

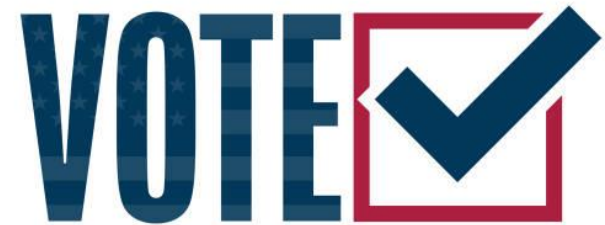
# Voting Rights in Colorado

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# Disability Law Colorado's VOTE! Program

- PAVA Program – funded under the Help America Vote Act (“HAVA”)
- Assist voters in filing HAVA complaints
- Work with election officials to ensure an accessible voting process
- Work with the Secretary of State on rulemaking and legislative action
- Protect the rights of voters with disabilities through individual and systemic advocacy

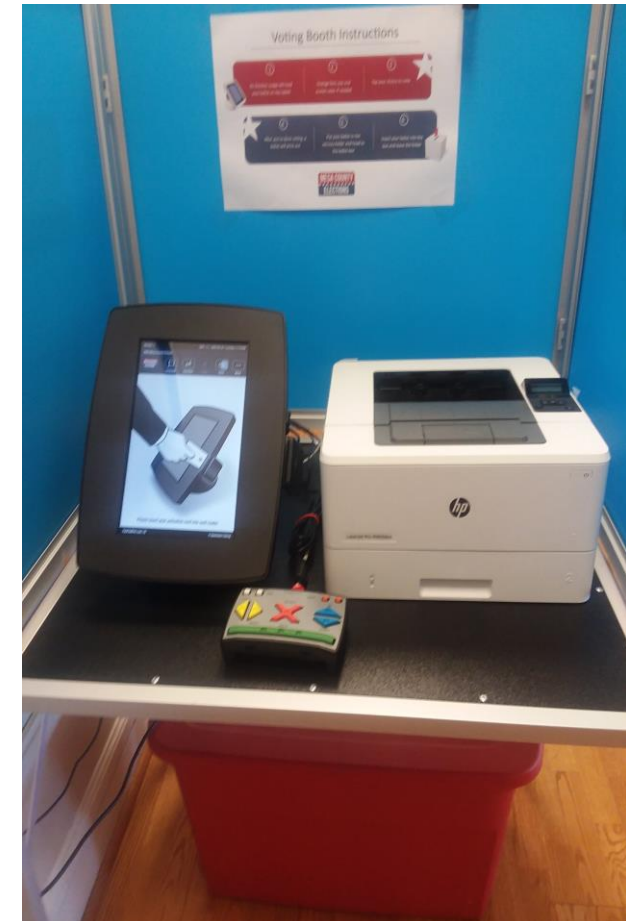


# Election Laws that Protect People with Disabilities

- Voting Rights Act 1965
- Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act 1984
- Americans with Disabilities Act 1990
- National Voter Registration Act 1993
- Help America Vote Act (“HAVA”) 2002
- Colorado’s Election Law 2013 Title 1 C.R.S.

# Definitions

- Ballot
  - Paper
  - Online
  - Accessible Voting Machine
- Voting Service and Polling Center
- Ballot Drop Box



# Your Legal Rights

- ✓ You have the right to vote even if you have a guardian.
- ✓ You have the right to vote independently and privately.
- ✓ You have the right to have any person you choose help.
- ✓ You have the right to have a poll worker help you if you didn't bring anyone with you.
- ✓ You have the right to vote if you have a felony, as long as the time for the felony has been served.
- ✓ You have the right to vote if you are on an involuntary psychiatric hold.
- ✓ You have the right to vote if you do not have a current "home base".

