

# State of Wisconsin \ Elections Board

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Executive Director

**DATE:** July 19, 2005

**TO:** Robert J. Marchant, Senate Chief Clerk  
Patrick Fuller, Assembly Chief Clerk

**FROM:** Kevin J. Kennedy, Executive Director *KJK*  
State Elections Board

**SUBJECT:** Report on Impediments to Voting Faced by Elderly and Disabled Individuals

Pursuant to the requirements of S. 5.25(4)(d), Stats., enclosed is the State Elections Board report on impediments to voting faced by elderly and disabled individuals. This report is submitted for distribution to the appropriate standing committees in the manner provided under S. 13.172(3), Stats.

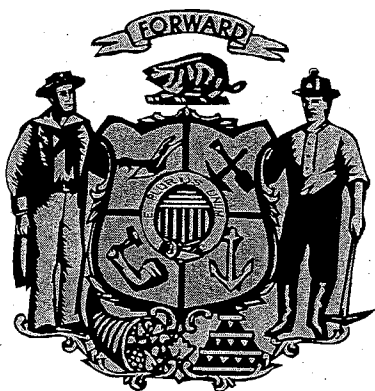
If you have any questions regarding the submittal of this report, please contact me directly at 608-266-8087 or [kevin.kennedy@seb.state.wi.us](mailto:kevin.kennedy@seb.state.wi.us).

Enclosure

cc: Senator Joseph Leibham, Chair  
Special Committee on Election Law Review  
✓ Robert J. Conlin, Senior Staff Attorney  
Legislative Council

# **Impediments Faced by Elderly Voters and Voters with Disabilities**

## **Wisconsin State Elections Board**



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As election officials we are given the monumental responsibility to ensure that elections are conducted in a fair and impartial manner that engenders confidence in the integrity of the process. A key element in developing and maintaining that public trust is to make the election process accessible to all participants. This requires working with the entities that provide polling places to eliminate physical barriers. It also means acquiring voting equipment that enables all citizens to cast an independent and secret ballot in a dignified manner, and providing information that enables all citizens to fully participate in the election process.

The purpose of this report by the State Elections Board is to describe impediments to voting encountered by elderly voters and voters with disabilities who seek to participate in elections conducted in the State of Wisconsin. The direction for this report comes from Section 5.25(4)(d), Wisconsin Statutes. The concept for this report originated as one of several recommendations made by the Legislative Council's Special Committee to Review the Election Process. The Special Committee was established in 1998. This recommendation, along with several other election initiatives recommended by the Special Committee and the State Elections Board, was enacted into law by 1999 Wisconsin Act 182.

The State Elections Board is required to consult with appropriate advocacy groups representing the elderly and disabled populations in the preparation of this report. State Elections Board staff meets monthly with Alicia Sidman from Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy, Howard Seifert of the Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities, and Maureen Ryan of the Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers to identify issues of concern with the disability community and assist in evaluating polling place accessibility. Their input has been invaluable in the preparation of this report.

There was no report prepared for the 2001-2002 reporting period since the State Elections Board took no action in anticipation of the forthcoming changes mandated by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). The current reporting period, 2003-2004, saw several changes in election law at both the federal and state levels. The passage of HAVA was the first federal legislation to address election administration and impacts voter registration procedures, voting systems, and voting procedures nationwide. HAVA requires that the election equipment used at each polling place permits all individuals to vote privately and independently and will enable some voters with disabilities to vote without assistance for the first time.

To accurately assess polling place accessibility in Wisconsin, the State Elections Board in coordination with representatives of disability advocacy groups, developed a comprehensive polling place survey. The Polling Place Accessibility Survey, first distributed in February of 2004 to all 1,850 Wisconsin municipalities, covers access from the parking lot, to the voting area, to the exit. At the time of preparation of this report over 1,750 municipalities covering 2,453 polling places had responded to the State Elections Board's Survey. Of those, 1,492 or 61% of polling places were assessed to be fully accessible and 961 or 39% were determined to

be inaccessible. Of those determined to be inaccessible, 560 are inaccessible due to High level impediments, 807 due to Medium level impediments, and 55 due to Low level impediments. (The sum of these numbers is greater than the total inaccessible as a polling place may have more than one impediment.)

**T**he State Elections Board will continue to work with the State's municipal clerks to achieve a 100% return on the Polling Place Accessibility Survey to assure Wisconsin's voters that all polling places will be physically accessible by January 1, 2006. In addition, every polling place in Wisconsin will be equipped with a fully accessible voting system by the same time. These improvements, facilitated by changes in law, federal funding, and increased education, will move the State towards eliminating all impediments faced by elderly and disabled voters.

