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*For Review  
Carr*

# **Polling Place Accessibility**

**in the**

# **1988 General Election**



This report is submitted to the United States Congress pursuant to provisions of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-435).

*Danny Lee McDonald*

Danny Lee McDonald  
Chairman  
Federal Election Commission

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## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

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This document is a report to the United States Congress on the accessibility of polling places throughout the States to the elderly and handicapped populations during the 1988 general elections. It is the second of five such reports to be submitted biennially by the Federal Election Commission pursuant to the provisions of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-435) which reads in part:

### Sec.3...

(c)(1) Not later than December 31 of each even-numbered year, the chief election officer of each State shall report to the Federal Election Commission, in a manner to be determined by the Commission, the number of accessible and inaccessible polling places in such State on the date of the preceding general Federal election and the reasons for any instance of inaccessibility.

(2) Not later than April 30 of each odd-numbered year, the Federal Election Commission shall compile the information reported under paragraph (1) and shall transmit that information to the Congress.

(3) The provisions of this subsection shall only be effective for a period of 10 years beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

*and*

Sec.9. This Act shall apply with respect to elections taking place after December 31, 1985.

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## SECTION 2: BACKGROUND

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On the basis of hearings conducted in 1983 and 1984 by the Task Force on Elections of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, with help from groups representing the elderly and handicapped, and with the advice of election officials from around the nation, the United States Congress enacted, in September of 1984, the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act.

### Requirements of the Act

The Act (see Appendix A) contains provisions expressly intended "to promote the fundamental right to vote by improving access for handicapped and elderly individuals to registration facilities and polling places for Federal elections." Key provisions require:

- that each political subdivision responsible for conducting elections within each State assure that all polling places for Federal elections are accessible to elderly and handicapped voters *except* in the case of an emergency as determined by the State's chief election officer or *unless* the State's chief election officer
  - determines, by surveying all potential polling places, that no such place in the area is accessible nor can be made temporarily accessible, *and*
  - assures that any handicapped voter assigned to an inaccessible polling place will, upon

advanced request under established State procedures, either be assigned to an accessible polling place or be provided an alternative means of casting a ballot on election day.

- that each State or political subdivision responsible for voter registration for Federal elections provide a reasonable number of accessible permanent registration facilities *unless* the State has in effect a system which provides potential voters an opportunity to register by mail or at their residence.
- that each State make available to handicapped and elderly individuals registration and voting aids for Federal elections *including* large-type instructions conspicuously displayed in every permanent registration facility and polling place *and* information by telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD's).
- the elimination of any notarization or medical certification requirement for handicapped voters to obtain (or apply for) an absentee ballot *except* for medical certifications required to establish eligibility, under State law, for automatically receiving such an application or ballot on a continuing basis *or* for applying for an absentee ballot after the deadline has passed.
- that each State's chief election officer provide public notice, calculated to reach elderly and handicapped voters, of the availability
  - of the registration and voting aids required above
  - of the voter assistance provisions under section 208 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, *and*
  - of the procedures for voting by absentee ballot not later than general public notice of registration and voting is provided.

The enforcement of these provisions rests with the United States Attorney General or with any person who is personally aggrieved by noncompliance, either of whom may bring an action for declaratory or injunctive relief in the appropriate

district court *provided* that the plaintiff notify the State's chief election officer of the noncompliance and a period of 45 days has elapsed since the date of notification.

### **The Role of the Federal Election Commission**

Although the Federal Election Commission's responsibilities under the terms of the law are limited to gathering and compiling State information on polling place accessibility, the Commission has attempted to be of positive assistance to election officials through our role as a National Clearinghouse on Election Administration.

### **Assistance Before 1986**

Shortly after its passage copies of the law were mailed to the chief election officials of the States. Later, in April of 1985, the Commission contacted the State election officials in order to obtain any materials they had developed (accessibility criteria, survey forms, drafts of regulations or procedures, and the like) in order to share these examples amongst the States.

On the basis of these and other materials, the FEC's National Clearinghouse on Election Administration prepared a preliminary report on strategies for implementing the Act. This report offered a conceptual framework for approaching the problem and provided samples of survey forms and accessibility criteria which had been developed in some of the States. This report was first distributed and discussed in August of 1985 at the annual meeting of the Clearinghouse Advisory Panel of State and local election officials which included representatives of organizations serving the handicapped. It was later mailed, along with the transcript of that discussion, to the State election officials who could not attend.

The Winter 1986 edition of the *FEC Journal of Election Administration* contained two articles rele-

vant to implementing the Act. The first, "Providing Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped" outlined some implementation strategies suggested by the States and organizations representing the handicapped. The second article, "Voter Assistance Requirements of the Voting Rights Act" was prepared by the Department of Justice as a reminder to election officials of those important provisions.

In April of 1986, the Commission circulated for comment the first draft of the proposed State reporting form. The proposed final draft, incorporating suggested changes and improvements, was circulated in August 1986 and subsequently discussed at the September 1986 annual meeting of the Clearinghouse Advisory Panel. The final version of the State reporting form was printed and then mailed to the chief election officials of the States on November 12, 1986.

The results of the 1986 survey of polling place accessibility to the elderly and handicapped were summarized in the 1986 report to the Congress.

#### **Assistance Since 1986**

Based on the findings in the 1986 report to the Congress, the House Subcommittee on Elections conducted hearings in October of 1987 to enquire into the progress made under the Act. Several issues emerged from the testimony.

Members of the Subcommittee stressed, for example, the need for active cooperation by State and local election officials in carrying out the purposes of the law. Describing it as an "experiment in Federal legislative restraint", Subcommittee Chairman Al Swift encouraged all efforts to impress on the election community the Congressional intent and interest in passing this legislation.

To that end, the Clearinghouse devoted one quarter of its subsequent annual Advisory Panel meeting (held in December of 1987) to the topic of voting accessibility. Members of the Clearinghouse staff also addressed several State gatherings of election officials on the requirements of the law. Further, the Autumn 1988 edition of the *FEC*

*Journal of Election Administration* contained an article (See Appendix B) reminding election officials of the importance of their cooperation in ensuring accessibility.

The greatest concern in the hearings, however, focused on the incomparability of the data reported from the States in 1986. Members of the Subcommittee were particularly troubled by the wide disparities from State to State in their accessibility criteria as well as in their data collection procedures. Subcommittee Chairman Al Swift, while recognizing that it was specifically *not* the intent of P.L. 98-435 to impose any national standard of accessibility, nevertheless asked the Federal Election Commission to explore ways of achieving a greater commonality of approach in the various States. Representatives from disability organizations along with members of the Subcommittee also requested that some additional data be gathered in 1988 regarding the availability of required voting aids and the publicity accorded them.

Accordingly, the Clearinghouse joined with the National Association of Secretaries of State and the Coalition for Voter Accessibility in an effort to devise a set of polling place evaluation and reporting forms which might be adopted voluntarily by the States. These forms (endorsed by NASS but not, because of certain philosophical differences, by the Coalition) were designed to be comprehensive, flexible enough to accommodate variations in individual State specifications, yet fairly easy to complete. They also serve to remind State and local election officials of the requirements, not emphasized in 1986, to:

- display large-type instructions in every permanent registration facility and in every polling place
- provide telecommunications services (TDD's) for the deaf, and
- provide public notice of these aids, of the voter assistance provisions of section 208 of the Voting Rights Act, and of the procedures for voting by absentee ballot.

The forms (See Appendices C, D, and E) were distributed to the States in June of 1988 for use in the 1988 elections.

The results of the 1988 survey of polling place accessibility to the elderly and handicapped are summarized in Section 4 below. But in order to appreciate their full significance, it is important to note the changes that occurred in the environment between 1986 and 1988.

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## SECTION 3: COMPARISONS BETWEEN 1986 AND 1988

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The 1986 report to the Congress identified wide disparities amongst the States

- in their starting points
- in their implementation strategies
- in their accessibility criteria, and
- in their data collection and reporting techniques.

These differences rendered cross-State comparisons of the 1986 data both difficult and misleading.

Some important changes between 1986 and 1988 have, however, narrowed these differences substantially so that cross-State comparisons based on 1988 data are now feasible. Yet because of these same changes, comparisons of 1986 with 1988 figures *within* certain States may be somewhat misleading for reasons explained below.

### Differences in Starting Points

Because 1986 was the first year in which P.L. 98-435 took effect, States understandably varied somewhat in their preparedness to implement the law's provisions in that election. Several States had

already passed some form of polling place accessibility legislation and thus, presumably, had a head start in developing accessibility criteria, in establishing administrative responsibilities, in sensitizing their local officials, and even in achieving improved voting accessibility. Other States had previously relied on curbside or absentee voting procedures for their elderly and handicapped populations and therefore required greater time and effort to comply with the new federal requirements.

Since 1986, virtually all the States have, either through legislation or through administrative fiat, adopted polling place accessibility criteria, established administrative mechanisms for their implementation, and, in one fashion or another, alerted their local election officials to the new requirements. Their initial differences in starting points are, then, no longer a hindrance to making cross-State comparisons of polling place accessibility in 1988. These original differences may, however, still be reflected in the progress reported by individual States inasmuch as those which addressed the problem for the first time in 1986 were undoubtedly able to report more progress between 1986 and 1988 than those which had been working on the problem beforehand.

### Differences in Implementation Strategies

Just as States differed in 1986 in their starting points, so they differed in their strategies for improving polling place accessibility. A few States conducted inspections early on and undertook to make as many polling places as possible accessible for the 1986 general election. Other States were fairly generous in granting temporary exemptions for 1986 with the intention of making (and demonstrating) vast improvements in 1988. Still others conducted their inspections on or after the 1986 election information on the accessibility of their polling places.

By 1988, however, all States had ample opportunity to identify and correct their inaccessible polling places. Initial differences in implementation strate-

gies are therefore no longer a factor in making cross-State comparisons of polling place accessibility. They are, though, still relevant in evaluating the progress reported by individual States since, after all, those that made great strides in preparation for 1986 are less likely to report as great an improvement from 1986 to 1988 as those that waited until after 1986 to take corrective action.

### **Differences in Accessibility Criteria**

Perhaps the most striking change between 1986 and 1988 is the near elimination of State differences in accessibility criteria.

The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act leaves the matter of defining the criteria for polling place accessibility to the individual States. It is natural, then, that States varied considerably at the outset in both the scope and rigor of those criteria.

The types of criteria they employed in 1986 fell generally into the five main categories which had been suggested by the FEC:

- Inadequate parking facilities (insufficient door swing space, too great a distance, etc.)
- Obstructed walkways or pathways to the entrance of the building (unindented curbs, uneven or broken surfaces, protruding obstacles, etc.)
- Unramped stairs inside or outside the building
- Other architectural features of the building (inadequate door widths, heavy doors, insufficient space for maneuver, etc.)
- Barriers or limitations within the voting area itself (inaccessible voting equipment, inadequate lighting, etc.).

