



**THE POLLING PLACE
EXPERIENCE IS FOR
EVERYONE!**

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COMMON GOAL

- Voters with disabilities have the right to an accessible polling place
- How do election officials do that?



HOW TO BEGIN?

- o Fresno County Polling Place Accessibility Plan
- o Utilize and seek advice from Fresno County VAAC (Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee)
- o Physically survey polling locations
- o Identify mitigation efforts to make poll accessible on election day

WHAT IS A SURVEY TOOL

(hint – it's not a metal instrument)

- o Elections Code 12280:
“when designating polling places, the elections official shall undertake necessary measures in the locating of polling places to ensure that polling places meet the guidelines promulgated by the Secretary of State for accessibility by the physically handicapped.”



HISTORY OF SURVEY TOOL

- o 2008 - Secretary of State partnered with Department of Rehabilitation and county election officials to implement comprehensive survey tool
- o Survey tool – meets federal requirements and State requirements
- o Updates to survey tool in 2010 and 2014, 2017
- o SOS hosts regional training conducted by Dept. of Rehabilitation
- o Counties must update poll surveys for items changed from previous survey
- o Fresno County – 1 poll survey takes 2 hours

CHALLENGES

- o Short timelines to find polling locations
 - o E-83 (days before an election): Races are finalized to go on ballot
 - o E-81 to E-75: consolidation of base precincts into voting precincts
 - o E-74 to E-49: locate, obtain permission, survey hundreds of polling locations
 - o E-50: deadline for poll location information to go to county voter pamphlet printer
 - o E-40: county voter pamphlets begin to go in mail to voters
- o Non-consistent availability of polling locations

ONGOING EFFORTS FOR COMPLIANCE

- o VAAC Committee: Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee
- o Purchase and deploy mitigation tools in polling location
- o Mitigation binder in precinct officer (PO) supplies
- o Declarations PO signs confirming they have implemented required mitigation tools all day
- o Self-monitor: Deploy Election Day Surveyor Team to ensure compliance

MITIGATION TOOLS

- o Variety of ramps
- o Variety of thresholds
- o Privacy of voting booth
- o Van accessible parking sign
- o Signs
- o Cones for parking area, etc.



POLLS IN UNLIKELY PLACES

- New buildings are usually ADA compliant

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Vote AND you can find your
“forever friend!”