**Kevin J. Kennedy**  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin State Elections Board

## REVIEW OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

### Legal Environment

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For years the only provision Wisconsin's election law made for elderly and disabled voters was to permit them to cast a ballot at the door of the polling place and have the ballot taken inside, where an announcement was made that election inspectors had a ballot from an elector who could not enter the polling place without assistance. The voter's name was announced and those present had the opportunity to object to the receipt of the ballot. The law has evolved, but impediments to voting encountered by elderly and disabled electors can be just as daunting and humiliating as the procedure described.

In 1975 Wisconsin's election code was amended to provide that whenever election inspectors do not receive ballots at the door, the polling place must have at least one entrance accessible to persons in wheelchairs. **Chapter 275, Laws of 1975**. That same legislation recognized physical disability as a basis for registering to vote by mail and voting absentee. It permitted disabled voters to request that an absentee ballot automatically be sent to them for each election.

**1985 Wisconsin Act 304** required all polling places to be accessible to persons in wheelchairs and **1989 Wisconsin Act 182** required each polling place to be accessible to elderly voters and voters with disabilities effective January 1, 1992. The State Elections Board was given the authority to exempt a polling place from this requirement in accordance with guidelines developed by administrative rule. Municipal clerks were permitted to reassign an elector to another polling place within the municipality in order to permit elderly voters and voters with disabilities to utilize an accessible polling place. Section 5.25 (4) (c), (5) (b), Wis. Stats.

In 1991 the Legislature directed that any municipal clerk that plans to use an inaccessible polling place file a written report with the State Elections Board describing the municipality's plans to make the polling place accessible. **1991 Wisconsin Act 39**, Section 9118 (1g).

Under the conditions provided by the administrative rules and legislation passed in the 1980s and 1990s only 3% of the polling places in Wisconsin were determined to be not accessible. However recent changes in both federal and state election law have expanded the legal definition of polling place accessibility.

#### **2001 Wisconsin Act 16**

- ✓ Required the State Elections Board to develop a training and certification program for chief election inspectors.

## Help America Vote Act of 2002

- ✓ Requires that the voting system used at each polling place permits all individuals to vote privately and independently.

## 2003 Wisconsin Act 265

- ✓ Incorporates provisions of HAVA into State Law.
- ✓ Permits an individual with a disability to notify a municipal clerk that he or she intends to vote at a polling place and to request a specific accommodation that will facilitate his or her voting.
- ✓ Requires the municipal clerk to make reasonable efforts to comply with requests for voting accommodations made by individuals with disabilities whenever feasible.

## Polling Place Accessibility Survey

Before recent changes in election law, the information gathered by the State Elections Board showed a significant improvement in polling place accessibility following the enactment of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984. The number of inaccessible polling places has been reduced from more than 500 at the November 1986 general election to 91 following the November 1998 general election. In 2001 local election officials described approximately 3% of the state's polling places as inaccessible.

Since passage of the Help America Vote Act and subsequent Wisconsin legislation, the legal definition of polling place accessibility changed to provide all voters the opportunity to vote privately and independently at the polling place and to compel the municipal clerk to make reasonable accommodations for voters with disabilities. Changes have necessitated a new method of evaluating polling place accessibility. To accurately assess the polling places in Wisconsin, the State Elections Board in coordination with representatives of disability advocacy groups, developed a comprehensive polling place survey<sup>i</sup>. The Polling Place Accessibility Survey, first distributed in February of 2004 to all 1,850 Wisconsin municipalities, covers access from the parking lot, to the voting area, to the exit.

The State Elections Board is in the process of collecting and analyzing information from the municipal clerks. Although not every municipality has yet reported, the Board is working with all municipal clerks to ensure complete figures. At the time of preparing of this report over 1,750 municipalities covering 2,453 polling places had responded to the survey. Of those 1,492 or 61% of polling places were assessed to be fully accessible and 961 or 39% were determined to be inaccessible.

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<sup>i</sup> A complete copy of the Survey is included as Appendix A.