Not all States, however, addressed all these categories in 1986. And they varied considerably in the rigor of their specific criteria within each category. A few States devised very detailed and demanding standards. A few others employed criteria so general that they seemed to depend on little more than the opinions of the local election officials. Although most fell somewhere between these extremes, it

seemed obvious that those States with the more extensive and demanding criteria were bound to report greater inaccessibility than those with fewer, less empirical standards.

These differences in their accessibility criteria posed the greatest single obstacle to making cross-State comparisons of the 1986 data. Thus, as previously noted, Chairman Al Swift of the House Subcommittee on Elections requested that the Federal Election Commission explore ways of achieving voluntarily a greater commonality of approach. And accordingly, as previously described, the Commission devised and distributed a set of recommended polling place accessibility criteria.

Twenty four of the fifty jurisdictions reporting in 1988 employed the criteria suggested by the FEC. Another sixteen States (including several whose 1986 criteria had inspired many of the FEC's suggestions) employed standards very similar. In all, then, forty of the fifty jurisdictions reporting now employ accessibility criteria sufficiently similar to permit cross-State comparisons of the 1988 data.

The widespread application of these suggested criteria had some predictable but occasionally unfortunate consequences. Several States which had used less rigorous standards in 1986, for example, now report a greater number of inaccessible polling places. And in rare instances, States having used more rigorous standards in 1986 now report fewer instances of inaccessibility suggesting a progress more apparent than real.

The greater comparability across States achieved in 1988 was therefore purchased at the price of dependable figures on the progress made within States since 1986. Still, barring any significant changes in the criteria from now on, the 1988 data will serve as a level and reliable baseline against which to gauge all future progress.

### **Differences in Data Collection and Reporting Techniques**

As with the other differences amongst the States in 1986, so their differences in data collection and reporting techniques were all but eliminated in 1988.

Although P.L. 98-435 requires the chief election officer of each State to report the number of accessible and inaccessible polling places and the reasons for each instance of inaccessibility, it does not prescribe the manner in which they are to ascertain this information. Yet, since selecting polling places is almost universally a matter for local election authorities, the State officials, with rare exception, have now come to rely on those local authorities to survey the accessibility of their respective voting facilities. Alternative procedures (such as relying on local exemption requests or on public complaints) have been all but abandoned.

Some States, however, continue to report difficulties in gaining the cooperation of all their local election officials. This problem arises, in part, from the provisions of P.L. 98-435 which seem to ascribe to State chief election officials far greater authority than many of them in fact possess under current State law. A few election authorities were able to work around this problem by administrative fiat or by outright cajolery. Others are currently seeking remedial State legislation.

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## SECTION 4: RESULTS OF THE 1988 SURVEY OF THE STATES

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The charts in Table 3 summarize the 1988 polling place accessibility figures provided to the Federal Election Commission by the chief election officials of the States.

Although the charts are largely self-explanatory, a few technical notes may be helpful. The symbol "N/A" denotes that a State did not employ the criterion whereas an "0" indicates that the criterion was employed but no violations were found. The symbol

"UNK" indicates that the figures were either unknown or unreported.

Finally, the total number of reasons for inaccessibility exceeds the number of inaccessible places simply because many places are inaccessible for more than one reason. Thus, the left-hand pages of Table 3 provide a profile of overall accessibility while the right-hand pages provide a profile of where the problems lie.

### **Polling Place Accessibility Nationwide**

Based on totals of the figures from the States, the following national picture emerges:

- There are nearly 6,500 local jurisdictions (and, hence, local officials) throughout the United States responsible for conducting federal elections. This figure includes estimates for the five jurisdictions which did not respond to the FEC survey questionnaire. Of the 6,191 local jurisdictions encompassed by this report, fully 92% (or 5,730) submitted accessibility reports to their respective State election officers. This question was not asked in 1986 and was included in the 1988 survey in order to gauge the level of cooperation by local election officials.
- There are currently around 152,800 polling places throughout the nation (again, including estimates for non-responding jurisdictions). This represents a reduction of over 5,000 polling places since 1986 resulting from consolidations which were, for the most part, in response to the requirements of P.L. 98-435. Some will want to note that the total number of polling places is considerably smaller than the total number of precincts since many voting places serve more than one precinct.
- Of the 145,969 polling places encompassed by this report, 91% (or 134,246) were said to have been evaluated for their accessibility to the elderly and handicapped. This figure represent an increase of nine percentage points over the 82% response rate reported in 1986.



- Of those evaluated, 79% were deemed accessible while 21% (or 28,527) polling places were reported as inaccessible. This represents an increase in accessibility of six percentage points (or of about 6,000 polling places) since 1986 despite the application, in most cases, of more stringent accessibility criteria.
- Of those reported as being inaccessible, approximately
  - 39% (or about 11,000 places) were inaccessible because of inadequate parking facilities. These figures are up both relatively and absolutely from the 25% (9,000 places) reported in 1986 largely because many States employed this criterion for the first time in 1988.
  - 36% (or about 10,000 places) were inaccessible because of obstructed passages to the polling place entrance. Although this figure is up relatively from the 26% reported in 1986, the actual number of such cases remains about the same.
  - 56% (or about 16,000 places) were inaccessible because of unramped stairs at the entrance to or inside the polling place. Although relatively the same as the 55% reported in 1986, this actually represents a reduction of 4,000 such cases from the 20,000 previously reported.
  - 22% (or about 6,500 places) were inaccessible because of architectural barriers other than unramped stairs. Again, though the percentage is the same as that reported in 1986, this represents an actual decline of 1,500 such cases.
  - 9% (or about 2,700 places) were inaccessible because of obstructions in the voting area. This is a decline both relatively and absolutely from the 11% (or 4,000 places) reported in 1986.
  - 6% (or about 2,000 places) were inaccessible because of assorted other reasons. This, too, is a reduction both relatively and absolutely from the 15% (or 5,000 places) so designated in 1986.

Although it is difficult to identify subtle patterns in aggregate data, there is at least anecdotal evidence to suggest that areas with rugged or mountainous terrain have the greatest problems. The same seems true, though to a somewhat lesser degree, of sparsely populated regions such as the Great Plains where usable rural sites are few and far between and seldom fully accessible.

By the same token, there is every indication that unramped stairs will continue to be the dominant reason for inaccessibility. Adequate ramps cost money, and local election officials are reporting difficulties in obtaining the necessary funds from their respective county councils or budget authorities. The problem is all the more severe, of course, when the facility is privately owned.

Yet despite these difficulties, it is reasonable to expect some further improvement in polling place accessibility in the 1990 general elections.

### **The Cooperation of Local Election Officials**

In response to concerns about the level of cooperation on the part of local election officials, it is evident in the 92% response rate from local jurisdictions and in the 91% response rate on polling places that the vast majority of local election officials are now committed to the purposes of the Act.

The 1988 survey of the States provides additional evidence of this commitment. According to responses to a new item in the 1988 questionnaire, over 8,100 polling places have been relocated and over 7,100 have been physically altered in response to the requirements of P.L. 98-435. (Some will note that this amounts to over 15,200 polling places — 11% of the total number — whereas inaccessibility has been reduced by only 6,000 places since 1986. The reason for this apparent anomaly is that the figures on relocations and alterations date back to the implementation of the law and thus include all changes made both before 1986 and after.)

## Other Requirements of the Act

As previously noted, representatives from disability organizations and members of the House Subcommittee on Elections requested that, above and beyond the strict requirements of the law, some additional data be collected regarding the availability of required voting aids and the publicity accorded them. To that end, the 1988 survey questionnaire ascertained that 80% of the polling places reporting provided instructions in large type. The 1988 survey also included a battery of questions regarding the number of local jurisdictions which provided prior to election day:

- Public notice of the accessibility (or inaccessibility) of their polling places
- Public notice of the voter assistance provisions under section 208 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended
- Public notice of the procedures for voting by absentee ballot
- Registration and voting information by telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD's), and
- Public notice of the availability of the TDD service.

The responses to these items are summarized in Table 2. It is evident from the numbers there that these requirements have received only secondary attention.

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## SECTION 5: CONCLUDING COMMENTS

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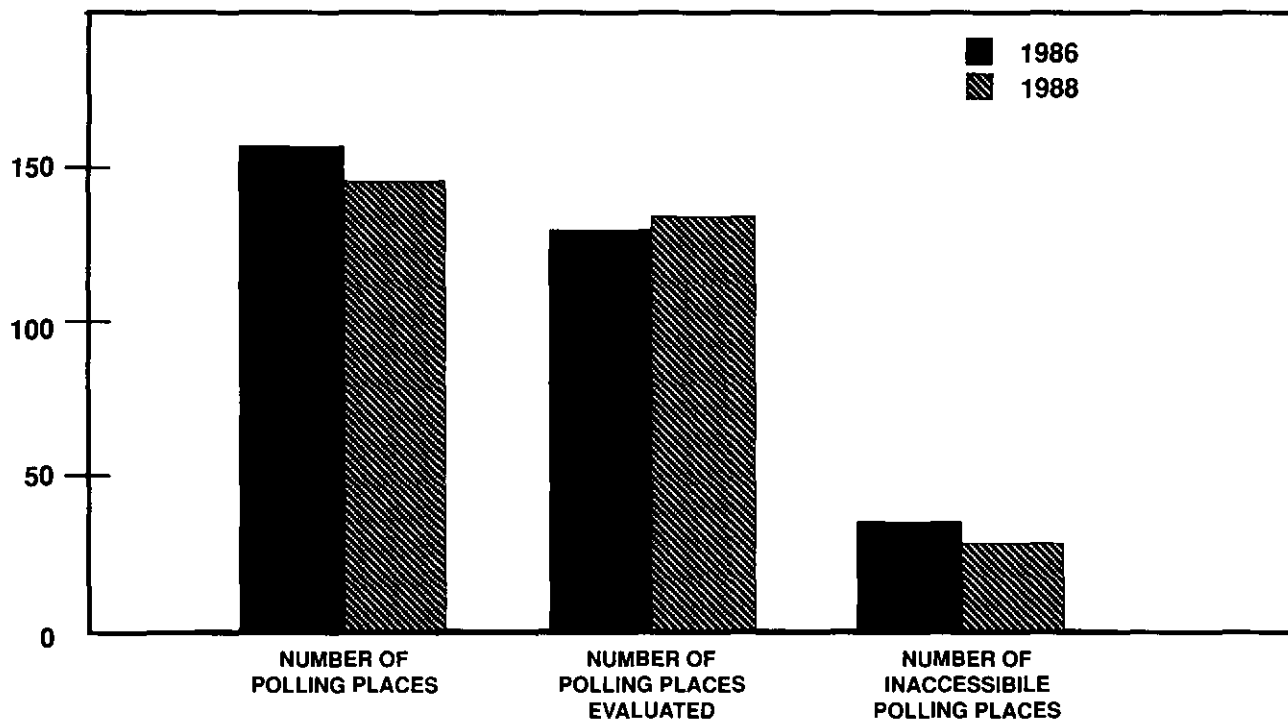
This 1988 survey reveals substantial improvement in polling place accessibility throughout the nation. It also presents a more complete and accurate national picture and provides a firmer basis for cross-State comparisons.