- ✓ Each voting and service polling center (“VSPC”) must have an accessible voting machine.
- ✓ All VSPC’s must be physically accessible under ADA standards.
- ✓ Registration forms, ballots, and other materials must be made available in alternate formats that are accessible.
- ✓ If a voter with a disability needs to use online assistive technology, there is an online ballot delivery system.

**Rights, cont.**

# Things you cannot do

1

Vote if you are currently serving a term of imprisonment for a felony.\*

2

Vote if a judge has specifically ordered that you do not have the capacity to vote.

3

Have an employer or union representative help you vote.

\*Does not include probation or parole.

# Registration

You must be a resident of Colorado for 22 days prior to the election.

You can register to vote up until and on election day.

If you register by mail or online, you must do so 8 days prior to the election in order to receive a mail ballot.

You can pre-register at 15 years old.

You can register online or in-person at a VSPC, the DMV, some state agencies, or a Voter Registration Drive.



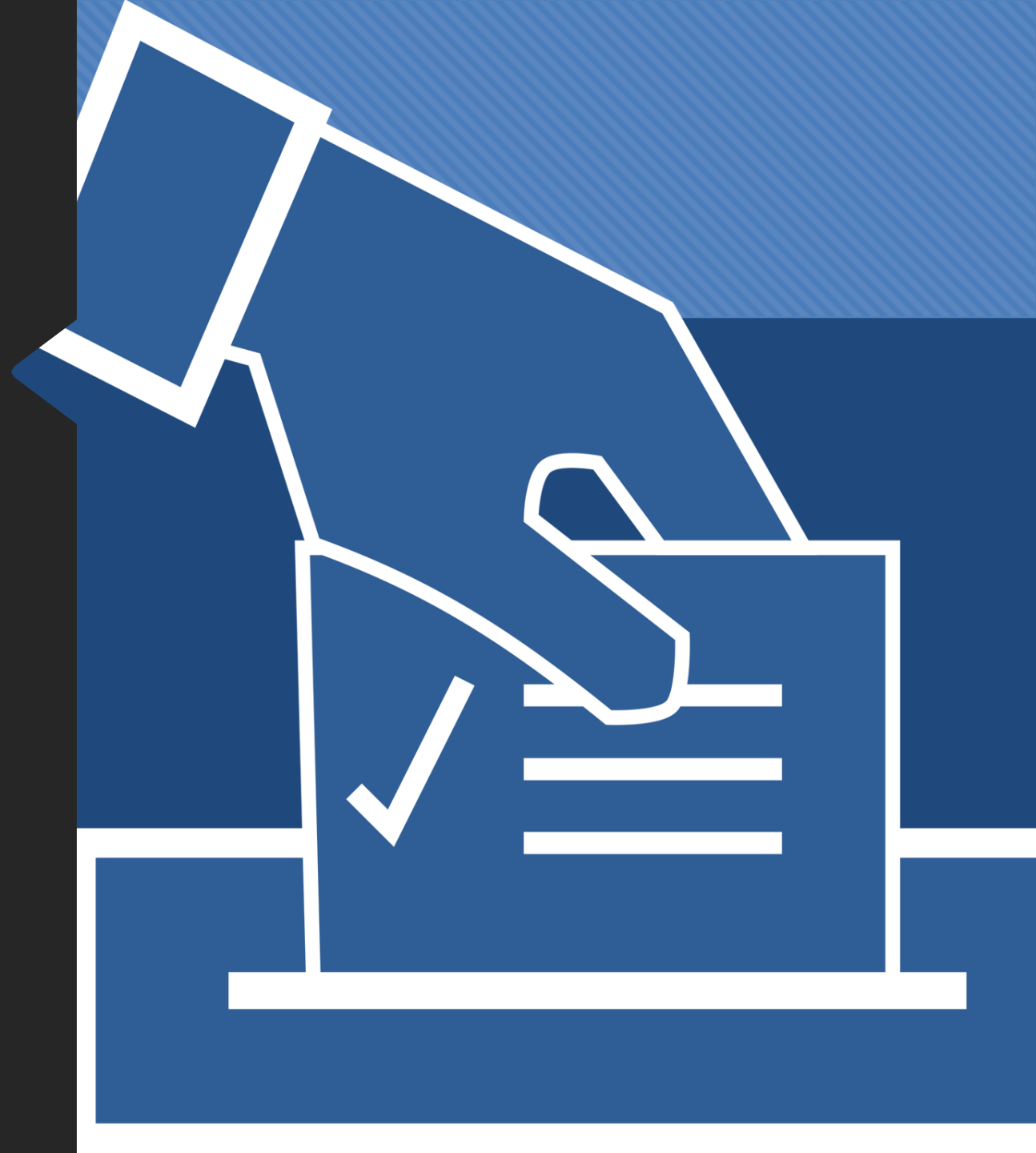
# Voter Identification

- All voters who vote at the polls must provide identification.
- You are not required to have a Colorado driver's license or a photo ID in order to vote, but you must have an acceptable form of identification.
- There are many acceptable forms of identification, including but not limited to: a passport, military ID card, current pay check or bill that shows a Colorado address, or student ID.
- An acceptable form of ID is also verification that you live in a group residential facility, county jail, or are committed to the Department of Human Services (DYS, foster care, etc.) .



# How to Vote

- You can vote by mail, in-person at a VSPC, or through an accessible electronic ballot up to **two weeks** prior to election day.
- ALL registered voters receive a mail ballot at least 8 days prior to the election.
- Mail Ballots can be dropped at a dropbox or mailed through the US Postal Service or returned to a VSPC.



# Polling Place Accessibility

- There are many common barriers often seen at polling places that can usually be addressed quickly with the polling place supervisor or county clerk.
- Issues can also be brought to the attention of DLC and raised with the Secretary of State's (SOS) Accessibility Coordinator.
