



Voting for People with Disabilities in Nevada

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People with Disabilities in Nevada

There are an estimated 775,830 adults in Nevada who have a disability.

This is equal to 1 in 3 or 32% of Nevada's population.

Accessibility

Accessibility is:

- More than providing items such as ramps or door access buttons.
- Baseline of equal service
- Design of products, environments, and services
- Same level of access and independence.

Universal Accessibility

- Equal access for all people.

What does this mean for voting for people with disabilities?

Voting Access

What does in person voting look like for a person with a disability?

What does using a paper ballot look like for a person with a disability?

What are the benefits of electronic voting for people with disabilities?

County-Level Access Challenges

Washoe, Nye, Lander, Esmeralda, Lyon, and Elko County Commissions have entertained proposals to alter election administration.

Nye and **Esmeralda** voted to recommend that the County Clerk administer elections using **only hand-counted paper ballots**.

Others declined to take action but could consider doing so in the future.

Paper Ballot System is Inaccessible and Unequal

Individuals with disabilities would require assistance with voting, compromising privacy and independence.

A system in which everyone uses paper ballots except for individuals with disabilities could create problems with wait time, technical difficulties, access, and secrecy.

Federal Law Precludes Paper Ballot System

Title II of the ADA (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131–12134) requires state and local governments to ensure that people with disabilities have a full and equal opportunity to vote.

Help America Vote Act (52 U.S.C.A. § 21081) requires jurisdictions conducting federal elections to provide at least one accessible voting system at each polling place that provides the same opportunity that other voters receive for access and participation, including privacy and independence.

Nevada Leads in Voting Accessibility and Security

Democracy Initiative Education Fund report gave Nevada high marks in **voting registration, safe voting, security, and auditing.**

Nevada's system leaves a "statewide verified paper audit trail," tests equipment using federal standards, and uses risk limiting audit methods.

- (<https://www.democracyinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Storming-State-Capitols-Report-Final.pdf>)

2021 Elections Legislation

AB 321 requires a ballot to be mailed to every voter.

AB 121 allows voters with disabilities to use Effective Absentee System for Elections (EASE), the same online system that military and overseas voters use.

These important measures expand access for voters with disabilities and should be retained.

Additional Protections for Voters with Disabilities

We must ensure **sufficient numbers of accessible electronic voting systems** for people with disabilities.

- HAVA requires one per polling location, and the ADA requires equal access.
- State law could mandate additional protections.

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