It is clear from this progress that election officials around the country are continuing to make genuine and positive efforts toward the purposes of the legislation.

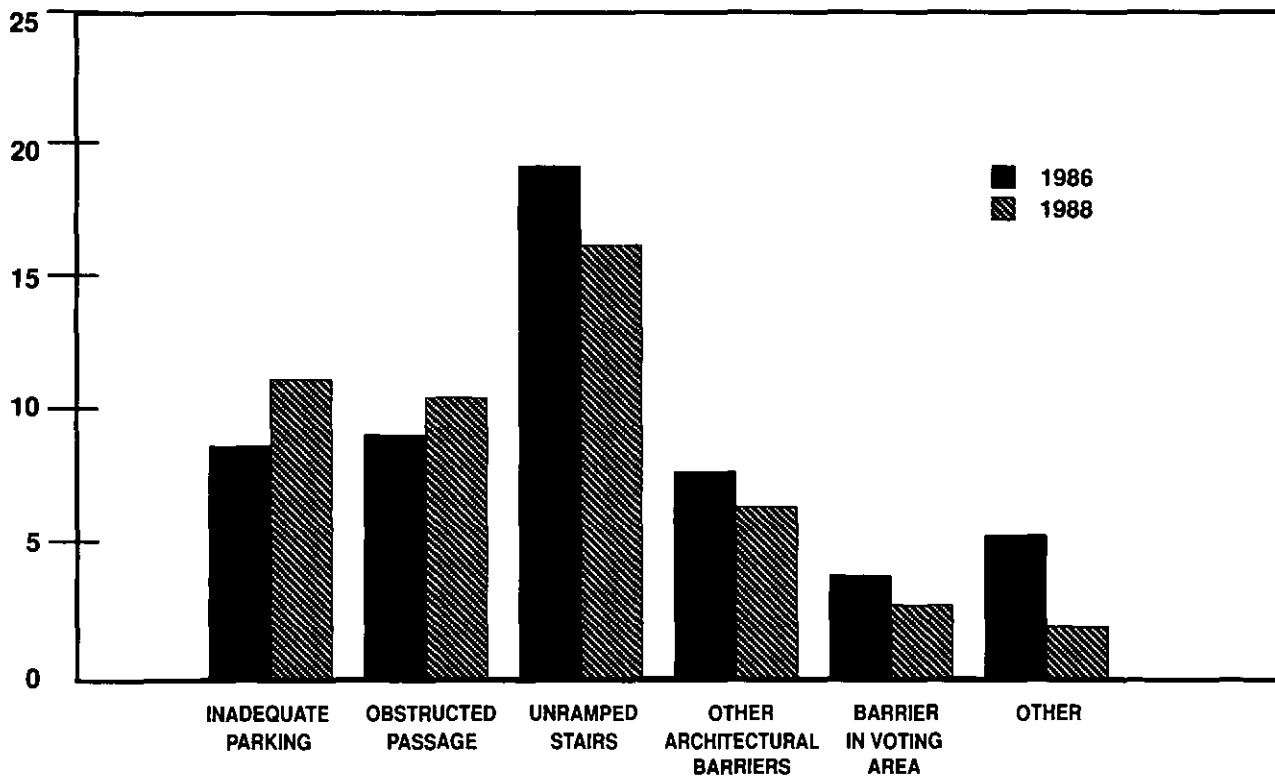
There remain, however, some problem areas — especially in obtaining responses from all local election officials and in ensuring compliance with the other requirements of P.L. 98-435. The FEC's National Clearinghouse on Election Administration will therefore continue working with State and local election officials in the hope that the combined efforts of the election community will yield still further improvement in 1990.

## TABLES AND APPENDICES

**TABLE 1: POLLING PLACE INACCESSIBILITY 1986-1988  
(IN THOUSANDS)**



**REASONS FOR INACCESSIBILITY 1986-1988  
(IN THOUSANDS)**



# TABLE 2: PUBLIC INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THE 1988 GENERAL ELECTION

State	Total Number of Jurisdictions	Jurisdictions Reporting	Provided Notice of Polling Place Accessibility	Provided Notice of Section 208 Requirements	Porovided Notice of Absentee Voting	Provided TDD	Provided Notice of TDD	
AL	67	24	UNK	67	6	UNK	N/A	
AK	0	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	
AZ	15	15	10	12	14	11	10	
AR	75	45	10	UNK	45	ST	ST	
CA	58	58	58	UNK	58	23	23	
CO	63	63	0	0	63	1	1	
CT	169	99	22	26	50	3	1	
DE	3	0	ST		0	0	1+ST	ST
DC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
FL	67	67	29	37	54	10	10	
GA								
HI	4	4	0	4	4	4	ST	
ID	44	44	VF	VF	44	ST	ST	
IL	111	107	111	0	111	4	2	
IN	92	83	27	34	70	5	5	
IA	99	89	23	34	69	0	4	
KS	105	105	0	0	105	ST	ST	
KY	120	120	10	42	78	1	+ST	ST
LA	64	59	UNK	UNK	64	ST	ST	
ME	504	404	384	50	384	0	0	
MD	24	24	5+	24	ST	5+ST	5+ST	
MA	351	348	174	133	224	15	15	
MI	1,511	1,440	591	591	903	25	25	
MN	87	87	24	49	79	75	47	
MS	82	82	17	49	64	1	3	
MO	116	110	20	28	81	1+ST	1+ST	
MT	56	56	40	32	51	ST	56	
NE	93	93	50	54	92	6	3	
NV	17	15	3	7	10	2	1	
NH	240	193	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	
NJ	21	7	UNK	UNK	21	UNK	UNK	
NM	430	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	0	0	
NY	58	58	58	38	0	3+ST	3+ST	
NC	100	100	100	100	UNK	0	0	
ND	53	53	53	0	53	0	UNK	
OH	88	88	UNK	0	88	ST	UNK	
OK	36	36	36	36	36	36+ST	36+ST	
PA	67	61	UNK	UNK	UNK	ST	UNK	
RI	39	39	39	ST	ST	ST	ST	
SC	46	41	0	46	46	ST	ST	
SD	95	95	85	27	95	0	UNK	
TX	254	243	UNK	UNK	243	ST	ST	
UT	29	29	9	10	29	0	0	
VT	246	241	UNK	UNK	246	21+ST	ST	
VA	136	136	UNK	UNK	136	ST	ST	
WA	39	39	39	ST	ST	ST	ST	
WV	55	42	UNK	UNK	UNK	0	UNK	
WI								
WY	23	16	8	10	23	1	1	
GM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	

ST=State  
UNK=Unknown  
L=Local  
VF=Very Few

# TABLE 3: STATE REPORTS ON POLLING PLACE

STATE	REPORTING			INACCESSIBILITY		
	Total Number Jurisdictions	Jurisdictions Reporting	Survey Form Used	Total Number of Polling Places	Polling Places Reported	Inaccessible Polling Places (% of Those Reported)
<b>ALABAMA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	2,408	529	272
percent	-	-	-	-	22%	51%
1988 number	67	24	FEC	2,288	764	107
percent	-	35%	-	-	33%	14%
<b>ALASKA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	442	436	163
percent	-	-	-	-	99%	37%
1988 number	N/A	N/A	Similar	438	435	120
percent	-	-	to FEC	-	99%	27%
<b>ARIZONA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	1,895	1,893	253
percent	-	-	-	-	99%	13%
1988 number	15	15	FEC	1,937	1,880	306
percent	-	100%	-	-	97%	16%
<b>ARKANSAS</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	2,700	UNK	UNK
percent	-	-	-	-	-	-
1988 number	75	45	Similar	2,058	1,196	1,112
percent	-	60%	to FEC	-	58%	93%
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	25,287	9,050	4,064
percent	-	-	-	-	36%	45%
1988 number	58	58	Own	22,167	20,994	4,066
percent	-	100%	-	-	94%	19%

# ACCESSIBILITY IN THE 1988 GENERAL ELECTION

## REASONS FOR INACCESSIBILITY

Inadequate Parking	Obstructed Passage	Unramped Stairs	Other Architectural	Problem in Voting Area	Other	Polling Places Providing Large Type Instructions	Number of Polling Places Relocated Since 1984	Number of Polling Places Altered Since 1984
140	81	2	40	0	29	-	-	-
51%	30%	1%	15%	-	11%	-	-	-
4	49	75	0	0	0	UNK	UNK	UNK
3%	45%	70%	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	N/A	161	25	0	0	-	-	-
<1%	-	98%	15%	-	-	-	-	-
1	N/A	114	6	0	6	435	12	0
<1%	N/A	95%	5%	-	5%	100%	2%	-
30	77	139	15	2	0	-	-	-
12%	30%	55%	6%	<1%	-	-	-	-
53	37	148	98	0	0 1,880	14	26	-
17%	12%	48%	32%	-	-	100%	<1%	1%
UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
820	510	527	N/A	425	900	1,100	150	250
73%	45%	47%	-	38%	80%	91%	12%	20%
N/A	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N/A	2,757	1,233	98	0	2	20,994	UNK	UNK
-	67%	30%	2%	-	<1%	100%	-	-

STATE	REPORTING			INACCESSIBILITY		
	Total Number Jurisdictions	Jurisdictions Reporting	Survey Form Used	Total Number of Polling Places	Polling Places Reported	Inaccessible Polling Places (% of Those Reported)
<b>COLORADO</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	2,815	2,806	273
percent	-	-	-	-	99%	10%
1988 number	63	63	FEC	2,525	2,525	251
percent	-	100%	-	-	100%	9%
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	744	744	9
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	1%
1988 number	169	99	FEC	771	402	33
percent	-	58%	-	-	52%	8%
<b>DELAWARE</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	338	338	155
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	46%
1988 number	3	3	Similar	339	339	111
percent	-	100%	to FEC	-	100%	32%
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	137	137	51
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	37%
1988 number	1	1	Similar	140	140	20
percent	-	100%	to FEC	-	100%	14%
<b>FLORIDA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	4,319	4,245	114
percent	-	-	-	-	98%	3%
1988 number	67	67	FEC	4,331	4,263	308
percent	-	100%	-	-	98%	7%