- The SOS's office also provides accessibility surveys to every polling place ahead of each election that must be completed to ensure ADA compliance.

- If the accessible parking spaces are clearly marked and those nearest to the building.
- If there is at least 1 van accessible space, even if there is only 1 accessible space.
- If there is a passenger drop-off zone, and it is level.
- If there is a clearly marked accessible path from the parking lot to the entrance.
- If the walkways are wide enough for a wheelchair or walker.
- If there is any snow or debris on the path or if the walkway is broken or cracked.
- If there are appropriate curb cuts and ramps where needed.
- If there is anything blocking the path or any curb cuts (e.g., planters, signs, etc.).

**What should I look for in the parking lot/entrance area?**

# What should I look for in the voting area/ballot box?

- If there is an appropriately sized elevator or ramp (if necessary).
- If interior doors are unlocked and either automatic or propped open.
- If staff members are trained in how to use the accessible voting equipment.
- If the path to the voting booth is wide enough for a wheelchair or walker.
- If there is anything blocking the path to the booth (e.g., signs, check-in table, etc.).
- If there is a seating area if a wait is necessary.
- If there is enough space in front of the ballot box to allow for a wheelchair or walker.
- If the ballot box handle can be easily opened/closed with one hand or a closed fist.

**My rights  
were  
violated!  
What do I do?**

Contact Disability Law Colorado for direct advocacy in filing a disability related complaint with the Secretary of State's Office or with the Department of Justice.

Questions? Concerns?

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# Resources

- Disability Law Colorado's fact sheets – <https://disabilitylawco.org/resources/fact-sheets>
- Election Assistance Commission [www.eac.gov](http://www.eac.gov)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology [www.nist.gov](http://www.nist.gov)
- National Federation of the Blind [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org)
- [Justvotecolorado.org](http://Justvotecolorado.org) – VSPC and Mail Ballot Drop Box locations
- [Govotecolorado.com](http://Govotecolorado.com) – register to vote online
- Accessible Online Ballot – <https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/accessibleVoting.html>
- Working for your election office – contact your county clerk