Due to the length and detail of the survey there are numerous reasons polling places are determined to be inaccessible. Of the 44 questions on the Polling Place Accessibility Survey a single "No" answer will render a polling place inaccessible. In order to provide assistance to clerks in evaluating the results of the survey the questions have been assigned into three categories of accessibility: High, Medium, and Low. The categories are defined as follows:

- ✓ **High:** a critical barrier where the corrective measures to achieve compliance involves high cost construction on a building or relocating the polling place to another facility.
- ✓ **Medium:** non-compliance to the minimum accessibility standards that may be addressed through improved signage, temporary or permanent ramps, temporary or permanent door buzzers, electronic door openers, or other moderate cost improvements.
- ✓ **Low:** comparatively easy fixes to accessibility many of which can be implemented on or just before Election Day at low or minimal cost.

There are 14 High level (4 pertaining to an elevator), 28 Medium level, and 2 Low level questions. Of the 961 or 39% of polling places determined to be inaccessible, 560 are due to High level impediments, 807 are due to Medium level impediments, and 55 or are due to Low level impediments.<sup>ii</sup>

### Summary of Survey Results<sup>iii</sup>

**Polling Places Responding**                      **2,453**  
     Inaccessible Polling Places              961 - 39%  
     Accessible Polling Places                1,492 - 61%

Key: High Level Medium Level Low Level

#### **Section 1: Parking**

    Inaccessible Polling Places    591 - 24%

Are there permanent or temporary off-street parking spaces designated as accessible parking?			Is there at least one van accessible space, defined as at least 8 feet wide with an 8 foot adjacent aisle?			Are any other accessible spaces at least 12 feet wide or standard size with an accessible aisle?		
No	186	8%	no	199	8%	no	213	9%

<sup>ii</sup> The sum of these numbers is greater than the total inaccessible as a polling place may have more than one impediment.

<sup>iii</sup> Totals do not represent 100% of responses; many surveys were returned incomplete.



Are the spaces on level and paved ground?	If there is a curb, is there a ramp or curb-cut connecting these parking spaces to an accessible walkway or directly to the building entrance?	Are the parking spaces designated by clearly visible signs bearing the symbol of accessibility?
no 152 6%	no 112 5%	no 201 8%
Are the parking spaces located nearest the accessible entrance?	Is there an accessible passenger drop-off area if off-street parking is unavailable?	
no 55 2%	no 53 2%	

## Section 2: Pathways to the Building

Inaccessible Polling Places 376 - 15%

Are the curbs from the parking lot to the path to the building cut or ramped with 48 inches clear width and slopes of no more than 1:12 feet?	Is the pathway to the building at least 48 inches wide and free from any protrusions or obstacles that would narrow the passage to less than 36 inches?	Is the pathway free of any overhanging object (such as a tree branch, signs, etc.) lower than 80 inches?
no 41 2%	no 28 1%	no 10 <1%
Is the surface of the pathway free of breaks or edges where the difference in height is over 1/2 inches?	Is the pathway from the parking area to the building paved?	Is the rest of the path free of inclines greater than 1:20 feet?
no 74 3%	no 134 5%	no 33 1%
Are any stairs along the pathway ramped with a non-slip surface and a slope of no more than 1:12 feet or provided with an alternative means of access?	If the ramp is higher than 6 inches, does it have a handrail that is between 32 and 36 inches from the ramp surface?	If the accessible route to the building is different from the primary route to the building, is that route well marked by large print signs?
no 99 4%	no 31 1%	no 102 4%
Are walkways well lit?	On Election Day, are provisions made to ensure paths are free of hazards such as ice, snow, leaves and other such debris?	
no 45 2%	no 6 <1%	

### Section 3: Entrance to the Building

Inaccessible Polling Places 286 - 12%

Does the entrance to the building have a ramp or an elevator or is it free of any stairs or steps, such that a person in a wheelchair could enter unassisted?	no 78 3%	Do all ramps have a slope no greater than 1:12 feet?	no 31 1%	Are ramps and landing areas with drop-offs provided with a curb of 2 inches or greater to prevent anyone from slipping off the ramp?	no 74 3%
If there is a door at the top of a ramp, is there a level space of at least 5 x 5 feet where a wheelchair can maneuver to open the door or rest while the door is opened?	no 76 3%	Are entrance doors and all other doors along the accessible route to the voting area at least 36 inches wide?	no 48 2%	Exterior doors are often too heavy for some people with disabilities to open. Can the doors be opened without excessive force or are they equipped with automatic openers (such as a push button) or are provisions made for a poll worker to assist those who require assistance?	no 125 5%