## REASONS FOR INACCESSIBILITY

Inadequate Parking	Obstructed Passage	Unramped Stairs	Other Architectural	Problem in Voting Area	Other	Polling Places Providing Large Type Instructions	Number of Polling Places Relocated Since 1984	Number of Polling Places Altered Since 1984
53 19%	23 8%	230 84%	36 13%	0 -	0 -	- -	- -	- -
22 8%	50 19%	225 89%	11 4%	5 1%	0 -	2,525 100%	86 3%	46 1%
4 44%	3 33%	8 88%	0 -	0 -	0 -	- -	- -	- -
33 100%	0 -	1 3%	0 -	0 -	0 -	353 87%	28 6%	81 20%
20 13%	102 66%	104 67%	51 33%	0 -	0 -	- -	- -	- -
9 8%	49 44%	66 59%	15 13%	3 2%	3 2%	339 100%	11 3%	55 16%
0 -	42 82%	51 100%	5 10%	2 4%	0 -	- -	- -	- -
0 -	0 -	20 100%	0 -	0 -	0 -	140 100%	20 14%	90 64%
4 4%	47 41%	79 69%	10 9%	1 <1%	0 -	- -	- -	- -
221 71%	42 13%	105 34%	53 17%	8 2%	17 5%	4,152 97%	145 3%	351 8%

## STATE

## REPORTING

## INACCESSIBILITY

	Total Number Jurisdictions	Jurisdictions Reporting	Survey Form Used	Total Number of Polling Places	Polling Places Reported	Inaccessible Polling Places (% of Those Reported)
<b>GEORGIA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	2,338	2,300	198
percent	-	-	-	-	98%	9%
1988 number	REPORT NOT RECEIVED BY 1 MAR 89					
percent						
<b>HAWAII</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	284	284	35
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	12%
1988 number	4	4	Similar	289	289	0
percent	-	100%	to FEC	-	100%	-
<b>IDAHO</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	863	863	134
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	16%
1988 number	44	44	Own	734	734	122
percent	-	100%	-	-	100%	16%
<b>ILLINOIS</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	11,705	11,435	5,098
percent	-	-	-	-	98%	45%
1988 number	111	107	Similar	11,718	11,600	2,930
percent	-	96%	to FEC	-	98%	25%
<b>INDIANA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	4,837	4,514	763
percent	-	-	-	-	93%	17%
1988 number	92	83	FEC	4,801	4,327	909
percent	-	90%	-	-	90%	21%

## REASONS FOR INACCESSIBILITY

	Inadequate Parking	Obstructed Passage	Unramped Stairs	Other Architectural	Problem in Voting Area	Other	Polling Places Providing Large Type Instructions	Number of Polling Places Relocated Since 1984	Number of Polling Places Altered Since 1984
	17 9%	26 13%	82 41%	126 64%	0 -	0 -	- -	- -	- -
1	7 3%	23 20%	3 66%	0 9%	0 -	- -	- -	- -	- -
	N/A -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	289 100%	8 2%	0 -
	1 <1%	29 22%	122 91%	28 21%	0 -	2 1%	- -	- -	- -
	6 4%	29 23%	122 100%	28 22%	0 -	0 -	734 100%	33 4%	64 8%
	N/A -	1,241 24%	4,643 91%	1,590 31%	N/A -	280 5%	- -	- -	- -
	N/A -	785 26%	2,859 97%	945 32%	N/A -	0 -	3,900 33%	2,000 17%	165 1%
	91 12%	N/A -	251 33%	45 6%	N/A -	0 -	- -	- -	- -
	572 62%	313 34%	363 39%	269 29%	287 31%	12 1%	3,978 91%	344 7%	109 2%

**STATE****REPORTING****INACCESSIBILITY**

	Total Number Jurisdictions	Jurisdictions Reporting	Survey Form Used	Total Number of Polling Places	Polling Places Reported	Inaccessible Polling Places (% of Those Reported)
<b>IOWA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	2,494	2,456	873
percent	-	-	-	-	98%	36%
1988 number	99	89	FEC	2,484	2,068	1,041
percent	-	89%	-	-	83%	50%
<b>KANSAS</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	2,681	2,681	49
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	2%
1988 number	105	105	Own	2,711	2,711	92
percent	-	100%	-	-	100%	3%
<b>KENTUCKY</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	3,246	2,686	2,251
percent	-	-	-	-	83%	84%
1988 number	120	120	FEC	3,081	2,970	700
percent	-	100%	-	-	96%	23%
<b>LOUISIANA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	2,684	1,178	1,044
percent	-	-	-	-	44%	89%
1988 number	64	59	FEC	2,700	2,404	0
percent	-	92%	-	-	89%	-
<b>MAINE</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	671	443	142
percent	-	-	-	-	66%	32%
1988 number	504	404	Own	674	517	176
percent	-	80%	-	-	76%	34%

## REASONS FOR INACCESSIBILITY

Inadequate Parking	Obstructed Passage	Unramped Stairs	Other Architectural	Problem in Voting Area	Other	Polling Places Providing Large Type Instructions	Number of Polling Places Relocated Since 1984	Number of Polling Places Altered Since 1984
220	401	503	296	362	5	-	-	-
25%	46%	58%	34%	41%	<1%	-	-	-
678	532	554	543	206	60	1,708	146	77
65%	51%	53%	52%	19%	5%	82%	7%	3%
0	0	49	0	0	0	-	-	-
-	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1	86	1	2	0	2,711	274	313
2%	1%	93%	1%	2%	-	100%	10%	11%
1,704	1,234	1,786	1,356	1,490	0	-	-	-
76%	55%	80%	60%	66%	-	-	-	-
262	184	291	179	218	N/A	2,508	383	316
37%	26%	41%	25%	31%	-	84%	12%	10%
387	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	657	-	-	-
37%	-	-	-	-	63%	-	-	-
UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	2,366	313	UNK
-	-	-	-	-	-	98%	13%	-
105	91	33	126	16	18	-	-	-
74%	64%	23%	89%	11%	13%	-	-	-
176	102	42	N/A	116	N/A	0	50	0
100%	57%	23%	-	65%	-	-	9%	-

**STATE****REPORTING****INACCESSIBILITY**

	Total Number Jurisdictions	Jurisdictions Reporting	Survey Form Used	Total Number of Polling Places	Polling Places Reported	Inaccessible Polling Places (% of Those Reported)
<b>MARYLAND</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	1,345	1,345	428
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	32%
1988 number	24	24	Similar	1,352	1,352	338
percent	-	100%	to FEC	-	100%	25%
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	2,193	2,193	125
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	6%
1988 number	351	348	FEC	1,740	1,740	15
percent	-	99%	-	-	100%	<1%
<b>MICHIGAN</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	4,461	4,451	507
percent	-	-	-	-	99%	11%
1988 number	1,511	1,440	Similar	4,336	4,208	678
percent	-	95%	to FEC	-	97%	16%
<b>MINNESOTA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	4,061	3,258	437
percent	-	-	-	-	80%	13%
1988 number	87	87	FEC	4,089	3,724	864
percent	-	100%	-	-	91%	23%
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	2,063	1,890	1,617
percent	-	-	-	-	92%	86%
1988 number	82	82	FEC	2,054	2,029	495
percent	-	100%	-	-	98%	24%

## REASONS FOR INACCESSIBILITY

Inadequate Parking	Obstructed Passage	Unramped Stairs	Other Architectural	Problem in Voting Area	Other	Polling Places Providing Large Type Instructions	Number of Polling Places Relocated Since 1984	Number of Polling Places Altered Since 1984
104	288	247	231	0	68	-	-	-
24%	53%	58%	54%	-	16%	-	-	-
99	211	209	224	41	0	1,352	24	53
29%	62%	61%	66%	12%	-	100%	1%	3%
18	3	123	33	1	1	-	-	-
14%	2%	98%	26%	<1%	<1%	-	-	-
3	5	5	0	1	1	1,740	479	417
20%	33%	33%	-	6%	6%	100%	27%	23%
147	18	405	4	0	2	-	-	-
29%	4%	80%	<1%	-	<1%	-	-	-
432	257	389	87	23	0	4,208	246	1,001
63%	37%	57%	12%	3%	-	100%	5%	23%
UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	437	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	100%	-	-	-
610	436	425	339	69	0	3,724	184	489
70%	50%	49%	39%	7%	-	100%	4%	13%
1,019	505	717	403	201	1,121	-	-	-
63%	31%	44%	25%	12%	69%	-	-	-
238	107	278	113	164	0	1,947	96	330
48%	21%	56%	22%	33%	-	95%	4%	16%

**STATE****REPORTING****INACCESSIBILITY**

	Total Number Jurisdictions	Jurisdictions Reporting	Survey Form Used	Total Number of Polling Places	Polling Places Reported	Inaccessible Polling Places (% of Those Reported)
<b>MISSOURI</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	3,788	3,490	1,004
percent	-	-	-	-	92%	29%
1988 number	116	110	FEC	3,694	3,580	1,400
percent	-	94%	-	-	96%	39%
<b>MONTANA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	936	880	77
percent	-	-	-	-	94%	9%
1988 number	56	56	FEC	836	818	438
percent	-	100%	-	-	97%	53%
<b>NEBRASKA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	1,912	1,912	105
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	5%
1988 number	93	93	FEC	1,777	1,777	515
percent	-	100%	-	-	100%	28%
<b>NEVADA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	273	273	20
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	7%
1988 number	17	15	FEC	268	244	34
percent	-	88%	-	-	91%	13%
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	299	242	115
percent	-	-	-	-	81%	48%
1988 number	240	193	Similar	298	251	109
percent	-	80%	to FEC	-	84%	43%



## REASONS FOR INACCESSIBILITY

Inadequate Parking	Obstructed Passage	Unramped Stairs	Other Architectural	Problem in Voting Area	Other	Polling Places Providing Large Type Instructions	Number of Polling Places Relocated Since 1984	Number of Polling Places Altered Since 1984
24	430	658	90	3	0	-	-	-
2%	43%	66%	9%	<1%	-	-	-	-
1,071	813	528	758	212	27	3,381	218	238
76%	58%	37%	54%	15%	1%	94%	6%	6%
23	57	56	31	0	24	-	-	-
30%	74%	73%	40%	-	31%	-	-	-
345	229	211	194	31	0	806	101	190
78%	52%	48%	44%	7%	-	98%	12%	23%
9	0	45	4	1	82	-	-	-
9%	-	43%	4%	<1%	78%	-	-	-
338	172	74	195	52	51	1,486	207	217
65%	33%	14%	37%	10%	9%	83%	11%	12%
0	0	19	0	0	1	-	-	-
-	-	95%	-	-	5%	-	-	-
26	25	13	13	3	0	244	16	12
76%	73%	38%	38%	8%	-	100%	6%	4%
0	45	0	90	65	0	-	-	-
-	39%	-	78%	57%	-	-	-	-
N/A	47	61	52	70	0	251	19	12
-	43%	55%	47%	64%	-	100%	7%	4%

