



**HB142- Election Law- Voting Priority- Individuals Who Need Extra Assistance
Ways and Means Committee
January 29, 2020
Position: Support**

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide advocacy organization dedicated to the rights and quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, and we are here to urge your support for HB 142.

HB 142 would create voting order priority for people who have mobility difficulties as well as parents of young children with disabilities the ability to exercise their voting rights without the barriers they currently encounter at the polls. To accompany my oral testimony on the necessity for this change in Maryland law, I am attaching information from two other states that have these laws for voting order priority.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ande Kolp', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ande Kolp
Executive Director



Election Department : Voters with Disabilities



Last Updated on August 18, 2018

Registration Accommodations

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Registration Accommodations

If You Cannot Sign Your Name on Your Voter Registration Application

If you cannot sign your name because of a physical disability, you may: (1) use a signature stamp that meets the standards of the Office of Disability Services, per NRS 427A.755; or (2) register in-person at the Election Department; or (3) if you cannot appear in-person at the Election Department, the Election Department will send an official to you.

Voting Accommodations

Polling Places

Voters with disabilities are accommodated inside of polling places on election day and during early voting. All polling places are accessible to voters with disabilities.

- **Inside Polling Places**

If you are a voter with disabilities, you may request to have priority in voting. Election officials will take you to the front of the line for processing at the precinct table. You may then have first preference in voting on the priority voting machine designated for voters with disabilities.

- **Signing the Precinct Register**

If you cannot sign your name in the precinct register because of a physical disability, you may still vote. Election officials will identify you by asking you questions about personal data from your voter registration records. You may also use a rubber stamp as you would for registration purposes, as described above.

- **Inside the Voting Machine Booth**

You have several options for casting your ballot inside the voting machine booth:

- VOTERS WITH VISION IMPAIRMENTS

Accommodations are designed to meet the varying types and degrees of assistance you may need:

- A large magnifying sheet is available inside each voting booth to aid in reading the ballot.
- Audio voting is available at all early voting sites and all Election Day polling places to permit voting in complete privacy without assistance from another person.
- Another individual may assist you in casting your ballot, as long as you and your assistant meet the requirements described below.

- ASSISTANCE BY ANOTHER PERSON

NRS 293.296 allows another person to assist you in voting inside the booth as long as:

- The person assisting you is NOT:
 - Your employer or employer's agent or

- An officer or agent of your labor organization.
 - You require assistance in casting your vote because you:
 - Have a physical disability and/or
 - Have an inability to read or write English
- **WHEELCHAIR VOTERS**
The height of the voting machine's booth is adjustable for wheelchairs, enabling voting without assistance in complete privacy with physical ease.
- **Mail/Absentee Ballots**
Persons with disabilities or who are age 65+ may submit a special one-time request to permanently receive mail/absentee ballots when they request a mail/absentee ballot. In addition, reasonable accommodations are made for the use of mail/absentee ballots by voters with disabilities and elderly voters.
 - **IF YOU CANNOT SIGN YOUR NAME OR VOTE WITHOUT ASSISTANCE**
If, because of a physical disability, you cannot sign your name, or are unable to mark or sign a ballot or use a voting device without assistance, you may still vote by mail as long as you meet the applicable conditions of NRS 293.3165. You must submit a written statement to the Election Department, on an annual basis, containing:
 - The name, address and signature of the person who will assist you in marking or signing the mail ballot on your behalf.

NOTE: The assisting person may, on your behalf, mark and/or sign your mail ballot, but must specifically indicate next to your signature that he or she marked and/or signed the ballot on your behalf.
- **Emergency Voting**
You may apply for an emergency mail/absentee ballot beginning the sixth day before an election through 5 p.m. on Election Day if suddenly you are hospitalized, become seriously ill or are called away from home. You must meet specific other requirements of NRS 293.316.

Communication and Information

Nevada Relay Text Telephone for the Disabled (TTY or TDD)

Voters with hearing or speech impairments who have a TTY or TDD, may communicate with the Election Department by calling 711.

Large Print Sample Ballots

All sample ballots are printed in a 14-point font.

Internet

The Election Department's web pages are generally user-friendly for people with disabilities. The web pages are accessible to those who may not be able to see, hear, move, or may not be able to process some types of information easily or at all, such as those who:

- Have difficulty reading or comprehending text;
- Do not have or are not able to use a keyboard or mouse;
- Use a text-only display (Lynx), a small screen or slow connection;
- Are in a situation where their eyes or hands are busy or have interference;
- Use an early version of a browser, a different browser entirely, a voice browser or a different operating system.

The Election Department's Internet web pages contain text equivalents (also known as "alt tags") for non-text elements, such as images, graphical representations of text (including symbols), animations (e.g., animated GIF's), images used as list bullets, spacers and graphical buttons. Text equivalents can readily be output to speech synthesizers and Braille displays. They can also be presented visually (in a variety of sizes) on computer displays and paper.

Additional Information

Contact Us

You may call the Election Department at (702) 455-2944 for more information on accommodation of voters with disabilities and elderly voters. You may also contact the Election Department by mail (Registrar of Voters, Clark County Election Center, 965 Trade Drive, Suite A, North Las Vegas, NV 89030-7802) or e-mail.

Quick Look-up

I Want To... ▼

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Other Contacts



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NOTICE OF VOTING ORDER PRIORITY

Pursuant to Section 63.0013, Election Code:

An election officer may give **voting order priority** to individuals with a **mobility problem** that substantially impairs the person's ability to move around.

- A person assisting an individual with a mobility problem may also, at the individual's request, be given voting order priority.
- Disabilities and conditions that may qualify you for voting order priority include paralysis, lung disease, the use of portable oxygen, cardiac deficiency, severe limitation in the ability to walk due to arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition, wheelchair confinement, arthritis, foot disorder, the inability to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest, or use of a brace, cane, crutch, or other assistive device.
- Voters who wish to be given voting order priority, and be accepted for voting before others in line to vote at that polling place, may indicate this to any election officer serving at the polling place. The presiding election judge will determine whether the voter and the voter's assistant, if applicable, will be brought forward to the front of the line.

AVISO de PRIORIDAD de ORDEN de VOTACIÓN

De conformidad con la Sección 63.0013, Código Electoral:

Un oficial de elecciones puede dar **prioridad de orden de votación** a individuos con un **problema de movilidad** que dificulta sustancialmente la capacidad de la persona para moverse.

- Una persona que asiste a un individuo con un problema de movilidad también puede, a petición del individuo, ser dado prioridad en el orden de votación.
- Discapacidades y condiciones que pueden calificarle para prioridad de orden de votación incluyen parálisis, enfermedad pulmonary, el uso de oxígeno portátil, deficiencia cardíaca, limitación severa en la habilidad para caminar debido a condiciones artríticas, neurológicas u ortopédicas, confinamiento de

Instructions to Election Judge:

1. Post this notice at one or more locations in your polling place where it can be read by person's waiting to vote. Note that it will also be posted on the website of the authority conducting the election and on the Secretary of State's website.
2. The presiding election judge may allow a voter with mobility problems, and any assistant if requested, to be moved forward in line and be processed before other individuals who arrived at the polling place before that voter.
3. The presiding election judge may wait to receive such a request or may check the line for voters who appear eligible for voting order priority and offer them the opportunity to move to the front of the line.
4. An election officer cannot require a voter requesting voting order priority to submit proof of the mobility problem.