheelchair access



assisted wheelchair access

Canada - Elections British Columbia

Have feedback forms at the polling station to ask people about their experience of voting so that they can make things better: [voting place accessibility feedback form](#).



VOTING PLACE ACCESSIBILITY FEEDBACK FORM

3021
(16/08)

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS

Your feedback is important to us, and we want to hear and learn from you. Elections BC is committed to making your voting experience as accessible and positive as possible so that you can focus on casting your ballot.

CONTACT INFORMATION (IF YOU WISH TO BE ANONYMOUS, LEAVE THIS SECTION BLANK)	
NAME	
PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL
Would you like Elections BC to follow up with you about your feedback? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
VOTING PLACE INFORMATION	
ELECTORAL DISTRICT	
VOTING PLACE	CITY
DATE AND TIME YOU ATTENDED THE VOTING PLACE	
VOTING PLACE FEEDBACK	
Were you able to vote independently and privately? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
At the voting place, were you satisfied with the accessibility of the following?	
Parking	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Exterior walkways, ramps, entrances, doors	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Interior routes and the voting area	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Washroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Did you use any of the following tools?	
Braille List of Candidates	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Plastic template to help you mark your ballot	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Enlarged poster of the ballot	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Elections Canada

People who live in hospitals and care homes can vote at a mobile polling station in their residence.

Canada - Elections Ontario

There is an accessible voting page on their website to tell people about the different ways in which they can vote so that everyone can vote. This also has information about how to vote at home with the help of someone and in hospital.



Accessible Voting


We strive to make voting accessible to all voters. Below is a list of the different voting methods we have available so that voting can be an inclusive experience for all voters.


If you require any information or voting resources in an accessible format, please contact us using the details below and we will be happy to provide these.


Phone: 1-888-668-8683


TTY: 1-888-292-2312


Email: info@elections.on.ca

 Assistive Voting Technology

 Assistance on election day

 Vote by mail

 Vote by home visit

 Voting while in hospital (general election only)

Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2017 – 2021

The plan looks at what Elections Ontario will do to make elections more accessible. There are five categories they look at:

- **Customer Service** – provide accessible customer service to people with disabilities so that they can access the same goods and services as everyone else.
- **Information and Communications** – create, provide and receive information and communications in ways that are accessible for people with disabilities.

- **Employment** – employers will include accessibility practices for employees across all stages of the employment cycle including recruitment, assessment and selection.
- **Transportation** – transportation service providers will make their services and vehicles accessible.
- **Design of Public Spaces**- newly designed or renovated public spaces will include specific accessibility features, which will make it easier for everyone (people with disabilities, seniors and families) to use.