**STATE****REPORTING****INACCESSIBILITY**

	Total Number Jurisdictions	Jurisdictions Reporting	Survey Form Used	Total Number of Polling Places	Polling Places Reported	Inaccessible Polling Places (% of Those Reported)
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	3,663	3,663	548
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	15%
1988 number	21	7	Similar	3,594	1,208	191
percent	-	33%	to FEC	-	33%	15%
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	783	774	49
percent	-	-	-	-	99%	6%
1988 number	430	430	FEC	1,175	1,122	62
percent	-	100%	-	-	95%	5%
<b>NEW YORK</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	8,579	8,517	2,255
percent	-	-	-	-	99%	26%
1988 number	58	58	FEC	8,196	8,129	1,249
percent	-	100%	-	-	99%	15%
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	2,392	2,392	343
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	14%
1988 number	100	100	Own	2,391	2,391	11
percent	-	100%	-	-	100%	<1%
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	1,152	1,089	328
percent	-	-	-	-	95%	30%
1988 number	53	53	FEC	1,090	1,043	377
percent	-	100%	-	-	95%	36%

## REASONS FOR INACCESSIBILITY

Inadequate Parking	Obstructed Passage	Unramped Stairs	Other Architectural	Problem in Voting Area	Other	Polling Places Providing Large Type Instructions	Number of Polling Places Relocated Since 1984	Number of Polling Places Altered Since 1984
N/A	4	536	8	N/A	0	-	-	-
-	<1%	98%	1%	-	-	-	-	-
N/A	14	151	26	0	0	UNK	UNK	UNK
-	7%	79%	13%	-	-	-	-	-
28	23	29	18	14	0	-	-	-
57%	47%	59%	37%	29%	-	-	-	-
8	7	15	0	0	N/A	UNK	396	396
12%	11%	24%	-	-	-	-	35%	35%
N/A	N/A	UNK	UNK	N/A	0	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N/A	89	1,249	305	7	0	5,758	1,167	127
N/A	7%	100%	24%	<1%	-	70%	14%	15%
73	122	226	55	38	16	-	-	-
21%	36%	66%	16%	11%	5%	-	-	-
0	0	1	0	0	10	2,391	UNK	UNK
-	-	9%	-	-	90%	100%	-	-
63	110	295	105	46	40	-	-	-
19%	34%	90%	32%	14%	12%	-	-	-
198	116	253	134	54	-	923	25	0
52%	30%	67%	35%	14%	-	88%	2%	-

STATE	REPORTING			INACCESSIBILITY		
	Total Number Jurisdictions	Jurisdictions Reporting	Survey Form Used	Total Number of Polling Places	Polling Places Reported	Inaccessible Polling Places (% of Those Reported)
<b>OHIO</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	8,141	8,141	650
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	8%
1988 number	88	88	Own	7,892	7,892	548
percent	-	100%	-	-	100%	6%
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	2,334	2,305	1,231
percent	-	-	-	-	99%	53%
1988 number	77	77	FEC	2,335	2,333	1,031
percent	-	100%	-	-	99%	44%
<b>OREGON</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	1,689	1,689	913
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	54%
1988 number	36	36	Similar	1,700	1,700	661
percent	-	100%	to FEC	-	100%	38%
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	9,517	9,517	3,827
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	40%
1988 number	67	61	Similar	9,422	8,507	2,935
percent	-	91%	to FEC	-	90%	34%
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	531	531	11
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	2%
1988 number	39	39	Own	542	542	8
percent	-	100%	-	-	100%	1%

## REASONS FOR INACCESSIBILITY

Inadequate Parking	Obstructed Passage	Unramped Stairs	Other Architectural	Problem in Voting Area	Other	Polling Places Providing Large Type Instructions	Number of Polling Places Relocated Since 1984	Number of Polling Places Altered Since 1984
32	59	526	34	6	104	-	-	-
5%	9%	81%	5%	4%	16%	-	-	-
11	41	455	34	8	8	7,892	UNK	UNK
2%	7%	83%	6%	1%	1%	100%	-	-
942	598	463	486	N/A	0	-	-	-
77%	49%	38%	39%	-	-	-	-	-
764	418	403	450	77	7	2,335	180	412
74%	40%	39%	43%	7%	<1%	100%	7%	17%
769	228	368	505	144	302	-	-	-
84%	25%	40%	55%	16%	33%	-	-	-
503	162	193	223	187	203	1,700	UNK	UNK
76%	24%	29%	33%	28%	30%	100%	-	-
1,528	629	2,963	659	N/A	484	-	-	-
40%	16%	77%	17%	-	13%	-	-	-
1,217	524	2,531	530	0	390	UNK	UNK	UNK
41%	17%	86%	18%	-	13%	-	-	-
0	0	11	0	0	0	-	-	-
-	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-
0	0	8	0	0	0	542	83	93
-	-	100%	-	-	-	100%	15%	17%

**STATE****REPORTING****INACCESSIBILITY**

	Total Number Jurisdictions	Jurisdictions Reporting	Survey Form Used	Total Number of Polling Places	Polling Places Reported	Inaccessible Polling Places (% of Those Reported)
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	1,885	1,780	411
percent	-	-	-	-	94%	23%
1988 number	40	40	Similar	1,881	1,743	405
percent	-	100%	to FEC	-	92%	23%
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	966	966	307
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	32%
1988 number	66	61	FEC	1,042	906	271
percent	-	92%	-	-	86%	29%
<b>TENNESSEE</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	2,329	2,329	1,001
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	43%
1988 number	95	95	FEC	2,393	2,393	434
percent	-	100%	-	-	100%	18%
<b>TEXAS</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	6,766	5,435	333
percent	-	-	-	-	80%	6%
1988 number	254	243	Similar	6,988	6,783	1,871
percent	-	95%	to FEC	-	97%	27%
<b>UTAH</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	1,330	1,262	259
percent	-	-	-	-	95%	21%
1988 number	29	29	FEC	1,633	1,221	257
percent	-	100%	-	-	74%	21%

## REASONS FOR INACCESSIBILITY

Inadequate Parking	Obstructed Passage	Unramped Stairs	Other Architectural	Problem in Voting Area	Other	Polling Places Providing Large Type Instructions	Number of Polling Places Relocated Since 1984	Number of Polling Places Altered Since 1984
0	53	411	20	N/A	0	-	-	-
-	13%	100%	5%	-	-	-	-	-
0	51	405	26	0	0	1,743	6	0
-	12%	100%	6%	-	-	92%	<1%	-
9	55	227	153	33	0	-	-	-
3%	18%	74%	50%	11%	-	-	-	-
159	106	181	74	39	26	849	120	111
58%	39%	66%	27%	14%	9%	93%	13%	12%
4	578	570	251	0	0	-	-	-
<1%	58%	57%	25%	-	-	-	-	-
118	63	323	19	11	18	2,100	97	190
27%	14%	74%	4%	2%	4%	87%	4%	7%
N/A	113	238	9	N/A	0	-	-	-
-	34%	71%	3%	-	-	-	-	-
1,791	568	242	157	N/A	39	6,783	UNK	UNK
95%	30%	12%	8%	-	2%	100%	-	-
159	164	247	10	17	0	-	-	-
61%	63%	95%	4%	7%	-	-	-	-
49	56	210	19	10	1	1,221	277	22
19%	21%	81%	7%	3%	<1%	100%	22%	1%

**STATE****REPORTING****INACCESSIBILITY**

	Total Number Jurisdictions	Jurisdictions Reporting	Survey Form Used	Total Number of Polling Places	Polling Places Reported	Inaccessible Polling Places (% of Those Reported)
<b>VERMONT</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	291	231	203
percent	-	-	-	-	80%	88%
1988 number	246	241	Similar	270	264	231
percent	-	97%	to FEC	-	97%	87%
<b>VIRGINIA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	1,934	1,934	125
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	6%
1988 number	136	136	Own	1,962	1,962	52
percent	-	100%	-	-	100%	2%
<b>WASHINGTON</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	2,246	2,246	168
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	7%
1988 number	39	39	Similar	2,221	2,221	114
percent	-	100%	to FEC	-	100%	5%
<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	2,221	1,606	506
percent	-	-	-	-	72%	32%
1988 number	55	42	Own	2,140	1,133	467
percent	-	76%	-	-	52%	41%
<b>WISCONSIN</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	2,859	2,845	853
percent	-	-	-	-	99%	30%
1988 number	REPORT NOT RECEIVED BY 1 MAR 89					
percent						



## REASONS FOR INACCESSIBILITY

Inadequate Parking	Obstructed Passage	Unramped Stairs	Other Architectural	Problem in Voting Area	Other	Polling Places Providing Large Type Instructions	Number of Polling Places Relocated Since 1984	Number of Polling Places Altered Since 1984
68 33%	134 66%	N/A -	76 37%	128 63%	57 28%	- -	- -	- -
122 52%	124 53%	0 -	56 24%	121 52%	44 19%	212 80%	UNK -	UNK -
3 2%	3 2%	102 82%	24 19%	0 -	0 -	- -	- -	- -
8 15%	1 1%	50 96%	0 -	0 -	0 -	1,962 100%	131 6%	433 22%
51 30%	63 38%	100 60%	52 31%	1 <1%	N/A -	- -	- -	- -
56 49%	88 77%	4 3%	0 -	21 18%	56 49%	2,221 100%	71 3%	422 19%
98 19%	233 46%	414 82%	165 33%	247 49%	57 11%	- -	- -	- -
95 20%	173 37%	339 72%	139 29%	199 42%	78 16%	0 -	UNK -	UNK -
207 24%	392 46%	N/A -	N/A -	622 73%	1,055 N/A	- -	- -	- -

**STATE****REPORTING****INACCESSIBILITY**

	Total Number Jurisdictions	Jurisdictions Reporting	Survey Form Used	Total Number of Polling Places	Polling Places Reported	Inaccessible Polling Places (% of Those Reported)
<b>WYOMING</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	474	474	59
percent	-	-	-	-	100%	12%
1988 number	23	16	FEC	453	453	62
percent	-	69%	-	-	100%	13%
<b>GUAM</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	19	0	0
percent	-	-	-	-	-	-
1988 number	1	1	UNK	19	19	0
percent	-	100%	-	-	100%	-
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>						
1986 number	-	-	-	1,602	1,520	1,021
percent	-	-	-	-	95%	67%
1988	REPORT NOT RECEIVED BY 1 MAR 89					
<b>AMERICAN SAMOA</b>						
1986	REPORT NOT RECEIVED					
1988	REPORT NOT RECEIVED BY 1 MAR 89					
<b>VIRGIN ISLANDS</b>						
1986	REPORT NOT RECEIVED					
1988	REPORT NOT RECEIVED BY 1 MAR 89					



PUBLIC LAW 98-435—SEPT. 28, 1984

VOTING ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE ELDERLY  
AND HANDICAPPED ACT

Public Law 98-435  
98th Congress

An Act

Sept. 28, 1984  
[H.R. 1250]

To improve access for handicapped and elderly individuals to registration facilities and polling places for Federal elections.