### Section 4: Travel Within the Building

Inaccessible Polling Places 292 - 12%

If the voting area is not directly inside the building, is the route to the voting area indicated and if necessary, is an alternative accessible route clearly marked?	no 7 <1%	Are all doors along the accessible route unlocked for election day?	no 9 <1%	Are door thresholds less than 1/2 inch high or if greater than 1/2 inch are they beveled?	no 64 3%
Can all doors to the voting area be opened with a closed fist or do they have automatic openers that keep the door open for 8 seconds? Or can they be propped open all day for the election?	no 172 7%	If elevators provide the only accessible route, is the cab at least 4 x 5 feet wide?	no 8 <1%	Are elevator doors at least 36 inches wide?	no 7 <1%
Are elevator controls less than 56 inches high and are the controls marked with raised lettering?	no 11 <1%	Is the elevator close to the accessible entrance to the building?	no 6 <1%	Are stairways well lit and free of obstacles?	no 1 <1%
Are all corridors along the accessible route at least 48 inches wide and never narrower than 36 inches?	no 8 <1%	Are corridors free of obstacles or protrusions (such as boxes or water fountains) which extend more than 4 inches from the wall?	no 29 1%	Is the route to the voting area free of any hanging objects or overhangs lower than 80 inches from the floor?	no 9 <1%

Are all rugs and mats securely fastened or removed?	Do all rugs, mats and carpet on the accessible route or in the voting area have a low-pile?
No 73 3%	no 3 <1%

## Section 5: Within the Voting Area

Inaccessible Polling Places 218 - 9%

Are instructions for voting printed in 18 point font or larger in simple language and plainly displayed?	Is there sufficient unobstructed space for the reasonable movement of voters in wheelchairs?	Is the entrance to the accessible voting booth at least 36 inches wide?
No 49 2%	no 44 2%	no 111 5%
Is there at least one voting area where a person in a wheelchair can reach all necessary parts of the voting equipment?	If the voter casts the ballot at a table or a counter, is the table top between 28 and 34 inches high in at least one station?	
No 76 3%	no 60 2%	

## Impediments Identified by Advocacy Groups<sup>iv</sup>

According to the American Association of People with Disabilities there are 710,495 people with disabilities in Wisconsin who are of voting age. People can have a wide range of disabilities including physical, cognitive, sensory, mental, and medical disabilities. They are residents of all communities in Wisconsin and encompass all ages from young to elderly.

Over the years, individuals with disabilities have faced both discrimination and physical barriers to the electoral process. Examples of this include being wrongfully turned away from the polls because an individual with a disability does not “appear” to be eligible to vote, not being able to enter the polling site because it is not accessible, and not being able to vote privately and independently. These barriers are reflected in the Rutgers University report that found individuals with disabilities vote at a rate of 20 percent below that of the general voting population. A survey conducted by the Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy found that of members of the disability community 75% had one or more accessibility problem in 2004. (49% had 1-5 problems, 19% had 5-10 problems, and 6% had 10 or more problems).

Problems faced by members of the disability community include not just access to the polling place and privacy when voting but also impediments to the electoral process. Procedural barriers affect people with all types of disabilities. Because Wisconsin is exempt from the National

<sup>iv</sup> A report completed by the Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy for the City of Milwaukee Election Commission is included as Appendix B.

Voter Registration Act, voting and registration are not discussed as often with people who seek government assistance. The Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy received over 100 calls prior to the 2004 General Election from people with disabilities who did not know how to register to vote or had questions about the voting process. There is a great need to improve education on the basics of the voting process in order to make sure that people with disabilities know their rights, and to educate election inspectors and election officials on disability rights and their responsibility to make voting accessible to people with disabilities.

In essence, people with disabilities face barriers to voting whether it is a polling site that is not accessible, they have been discouraged from voting, there is a lack of transportation to the polls, or they do not understand the voting process. It is the responsibility of municipalities to make the voting process not just accessible but also welcoming to people with disabilities. There is an opportunity for the disability community and municipalities to team up to address these issues with creative solutions such as locating polling places in senior community centers or assisted living facilities and recruiting people with disabilities to be election inspectors. It is important that municipalities involve people with disabilities in their process to make voting accessible.

In the months leading up to the 2004 presidential election disability advocacy groups in Wisconsin held six workshops designed to increase voter participation in the disability community. The trainings, developed in coordination with the State Elections Board staff, covered both get-out-the-vote (GOTV) and voting rights information for people with disabilities, their families, service providers, and municipal clerks. This provided a chance for both the disability community and the clerks to learn from each other. Collaboration and events where municipal clerks and the disability community are able to learn from one another are critical to making the voting process more accessible to people with all disabilities.

