

Voters with Disabilities

Frequently Asked Questions

1) Question: Is there special information available for voters with disabilities?

Answer:

A. Information for voters with disabilities can be found on the Secretary of State's NHVotes On-line training at <http://nhvotes.sos.nh.gov/login/index.php>. Members of the general public can log in as a "Guest", and find the following documents appear under Glossary and Election Forms:

- An accessible voting system set-up and use manual
- An Attorney General checklist that explicitly establishes the standards by which the New Hampshire Attorney General inspects polling places on Election Day. In general, all polling places must be physically accessible, and there must be an accessible voting system operating in each polling place in New Hampshire. <http://www.sos.nh.gov/agchecklist.pdf>

B. At http://www.sos.nh.gov/voting_in_new_hampshire.htm, there is an on-line video that illustrates what steps must be taken to ensure accessibility at polling places.

2) Question: Is there information and instructions for disabled voters describing how to use the voting system to cast a ballot?

Answer: The *State of New Hampshire Accessible Voting System* booklet contains easy-to-follow instructions on how to operate the accessible voting system. The system is a telephone interface. Our experience is that voters with or without disabilities require no instruction before using the system. A voter does not need to be disabled to use the equipment in a polling place. All voters are encouraged to use the voting equipment, and many find them useful for various reasons, even if they do not consider themselves "disabled." The general public can log in as "Guest" and Go to the Glossary and Election Forms link at <http://nhvotes.sos.nh.gov> to obtain this booklet.

3) Question: Does the site say whether TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) or TTY (Tele TYpewriter - a device that uses text instead of voice to communicate via telephone lines) access is available?

Answer: New Hampshire's Department of Information Technology audits all state web sites for compliance with Section 508 federal accessibility standards. The terms "TDD/TTY" are outdated and are not favored by the disabilities community.