Voting  
Accessibility for  
the Elderly and  
Handicapped  
Act.  
42 USC 1973ee  
note.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act".

PURPOSE

42 USC 1973ee.

SEC. 2. It is the intention of Congress in enacting this Act to promote the fundamental right to vote by improving access for handicapped and elderly individuals to registration facilities and polling places for Federal elections.

SELECTION OF POLLING FACILITIES

42 USC  
1973ee-1.

SEC. 3. (a) Within each State, except as provided in subsection (b), each political subdivision responsible for conducting elections shall assure that all polling places for Federal elections are accessible to handicapped and elderly voters.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a polling place—

(1) in the case of an emergency, as determined by the chief election officer of the State; or

(2) if the chief election officer of the State—

(A) determines that all potential polling places have been surveyed and no such accessible place is available, nor is the political subdivision able to make one temporarily accessible, in the area involved; and

(B) assures that any handicapped or elderly voter assigned to an inaccessible polling place, upon advance request of such voter (pursuant to procedures established by the chief election officer of the State)—

(i) will be assigned to an accessible polling place, or

(ii) will be provided with an alternative means for casting a ballot on the day of the election.

Report.

(c)(1) Not later than December 31 of each even-numbered year, the chief election officer of each State shall report to the Federal Election Commission, in a manner to be determined by the Commission, the number of accessible and inaccessible polling places in such State on the date of the preceding general Federal election, and the reasons for any instance of inaccessibility.

(2) Not later than April 30 of each odd-numbered year, the Federal Election Commission shall compile the information reported under paragraph (1) and shall transmit that information to the Congress.

Effective date.

(3) The provisions of this subsection shall only be effective for a period of 10 years beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

## SELECTION OF REGISTRATION FACILITIES

SEC. 4. (a) Each State or political subdivision responsible for registration for Federal elections shall provide a reasonable number of accessible permanent registration facilities. 42 USC 1973ee-2.

(b) Subsection (a) does not apply to any State that has in effect a system that provides an opportunity for each potential voter to register by mail or at the residence of such voter.

## REGISTRATION AND VOTING AIDS

SEC. 5. (a) Each State shall make available registration and voting aids for Federal elections for handicapped and elderly individuals, including— 42 USC 1973ee-3.

(1) instructions, printed in large type, conspicuously displayed at each permanent registration facility and each polling place; and

(2) information by telecommunications devices for the deaf.

(b) No notarization or medical certification shall be required of a handicapped voter with respect to an absentee ballot or an application for such ballot, except that medical certification may be required when the certification establishes eligibility, under State law— Absentee ballot.

(1) to automatically receive an application or a ballot on a continuing basis; or

(2) to apply for an absentee ballot after the deadline has passed.

(c) The chief election officer of each State shall provide public notice, calculated to reach elderly and handicapped voters, of the availability of aids under this section, assistance under section 208 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973aa-6), and the procedures for voting by absentee ballot, not later than general public notice of registration and voting is provided. Public information.

## ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 6. (a) If a State or political subdivision does not comply with this Act, the United States Attorney General or a person who is personally aggrieved by the noncompliance may bring an action for declaratory or injunctive relief in the appropriate district court. 42 USC 1973ee-4.

(b) An action may be brought under this section only if the plaintiff notifies the chief election officer of the State of the noncompliance and a period of 45 days has elapsed since the date of notification.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no award of attorney fees may be made with respect to an action under this section, except in any action brought to enforce the original judgment of the court.

## RELATIONSHIP TO VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

SEC. 7. This Act shall not be construed to impair any right guaranteed by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973 et seq.). 42 USC 1973ee-5.

## DEFINITIONS

SEC. 8. As used in this Act, the term— 42 USC 1973ee-6.

(1) "accessible" means accessible to handicapped and elderly individuals for the purpose of voting or registration, as determined under guidelines established by the chief election officer of the State involved;

(2) "elderly" means 65 years of age or older;

(3) "Federal election" means a general, special, primary, or runoff election for the office of President or Vice President, or of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress;

(4) "handicapped" means having a temporary or permanent physical disability; and

(5) "State" means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

42 USC 1973ee  
note.

**SEC. 9.** This Act shall apply with respect to elections taking place after December 31, 1985.

Approved September 28, 1984.

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 1250:**

HOUSE REPORT No. 98-852 (Comm. on House Administration).  
SENATE REPORT No. 98-590 (Comm. on Rules and Administration).  
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 130 (1984):  
June 25, considered and passed House.  
Aug. 10, considered and passed Senate, amended.  
Sept. 12, House concurred in Senate amendments.

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## Federal Perspective 3

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by William C. Kimberling, Deputy Director  
FEC National Clearinghouse on  
Election Administration

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# Access for All

*"...I think that this legislation is an experiment in Federal legislative restraint. If it is going to work, it really requires honest effort by all the people involved, particularly the election officials, to comply."*

*Representative Al Swift  
Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Elections*

Very often, election legislation is promoted by advocacy groups without the active participation of election officials. The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984, in contrast, was in many ways the product of compromise between representatives of the disabled community and representatives of the election community. As such, it will require a good faith effort by election officials to demonstrate that this sort of participatory approach to election legislation can be made to work.

### REQUIREMENTS OF THE ACT

The Accessibility Act (P.L. 98-435) contains provisions expressly intended "to promote the fundamental right to vote by improving access for handicapped and elderly individuals to registration facilities and polling places for Federal elections." Key provisions require:

- that each political subdivision responsible for conducting elections within each State ensure that all polling places for Federal elections are accessible to elderly and handicapped voters **except** in the case of an emergency as determined by the State's chief election officer or **unless** the State's chief election officer
  - determines, by surveying all potential polling places, that no such place in the area is accessible nor can be made temporarily accessible, **and**
  - ensures that any handicapped voter assigned to an inaccessible polling place will, upon advance request under established State procedures, either be

assigned to an accessible polling place or be provided an alternative means of casting a ballot on election day.

- that each State or political subdivision responsible for voter registration for Federal elections provide a reasonable number of accessible permanent registration facilities **unless** the State has in effect a system which provides potential voters an opportunity to register by mail or at their residence.
- that each State make available to handicapped and elderly individuals registration and voting aids for Federal elections **including** large-type instructions conspicuously displayed in every permanent registration facility and polling place **and** information by telecommunications devices for the deaf (TDD's).
- the elimination of any notarization or medical certification requirement for handicapped voters to obtain (or apply for) an absentee ballot **except** for medical certifications required to establish eligibility, under State law, for automatically receiving such an application or ballot on a continuing basis **or** for applying for an absentee ballot after the deadline has passed.
- that each State's chief election officer provide public notice, calculated to reach elderly and handicapped voters, of the availability
  - of the registration and voting aids required above
  - of the voter assistance provisions under section 208 of the Voting Rights Act, **and**
  - of the procedures for voting by absentee ballot not later than general public notice of registration and voting is provided.

The enforcement of these provisions rests with the



United States Attorney General or with any person who is personally aggrieved by noncompliance, either of whom may bring an action for declaratory or injunctive relief in the appropriate district court **provided** that the plaintiff notify the State's chief election officer of the noncompliance **and** a period of 45 days has elapsed since the date of notification.

Finally, the Act requires that by December 31 of each even-numbered year, the chief election officer of each State report to the Federal Election Commission, in a manner determined by the Commission, the number of accessible and inaccessible polling places in the State on the date of the preceding general Federal election, and the reasons for any instance of inaccessibility. The Commission, in turn, is required to compile and report this information to the Congress by April 30 of each odd-numbered year. This reporting requirement remains in effect until 1995.

## THE 1986 EXPERIENCE

For all practical purposes, this Act first took effect in the elections of 1986. And based on the reports we received from the chief State election officers, results were mixed, at best. The States differed widely, for example,

- in their starting points
- in their implementation strategies
- in their accessibility criteria, and
- in their data collection and reporting techniques.

### Differences in Starting Points

The passage of P.L. 98-435 found election officials in varying states of readiness to implement its purposes. For it should be noted that when P.L. 98-435 was enacted, twenty two of the fifty States had already passed some form of polling place accessibility legislation. In several of these States, committed public officials with active citizen involvement had taken great strides toward ensuring the total accessibility of all polling places. The remaining States, on the other hand, had tended to rely on absentee voting, curbside voting, or other special procedures to serve their elderly and handicapped populations and therefore faced greater problems in achieving accessibility for the 1986 elections. These different starting points, then, rendered cross-State comparisons in 1986 somewhat misleading.

### Differences in Implementation Strategies

Just as States differed in their starting points, so they differed in their strategies for ensuring polling place accessibility in the 1986 general elections.

A few jurisdictions conducted polling place inspections early on and, as a part of their generally ambitious implementation programs, undertook to make as many polling place changes or modifications as were feasible. Other jurisdictions, in contrast, conducted their inspec-

tions on or after election day and therefore used the 1986 general election as an opportunity to obtain their first information on the accessibility of their polling places. Thus, in 1986, some States had already made substantial progress while others had just begun and still others were only partially under way.

### Differences in Accessibility Criteria

The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act leaves the matter of defining the criteria for polling place accessibility to the individual States. And predictably, the States varied considerably in both the scope and rigor of those criteria.

The types of criteria which were employed fell rather easily into the five main categories initially recommended by the Clearinghouse:

- Parking facilities
- Walkways or pathways to the entrance of the building
- Stairs inside or outside the building
- Other architectural features of the building
- Accessibility within the voting area itself.

Not all States, however, used all categories. And some States lumped these categories into even broader ones which they reported without differentiation. Such variations in the scope and categorization of their accessibility criteria made State comparative evaluations difficult.

Greater still were the variations in the rigor with which the criteria were applied. A few States issued very detailed and very demanding criteria. A few others employed criteria so general that they seemed to depend on little more than the opinions of the local election officials. Although most States fell somewhere between these extremes, it seems obvious that those with more extensive and demanding criteria reported more instances of inaccessibility than those with fewer, less empirical standards.