## **HAVA, Section 261**

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**S**ection 261 of the Help America Vote Act provides funds to state to address four accessibility areas,

- ✓ **Accessibility** - Make polling places, including the path of travel, entrances, exits, and voting areas of each polling facility, accessible to individuals with the full range of disabilities.
- ✓ **Privacy and Independence** - Provide the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) to individuals with the full range of disabilities.
- ✓ **Training** - Train election officials, election inspectors, and election volunteers on how best to promote the access and participation of individuals with the full range of disabilities in elections for Federal office.
- ✓ **Information** - Provide individuals with the full range of disabilities with information

about the accessibility of polling places.

Although Wisconsin's appropriation of funds is less than \$350,00 for this reporting period, more than half will be used to assist municipalities to improve the physical accessibility of their polling places. In the fall of 2005 the State Elections Board will have developed a reimbursement grant program for municipalities to initiate projects that correct any deficiency identified by the Polling Place Accessibility Survey. Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis.

In 2004 the State Elections Board held the first of a series of vendor fairs funded by HAVA, Section 261. The fairs were held in Madison and Milwaukee to enable members of the disability community and county and municipal clerks to become more familiar with new voting systems designed to meet federal provisions requiring all polling places be equipped with at least one component of fully accessible voting equipment. The demonstrations were well attended and appreciated. Additional fairs and demonstrations have been held in 2005 and will continue through the next reporting period.

As part of the HAVA, Section 261 goals the State Elections Board began developing a basic guidebook for voters and groups interested in voter education and GOTV efforts. Information from an early draft of the guide was used by disability advocacy groups in their voter education efforts, however the guide was not completed in time for the 2004 General Election. Board staff will continue to revise the content and structure of the guide in order to provide uniform and accurate information to the public and the media prior to the 2006 General Election.

The State Elections Board is required to consult with appropriate advocacy groups representing the elderly and disabled populations in the preparation of this report. State Elections Board has been able to hire staff with HAVA, Section 261 funds to develop close communication and business relationships with representatives of advocacy groups on issues beyond this report. Staff meets monthly with Alicia Sidman from Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy, Howard Seifert of the Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities, and Maureen Ryan of the Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers to identify issues of concern with the disability community and assist in evaluating polling place accessibility.

To assist with public education and election inspector training, the State Elections Board has produced its own training video, *Access to Voting – Access to Democracy* with help from HAVA, Section 261 funds. The Wisconsin video references specific state statutes and provides real-life scenarios of the accommodations and assistance voters with disabilities may request at the polling place. The video was completed in 2004 and has been posted on the agency's website: <http://elections.state.wi.us>. In 2005 the video will be distributed to county clerks, municipal clerks, and disability advocacy groups to aid in their training for both election inspectors and members of the disability community.

## **Chief Inspector Training**

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Wisconsin law requires one certified Chief Inspector to be present in every polling place on election day while the polls are open. The State Elections Board, under S. 7.31 Wis. Stats., has developed a curriculum for the training and certification of Chief Inspectors. In the summer and fall of 2004 the State Elections Board conducted over 140 Chief Inspector Training sessions around the state of Wisconsin certifying over 7,500 Chief Inspectors, Alternate Chief Inspectors, County Clerks, Municipal Clerks, and Deputy Municipal Clerks. A significant portion of the training focused on working with and assisting voters with disabilities. In addition to explaining the rights of voters and the responsibilities of election inspectors, the State Elections Board presented a video prepared by the North Carolina State Board of Elections that showed what makes a polling place accessible and what type of assistance is appropriate for helping voters with disabilities.

## **Accessible Voting Equipment**

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The Help America Vote Act requires that all voters be able to vote privately and independently. The focus of this report has been on the physical impediments faced by voters with disabilities and the elderly on Election Day. In addition to enabling all voters access to the polling place, new voting equipment will be needed to fulfill the requirements of HAVA. At the time of this report, no accessible voting equipment has been approved for use in Wisconsin. In the summer of 2005 the State Elections Board staff will evaluate several accessible voting systems and make recommendations to the Board for approval. Once approved the State Elections Board will purchase accessible voting equipment with Help America Vote Act funds on behalf of the municipalities. No municipality will be able to use a polling place which fails to meet the accessibility requirements in 2006.

