

**Supporting People
With Intellectual and
Developmental Disabilities
During the Voting Process**

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Include:

Intellectual Disability

Formerly Referred to as Mental Retardation

The term of Mental Retardation can be considered offensive and should not be used

Cerebral Palsy

Epilepsy

Autism

Other disabilities needing supports similar to Intellectual Disability

Supports That Often Work Well for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Include:

Tailored Support During All Phases Of The Voting Process

Assistance with Registering

Help with Voting Preparation

Help with Researching Candidates and Issues

Someone Trusted to Ask Questions of Who Will Remain Neutral

Adapted and/or Alternatively Formatted Materials

Help with “Vote by Mail” Materials

Help with Transportation

Assistance at The Polls

This Includes Assistance with the Ballot

Sometimes The “Rules” Do Not Meet Everyone's Needs!

**Many Accessibility Guidelines are Currently Directed at
Written and Electronic Formats**

**No set of guidelines can meet all people’s accessibility
needs**

This also applies to different disability groups

“Different Folks Different Strokes”

For Example

Things That Create Barriers:

Being treated differently due to disability status:

Having voting rights inappropriately taken away

Misperceptions of family, support staff and community

Barriers at Poll site by staff or other voters

Lack of appropriate support

Literacy issues

Lack of transportation assistance

Things That Support the Voting Experience For All, Including People With Disabilities:

All Voters are adults

**Focus on including the person in the voting process, and provide
voting related support needs**

Don't focus just on their disability status

Talk to and ask questions of the voter not the person with them

It's OK to acknowledge the other person

**Ask questions as appropriate, and needed, then take the persons'
lead**

Offer assistance, accommodations and adaptive equipment,

But do not insist on their use

Be welcoming and polite

**We Would Be Delighted To Answer Your Questions or
Concerns.**

Thank You!

You Have Been A Fabulous Audience.