### Differences in Data Collection and Reporting Techniques

Although P.L. 98-435 requires the chief election officer of each State to report the number of accessible and inaccessible polling places and the reasons for each instance of inaccessibility, it does not prescribe the manner in which they are to ascertain this information. Yet, since selecting polling places is almost universally a matter for local election authorities, the vast majority of State officials relied on those local authorities to survey the accessibility of their respective voting facilities. There were, however, the inevitable variations.

A few States, rather than inspecting their facilities, relied instead on local exemption requests and on voter complaints in order to identify their inaccessible polling places. In the opposite extreme, at least one jurisdiction sent a representative from the State office to accompany each local official on an inspection of polling places. For the most part, however, States officials devised some sort of questionnaire, checklist, or guideline which they then

distributed to their local election authorities in the expectation that local officials would conduct an on-site inspection of each polling place. The key word, of course, is "expectation." And for the reasons cited above, as well as the resulting data, there was some cause to doubt whether on-site inspections occurred in every case.

In brief, the differences in data collection and reporting techniques made nationwide totals only estimates and made cross-State comparisons difficult.

### **The Nationwide Picture in 1986**

Based on figures reported by the States in 1986, the following picture emerged:

- There were 157,922 voting places throughout the United States (excluding the Virgin Islands and American Samoa). This is slightly smaller than the total number of precincts since some voting places serve more than one precinct.
- Of that total, an estimated 82% (or 129,020 voting places) were said to have been evaluated for their accessibility to the elderly and handicapped.
- Of those evaluated, an estimated 73% were reported as being accessible while 27% (or 34,595 places) were reported as inaccessible.
- Of those reported as being inaccessible, an estimated
  - 55% (nearly 20,000 places) were inaccessible because of unramped stairs
  - 26% (nearly 10,000 places) were inaccessible because of obstructed paths to the polling place entrance
  - 25% (nearly 9,000 places) were inaccessible because of inadequate parking facilities
  - 22% (nearly 8,000 places) were inaccessible because of architectural barriers other than unramped stairs
  - 15% (about 5,000 places) were inaccessible for assorted other reasons
  - 11% (about 4,000 places) were inaccessible because of problems in the voting area.

### **A VIEW TO 1988**

Based on these findings, the House Subcommittee on Elections conducted hearings in October of 1987 to enquire into the progress made under the Act. Several points emerged from the testimony.

The greatest concern focused on the incomparability of the data reported from the States. Although differences in starting points and implementation strategies will no

doubt be eliminated in 1988, members of the Subcommittee expressed concern about the wide disparities from State to State in accessibility criteria as well as in data collection procedures. Subcommittee Chairman Al Swift, while recognizing that it was specifically not the intent of P.L. 98-435 to impose any national standard of accessibility, nevertheless asked the Federal Election Commission to explore ways of achieving a greater commonality of approach in the various States. Representatives from disability organizations and members of the Subcommittee also requested that some additional data be gathered in 1988 regarding the availability of required voting aids and attendant publicity.

Accordingly, the Clearinghouse joined with the National Association of Secretaries of State and the Coalition for Voter Accessibility in an effort to devise a set of polling place evaluation and reporting forms which might be voluntarily adopted by the States. These forms (endorsed by NASS but not, because of certain philosophical differences, by the Coalition) were distributed to the States in June of 1988 for use in the general election. The forms were designed to be comprehensive yet fairly simple and easy to complete. Their use will go a long way toward satisfying the needs and concerns of the House Subcommittee on Elections in overseeing the implementation of the Act.

The forms also serve to remind State and local election officials of requirements which were not emphasized in 1986. Notably, there are requirements to:

- display large-type instructions in every permanent registration facility and every polling place
- provide telecommunications services (TDD's) for the deaf, and
- provide public notice of these aids, of the voter assistance provisions of section 208 of the Voting Rights Act, and of the procedures for voting by absentee ballot.

### **ENDNOTE**

Should you have any questions regarding the provisions of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act, please contact the chief election officer of your State or, if needs be, call us at the FEC Clearinghouse toll free on 800/424- 9530. But although your State election office and the FEC can offer information, advice, and guidelines, the success of this participatory approach to legislation and of this "experiment in Federal legislative restraint" depends primarily on the conscientious efforts of local election officials in achieving the objectives of the law.

# **Polling Place Accessibility Survey Form**

COUNTY/CITY/TOWN:

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POLLING PLACE NAME/NUMBER:

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POLLING PLACE ADDRESS/LOCATION:

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## INSTRUCTIONS

The purpose of this form is to evaluate the practical accessibility of polling places to the disabled pursuant to the requirements of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984. This form is designed to facilitate a walk-through inspection of each polling place from the parking area to the voting area. Completing the form should require no more than a yardstick, a tape measure, and approximately 30 minutes.

Please respond to *all* questions in each category by marking either "YES", "NO", or "NOT APPLICABLE", as appropriate. Items with clear boxes are *required* while items with shaded boxes are *recommended*. Thus, a "NO" response in any clear box renders the polling place INACCESSIBLE whereas a "NO" response in any shaded box renders it ACCESSIBLE BUT INCONVENIENT provided that all other responses are "YES" or "NOT APPLICABLE."

We recognize that a polling place may be inaccessible for more than one reason. It is therefore especially important to respond to every item and to summarize the responses by category on the back page.

1. Name, address, and telephone number of person completing this form:

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2. Date on which inspection was conducted: \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Was the inspection conducted on site? \_\_\_\_\_

**CATEGORY I:  
PARKING**

	YES	NO	N/A
1. Are there off-street parking spaces either permanently or temporarily designated for the handicapped?			
2. With regard to off-street parking:			
a. Are such parking spaces at least ____ feet wide?			
b. Are such parking spaces on level ground (with a slope no greater than a rise of ____ foot in ____ feet)?			
c. Is the parking area paved (concrete, asphalt, macadam, etc.)?			
d. Are the parking spaces within a reasonable travel distance (____ feet) of the building?			
e. Is there a curb cut to connect these parking spaces to an accessible walk or to the building entrance?			
f. Are these parking spaces designated by post-mounted signs bearing the symbol of accessibility?			
3. Is there a relatively level passenger drop-off zone at least ____ feet wide with a curb-cut connecting it to an accessible walk or to the building entrance?			

**END OF CATEGORY I.  
PLEASE PROCEED TO NEXT CATEGORY.**



**CATEGORY II:  
WALKWAYS OR PATHWAYS TO THE BUILDING**

	YES	NO	N/A
1. Is the walkway or pathway to the building paved (concrete, asphalt, macadam, etc.)?			
2. Is the walkway or pathway to the building at least ___ inches wide?			
3. Are all curbs along the pathway to the building cut or ramped with at least a _____ clear width and with slopes of no more than a _____ inch rise in _____ inches?			
4. Are all stairs or steps along the walkway or pathway to the building either ramped (with a slope of no more than a _____ foot rise in _____ feet) or else provided with a suitable alternative means of access?			
5. Do stairsteps along the walkway or pathway to the building have non-slip surfaces and hand-rails?			
6. Is the walkway or pathway to the building entrance:			
a. free of protrusions (such as fire hydrants, tree trunks, or other obstacles) which narrow the passage to less than _____ inches?			
b. free of any abrupt edges or breaks in the surface where the difference is over _____ inches in height (such as where it crosses a driveway, parking lot, or another walkway, etc.)?			

**WALKWAYS OR PATHWAYS TO THE BUILDING (cont'd)**

	YES	NO	N/A
c. free of any overhanging objects (such as tree branches, signs, etc.) which hang lower than _____ inches?			
d. free of any slopes or inclines greater than a _____ foot rise in _____ feet?			
e. free of any grating with openings of over _____ inches wide?			
7. Are walkways always well lighted?			
8. Are provisions made to ensure that walkways are free of such hazards as ice, snow, leaves, or other debris on the day of election?			
9. Are there signs which identify the accessible route of travel if that route is different from the primary route of travel to the building?			

**END OF CATEGORY II.  
PLEASE PROCEED TO NEXT CATEGORY.**



**CATEGORY III:**

**RAMPS AND ELEVATORS ENTERING OR INSIDE THE BUILDING**

	YES	NO	N/A
1. Are building stairs or steps which are over _____ inches high (either at the entrance or between the entrance and the voting area) provided either with a ramp, with an elevator, or with an alternative means of unassisted passage (such as a chairlift or an alternative route of travel)?			
2. With regard to ramps:			
a. Do all ramps have a slope no greater than a rise of _____ foot in _____ feet?			
b. Are ramps provided with non-slip surfaces?			
c. For any ramp rising more than _____ inches or longer than _____ inches or longer than _____ inches, is a handrail provided?			
d. Are handrails at least _____ inches above ramp surface?			
e. Can handrails be gripped?			
f. Are ramps and landing areas with drop-offs provided with at least a _____ inch curb at the side to prevent slipping off the ramps?			
g. If there is a door at the top of the ramp, is there a level space of at least _____ feet by _____ feet where a wheelchair can rest while the door is opened?			



**RAMPS AND ELEVATORS ENTERING OR INSIDE THE BUILDING (cont'd)**

	YES	NO	N/A
3. With regard to elevators (if elevators are the only accessible route):			
a. Is the elevator cab at least ____ feet by ____ feet wide?			
b. Do elevator doors provide at least ____ inches clear width?			
c. Are elevator controls less than ____ inches high (i.e. can a person in a chair operate the controls)?			
d. Are control panels marked with raised lettering?			
e. Is the elevator in close proximity to the entrance of the building?			

**END OF CATEGORY III.  
PLEASE PROCEED TO NEXT CATEGORY.**



**CATEGORY IV:  
OTHER ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES**

	YES	NO	N/A
1. With regard to doors along the route of travel:			
a. Do all doors have an opening which clears at least ___ inches wide?			
b. Are all door thresholds less than ___ inch high?			
c. Are all doors equipped with either arch or lever-type handles, pushplates, or automatic openers (so that twisting a doorknob is not required)?			
d. Where automatic doors are used, does the door remain open at least ___ seconds?			
e. Are glass doors marked with safety seals?			
2. With regard to stairs along the route:			
a. Do stairs have non-slip surface?			
b. Do stairs have handrails at least ___ inches above step level?			
c. Can handrails be gripped?			
d. Do all steps have risers (the little vertical walls at the back of each step)?			
e. Do all steps have tread areas at least ___ inches deep?			

**OTHER ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES (cont'd)**

	YES	NO	N/A
f. Are all steps less than ____ inches in height?			
g. Are stairs well lit?			
h. Are stairs free of obstacles?			
3. With regard to corridors along the route:			
a. Is the corridor at least ____ inches wide?			
b. Is the corridor free of obstacles or protrusions (such as boxes, water fountains, etc.) which extend more than ____ inches from the wall?			
c. Is there sufficient lighting at all points along the route?			
d. Is there a seating or rest area in any corridor longer than ____ feet?			
e. Does the corridor have a non-slip surface?			
f. Are all rugs and mats securely fastened?			