The State Elections Board has promulgated a set of administrative rules to establish the process for the approval of electronic voting equipment. Before the State Elections Board will begin the process the vendor must sign a written agreement to pay the related costs of the approval process. When applying for approval in Wisconsin the vendor must have their equipment qualified and must arrange for submittal of a report from an independent testing authority approved by the National Association of State Election Directors that the equipment has been qualified to meet the voting system standards established by the Federal Election Commission in December 2002.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The State Elections Board's Executive Director makes the following recommendations to reduce and eventually eliminate the impediments to voting experienced by elderly and disabled electors.

- ✓ Enact legislation that authorizes municipalities in coordination with local representatives of disability advocacy groups to establish regional polling centers. Polling centers could be used to enable all voters to cast their ballots in a convenient, fully accessible location that can be equipped with state of the art voting equipment and technology to enable all voters to cast a secret and secure ballot. A regional polling center will add a level of convenience to all voters and reduce the need to equip all polling places with expensive voting equipment.
- ✓ Develop informational materials on the effect of guardianship on an individual's voting rights to share with judges, clerks of courts, election officials, case managers, social service providers, rehabilitation specialists, program directors, group home managers, caregivers, parents and other interested persons.
- ✓ Provide government agencies and other organizations that serve the elderly and disabled communities with voter registration materials and training so this information is readily available to elderly voters and voters with disabilities.
- ✓ Enact legislation that provides sufficient funding to the State Elections Board for staff and resources to provide assistance, education, and information for local agencies that provide supportive services to people with disabilities.

These recommendations cannot be implemented without the support of the Legislature in the form of legislation and funding. Realistically, the State Elections Board does not expect to see these recommendations fully implemented in the next report period. These recommendations establish a threshold of commitment by the State Elections Board to the goal of identifying and reducing impediments to voting encountered by elderly voters and voters with disabilities.

The State Elections Board and its staff look forward to working with local election officials, advocacy groups and the Legislature to ensure that all citizens have the opportunity to fully participate in Wisconsin elections.

The State Elections Board welcomes comments on the report and suggestions for helping to eliminate impediments to voting faced by Wisconsin's elderly and disabled citizens.

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# **POLLING PLACE ACCESSIBILITY Survey**



# WISCONSIN STATE ELECTIONS BOARD POLLING PLACE ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY FORM

This form can be completed online by going to the State Elections Board web site <http://elections.state.wi.us> and clicking on the link Polling Place Accessibility Survey

Municipality: (Circle one) <b>Town</b> <b>Village</b> <b>City</b>	County:
Date Conducted:	HINDI Number: (five digit number on your mailing label)
Person(s) conducting survey: Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____	
Name of Polling Place:	Ward(s):
Address of Polling Place:	
Is it a government building? (Circle one) <b>yes</b> <b>no</b>	
Description of location: (type of building: rural, urban, historic, county building, church, school, etc.)	
Description of voting area: (gym, community room, etc.)	

### Instructions:

1. Please complete one survey for each Polling Place
2. Each of the following questions should be answered with a check mark for a YES, NO or NOT APPLICABLE answer. NOT APPLICABLE is an appropriate answer where the question asked does not apply to a feature of your polling place. For example, if the polling place does not require a ramp, mark N/A for questions regarding ramps. **Please answer all questions.**

Questions should be directed to the Elections Board at (608) 266-8005 or email: [seb@seb.state.wi.us](mailto:seb@seb.state.wi.us)

I. <b>Parking</b>			
	Yes	No	N/A
1. Are there permanent or temporary off-street parking spaces designated as accessible parking?			
2. Is there at least one van accessible space, defined as at least 8 feet wide with an 8 foot adjacent aisle? Note: Two spaces can share one aisle and two standard spaces will make one van accessible space			
	Yes	No	N/A

3. Are any other accessible spaces at least 12 feet wide or standard size with an accessible aisle?			
4. Are the spaces on level and paved ground?			
5. If there is a curb, is there a ramp or curb-cut connecting these parking spaces to an accessible walkway or directly to the building entrance?			
6. Are the parking spaces designated by clearly visible signs bearing the symbol of accessibility? (Signs may be erected especially for election day)			
7. Are the parking spaces located nearest the accessible entrance?			
8. Is there an accessible passenger drop-off area if off-street parking is unavailable?			
Is the parking accessible (answer "No" if any "No" responses)? Circle one.	Yes	No	

Comments:

II. Pathways to the building	Yes	No	N/A
1. Are the curbs from the parking lot to the path to the building cut or ramped with 48 inches clear width and slopes of no more than 1:12 feet (one foot high for every twelve feet in length)?			
2. Is the pathway to the building at least 48 inches wide and free from any protrusions or obstacles that would narrow the passage to less than 36 inches?			
3. Is the pathway free of any overhanging object (such as a tree branch, signs etc.) lower than 80 inches? (objects can be tied back or removed during election to provide clearance for a person with visual disabilities)			
4. Is the surface of the pathway free of breaks or edges where the difference in height is over 1/2 inches?			
5. Is the pathway from the parking area to the building paved?			
6. Is the rest of the path free of inclines greater than 1:20 feet?			
	Yes	No	N/A

7. Are any stairs along the pathway ramped with a non-slip surface and a slope of no more than 1:12 feet or provided with an alternative means of access? (please describe)			
8. If the ramp is higher than 6 inches, does it have a handrail that is between 32 and 36 inches from the ramp surface?			
9. If the accessible route to the building is different from the primary route to the building, is that route well marked by large print signs?			
10. Are walkways well-lit?			
11. On Election Day, are provisions made to ensure paths are free of hazards such as ice, snow, leaves and other such debris?			
Is the pathway accessible? (answer "No" if any "No" responses) Circle one.	Yes	No	
Comments:			
<hr/>			
<b>III. Entrance to the Building</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
1. Does the entrance to the building have a ramp or an elevator or is it free of any stairs or steps, such that a person in a wheelchair could enter unassisted?			
2. Do all ramps have a slope no greater than 1:12 feet?			
3. Are ramps and landing areas with drop-offs provided with a curb of 2 inches or greater to prevent anyone from slipping off the ramp?			
4. If there is a door at the top of a ramp, is there a level space of at least 5 x 5 feet where a wheelchair can maneuver to open the door or rest while the door is opened?			
5. Are entrance doors and all other doors along the accessible route to the voting area at least 36 inches wide?			
6. Exterior doors are often too heavy for some people with disabilities to open. Can the doors be opened without excessive force or are they equipped with automatic openers (such as a push button) or are provisions made for a poll worker to assist those who require assistance?			
Is the entrance accessible? (answer "No" if any "No" responses) Circle one.	Yes	No	

If doors cannot be readily opened, please describe how the poll worker will know when to assist people: (i.e. poll worker posted at door or door bell that rings within the polling place etc.)

Comments:

IV. Travel within the building	Yes	No	N/A
1. If the voting area is not directly inside the building, is the route to the voting area indicated and if necessary, is an alternative accessible route clearly marked?			
2. Are all doors along the accessible route unlocked for election day?			
3. Are door thresholds less than 1/2 inches high or if greater than 1/2 inches are they beveled?			
4. Can all doors to the voting area be opened with a closed fist or do they have automatic openers that keep the door open for 8 seconds? (Test this by making one hand into a fist and try to open doors using only that fist) or if doors do not pass the "closed fist test", can they be propped open all day for the election?			
5. Is the path of travel free of stairs or steps. If not, is there some means of access for a person in a wheel chair such as a chair lift or an elevator?			
6. If elevators provide the only accessible route, is the cab at least 4 x 5 feet wide?			
7. Are elevator doors at least 36 inches wide?			
8. Are elevator controls less than 56 inches high and are the controls marked with raised lettering?			
9. Is the elevator close to the accessible entrance to the building?			
10. Are stairways well-lit and free of obstacles?			
11. Are all corridors along the accessible route at least 48 inches wide and never narrower than 36 inches?			

12. Are corridors free of obstacles or protrusions (such as boxes or water fountains) which extend more than 4 inches from the wall?			
	Yes	No	N/A
13. Is the route to the voting area free of any hanging objects or overhangs lower than 80 inches from the floor? (a person who is blind cannot detect something that hangs or protrudes without a base)			
14. Are all rugs and mats securely fastened or removed? (Mats can be fastened with duct tape for Election Day)			
15. Do all rugs, mats and carpet on the accessible route or in the voting area have a low-pile?			
Is the path of travel within the building accessible? (answer "No" if any "No" responses) Circle one.	Yes	No	
Comments:			
<b>V. Within the Voting Area</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
1. Are instructions for voting printed in 18 point font or larger in simple language and plainly displayed?			
2. Is there sufficient unobstructed space for the reasonable movement of voters in wheelchairs (minimum of 5x5 feet)?			
3. Is the entrance to the accessible voting booth at least 36 inches wide?			
4. Is there at least one voting area where a person in a wheelchair can reach all necessary parts of the voting equipment?			
5. If the voter casts the ballot at a table or a counter, is the table top between 28 and 34 inches high in at least one station?			
Is the voting area accessible? (answer "No" if any "No" responses) Circle one.	Yes	No	
Comments:			

Please tally all No responses. Number of boxes checked "No" \_\_\_\_\_

A "No" response indicates an inaccessible aspect of the polling place.