**END OF CATEGORY IV.  
PLEASE PROCEED TO NEXT CATEGORY.**



**CATEGORY V:  
FEATURES WITHIN THE VOTING AREA**

	YES	NO	N/A
1. Are instructions for voting printed in _____ point or larger type in simple language, and plainly displayed?			
2. Is there sufficient unobstructed space for the reasonable movement of voters in wheelchairs?			
3. Can all necessary parts of the voting equipment be reached by a person seated in a chair or, at least, is an alternative means of casting a ballot provided?			
4. Are magnifying devices available for those who request them?			
5. Is there adequate lighting in the voting area?			
6. Is seating available for elderly or handicapped voters awaiting their turn to vote?			

END OF CATEGORY V:



**OTHER REASONS FOR INACCESSIBILITY (Describe):**

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for describing other reasons for inaccessibility.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE SUMMARY  
OF ACCESSIBILITY ON BACK**



## SUMMARY OF ACCESSIBILITY BY CATEGORIES

Please review the responses within each category on the previous pages and indicate below whether each category is:

- **INACCESSIBLE** (if there is a "NO" response in *any* unshaded box in the category)
- **ACCESSIBLE BUT INCONVENIENT** (if all "NO" responses in the category are only in *shaded* boxes and all the responses in the *unshaded* boxes are either "YES" or "N/A".)
- **FULLY ACCESSIBLE** (if *all* responses in the category are either "YES" or "N/A")

Category	Inaccessible	Accessible But Inconvenient	Fully Accessible
I. Parking			
II. Walkways or pathways to building			
III. Ramps and elevators entering or inside of the building			
IV. Other architectural features			
V. Voting area			
VI. Other			

## OVERALL DETERMINATION OF POLLING PLACE ACCESSIBILITY (mark one box only)

If one or more of the categories above is marked "INACCESSIBLE", then the polling place is .....INACCESSIBLE

If no category is marked "INACCESSIBLE" but one or more is marked "ACCESSIBLE BUT INCONVENIENT" then the polling place is .....ACCESSIBLE BUT INCONVENIENT

If *all* categories above are marked "FULLY ACCESSIBLE", then the polling place is .....FULLY ACCESSIBLE

## DISPOSITION OF INACCESSIBLE POLLING PLACE

If the polling place is INACCESSIBLE	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
a. Has an alternative accessible facility been sought?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Are permanent or temporary alterations planned to render the polling place accessible in the coming general election?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Report to the State  
On  
Voting Accessibility**

COUNTY/CITY/TOWN:

---

DATE:

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**INSTRUCTIONS AND DEFINITIONS**

This questionnaire was designed to be used in conjunction with the Polling Place Accessibility Survey Forms your State election authority has provided you. Its purpose is to summarize the accessibility of polling places under your jurisdiction as well as to ascertain what other activities you have undertaken pursuant to the requirements of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984.

For the purpose of this questionnaire, "INACCESSIBLE" refers to any polling place which, by your determination, cannot or has not been made either permanently or temporarily accessible to the elderly and handicapped *and therefore requires providing such persons a means or place of voting other than that commonly employed by the other voters in that precinct.*

We recognize that any one of several factors might render a polling place inaccessible. But rather than list individual barriers or obstacles, we ask you instead to classify the reasons for inaccessibility into the general categories described under question five. If a place is inaccessible for more than one reason, please count each reason. (Thus, if this inaccessible because of an unindented curb, an unramped entry stairway, and inadequate door widths, please mark categories 5B, 5D, and 5E accordingly.) The total number of reasons identified in question five will therefore probably exceed the total number of inaccessible places reported in question four. Yet such an approach will yield a kind of profile of where the problems lie.

**SPECIAL NOTE:**

SECTION 208 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973aa-6) reads in its entirety:

Any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union.

1. Name, title, address, and telephone number of person completing this questionnaire:

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2. Please record the total number of polling places under your jurisdiction. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Of the total number of polling places under your jurisdiction, what number were evaluated to determine their accessibility? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Of those polling places which *were* evaluated, what number have been determined to be *inaccessible*, for whatever reasons, to the elderly or handicapped? \_\_\_\_\_



5. Of those places deemed inaccessible, what number reported inaccessibility because of: (If your State's accessibility criteria do not include one or more of these categories, simply mark N/A in that category)

A. Inadequate parking facilities? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Obstructed walkways or pathways to the entrance of the building? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Unramped stairs or inaccessible elevators inside or outside the building? \_\_\_\_\_

D. Other architectural barriers? \_\_\_\_\_

E. Barriers or limitations within the voting area itself? \_\_\_\_\_

F. Other reasons not covered by the above categories (Please describe)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Of the polling places which were evaluated, how many provided instructions for voting printed in \_\_\_\_\_ point or larger type in simple language and plainly displayed? \_\_\_\_\_

7. If the data reported above were compiled by means of a survey, please respond to items A, B, and C below. If the data were gathered by some means other than a survey, please skip this question and describe that method in item 8 below.

A. Of those polling places which were evaluated, what number were physically surveyed on site? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Generally speaking, who was involved in conducting the polling place surveys (your office, poll workers, handicapped individuals or representatives, etc.)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. Approximately when, relative to the general election day, were most of the surveys conducted?  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Method of collecting data if other than by survey (if you conducted a survey and answered question 7 above, please skip to item 9 on the next page).  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Since the first implementation of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act in 1986,

A. How many polling places have been physically relocated to alternative, accessible facilities? \_\_\_\_\_

B. In how many cases have permanent or temporary alterations been made in order to render a polling place accessible? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What means of voting *in person on election day* are made available to elderly or handicapped voters whose polling places are determined to be inaccessible?

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11. Did you provide, *prior* to election day:

A. Public notice of the accessibility or inaccessibility of your polling places?

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B. Public notice of the assistance provisions under section 208 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965? (See special note in instructions on page 2).

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C. Public notice of the procedures for voting by absentee ballot?

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12. Do you provide a telecommunications device for the deaf in order to convey registration and voting information?

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A. Do you provide public notice of the availability of this device?

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# Polling Place Accessibility in the 1988 General Election



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (Public Law 98-435) requires, as you know, that:

Not later than December 31 of each even-numbered year, the chief election officer of each State shall report to the Federal Election Commission, in a manner to be determined by the Commission, the number of accessible polling places in such State on the date of the preceding general Federal election, and the reasons for any instances of inaccessibility.

In order to facilitate the reporting process, we request that you complete this questionnaire and return it to the Federal Election Commission no later than December 31, 1988.

We also welcome, in addition to these items, any information you may care to provide regarding the efforts and measures your State has taken to date toward ensuring polling place accessibility for the elderly and handicapped.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. D. Joseph", is written over the printed name of the Chairman.

Chairman  
Federal Election Commission

**INSTRUCTIONS AND DEFINITIONS**

Please read carefully and respond to each item in this questionnaire. Should you have any questions or problems, please feel free to contact the FEC National Clearinghouse on Election Administration at the address below or by toll free telephone on 800/424-9530.

For the purpose of this questionnaire, "INACCESSIBLE" refers to any polling place which by your determination, cannot or has not been made either permanently or temporarily accessible to the elderly and handicapped *and therefore requires providing such persons a means or place of voting other than that commonly employed by the other voters in that precinct.*

We recognize that any one of several factors might render a polling place inaccessible. But rather than list individual barriers or obstacles, we ask you instead to classify the reasons for inaccessibility into the general categories described under question five. If a place is inaccessible for more than one reason, please count each reason. (Thus, if it is inaccessible because of an unindented curb, an unramped entry stairway, and inadequate door widths, please mark categories 5B, 5D, and 5E accordingly.) The total number of reasons identified in question five will therefore probably exceed the total number of inaccessible places reported in question four. Yet such an approach will yield a kind of profile of where the problems lie.

Upon completing the questionnaire, please return it along with the material requested (envelope provided) to:

ATTN: Accessibility Officer  
National Clearinghouse on Election Administration  
Federal Election Commission  
999 "E" Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20463

- 1. Name, title, address, and telephone number of person completing this questionnaire:

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- 2. Please record the total number of polling places in your State. \_\_\_\_\_

- 3. Of the total number of polling places in your State, what number were evaluated to determine their accessibility? \_\_\_\_\_

- 4. Of those polling places which were evaluated, what number have been determined to be inaccessible, for whatever reasons, to the elderly or handicapped? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Of those places deemed inaccessible, what number reported inaccessibility because of: (If your State's accessibility criteria do not include one or more of these categories, simply mark N/A in that category.)
- A. Inadequate parking facilities? \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Obstructed walkways or pathways to the entrance of the building? \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Unramped stairs or inaccessible elevators inside or outside the building? \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. Other architectural barriers? \_\_\_\_\_
  - E. Barriers or limitations within the voting area itself? \_\_\_\_\_
  - F. Other reasons not covered by the above categories?  
(Please describe)  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Of the polling places which were evaluated, how many provided instructions for voting printed in large type plainly displayed? \_\_\_\_\_
7. If the data reported above were compiled by means of survey, please respond to items A, B, and C below. If the data were gathered by some means other than a survey, please skip this question and describe that method in item 8 below.
- A. Of those polling places which were evaluated, what number were physically inspected on site? \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Generally speaking, who was involved in conducting the polling place surveys (your office, local election officials, poll workers, handicapped individuals or representatives, etc.)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Approximately when, relative to the general election day, were most of the surveys conducted?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Method of collecting data if other than by survey (if you conducted a survey and answered question 7 above please skip to item 9 on the next page).  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Since the first implementation of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act in 1986,

A. How many polling places have been physically relocated to alternative, accessible facilities? \_\_\_\_\_

B. In how many cases have permanent or temporary alterations been made in order to render a polling place accessible? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What means of voting *in person on election day* are made available to elderly or handicapped voters whose polling places are determined to be inaccessible?

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The questions below this box pertain to the activities of local election officials rather than to polling places. In order to establish percentages, however,

A. Please record the total number of local election jurisdictions in your State (counties, cities, towns, etc.) which are responsible for conducting federal elections. \_\_\_\_\_

B. Of that total, on how many have you obtained accessibility reports? \_\_\_\_\_

11. How many local jurisdictions provide, *prior* to election day:

A. Public notice of the accessibility or inaccessibility of their polling places? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Public notice of the assistance provisions under section 208 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Public notice of the procedures for voting by absentee ballot? \_\_\_\_\_

12. How many local jurisdictions provide a telecommunications device for the deaf in order to convey registration and voting information? (If this service is provided at the State level, please so indicate). \_\_\_\_\_

A. Of those local jurisdictions, how many provide public notice of the availability of this device? (If State provides notice, please so indicate). \_\_\_\_\_