Though the polling place may be inaccessible by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, poll workers and clerks can find simple solutions to get voters in to the voting area on election day. Sensitivity and an open mind are the most essential tools for making the voting process accessible for all voters.

Here are several suggestions that are not required by law but will make the voting process easier for elderly people and people with disabilities.

- Having adequate lighting in the voting area
- Providing magnifying devices and straight edges to those who request them
- Having at least one pad of paper and a pen to communicate with voters who are hard of hearing
- Making seating available for elderly and disabled voters waiting their turn to vote

If your Polling place is **inaccessible**, please use this space to note the specifics of the problems (such as the number of un-ramped stairs or the width and design of a narrow door). Then develop a plan to make the polling place accessible. This can include moving the polling site to a different, accessible location. If you don't know exactly how to solve an issue or wish to have help and advice in coming up with affordable solutions, contact the Coalition of Independent Living Centers or the State Elections Board for advice (contact info below). Attach a separate page if necessary.

Accessibility problems and solutions: (attach additional pages if necessary)

Please return surveys to:  
State Elections Board  
Attn: Polling Place Accessibility  
P.O. Box 2973  
Madison, WI 53701-2973

Or complete online at <http://elections.state.wi.us> and click on the Polling Place Accessibility Survey link. Feel free to call the State Elections Board at 608-266-8005 with any additional questions.



Even if the building is compliant according to this survey which is based on the Americans with Disabilities Act, this should not be taken to indicate full ADA compliance. This survey is for use by the State Elections Board only and only assesses accessibility for the purposes of voting. If you would like advice or assistance on making your polling place accessible, please contact Maureen Ryan of the Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers at (608) 819-1300 (voice/TTY). If you want more information on accessibility check the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) Manual, which is available from the Access Board at <http://www.access-board.gov/index.htm>, or by writing to:

The Access Board  
1331 F Street, NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20004-1111

Thank you for your help on this valuable project.

## **Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy Physical Accessibility Summary for the City of Milwaukee Election Commission**

On September 14 and November 2, 2004 a group of volunteers conducted a total of 158 physical accessibility surveys at polling sites in cities, towns and villages throughout Wisconsin. The survey used was created by the Wisconsin State Elections Board in 2004, and municipal clerks were required to survey all polling sites in their jurisdiction. WCA decided to utilize the same survey in order to be able to directly compare the data.

It is important to note that the survey does not identify non-physical barriers to voting. The State Elections Board created this survey based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines, and according to the State Elections Board, should not be taken to indicate full compliance with the ADA.

The Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy (WCA) surveyed a total of nine (9) polling sites in the City of Milwaukee. These sites included:

- Franklin Pierce School
- Hi Mount Boulevard School
- Fairview Elementary School
- Milwaukee French Immersion School
- Neeskara School
- West Side Academy
- Washington Park Senior Center
- Milwaukee School Board
- Locust Court Polling Place

WCA recruited surveyors from the disability community across Wisconsin. Surveyors were given written instructions to the survey. Below is a summary of the accessibility problems found at each of the locations according to our volunteer surveyors.

In addition, three of the polling sites listed below were also surveyed by the City of Milwaukee Election Commission for the State Elections Board. These polling sites were Fairview Elementary School, Neeskara School and Locust Court. We have also identified below additional problems identified by the surveyors.

### **Franklin Pierce School:**

WCA found a total of 12 accessibility problems at this site.

**Problems with parking:** Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. Although there was a van accessible space, there were not additional accessible spaces that were at least 12 feet wide. We also found that the accessible spaces were not nearest to the accessible entrance. The surveyor noted that the parking spaces were located nearest the entrance that s/he was told was

the "accessible" entrance, but the entrance was locked, not marked, and had no doorbell.

**Problems with the pathways to the building:** Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the accessible route to the building was different from the primary route to the building and that the accessible entrance was not well marked. We also found that the walkways were not well-lit.

**Problems with the entrance to the building:** Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the entrance to the building was not free stairs or steps, that the entrance to the doors were not at least 36 inches wide, and that the exterior doors were too heavy.

**Problems with traveling within the building:** Five (5) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the route or accessible route to the voting area was not clearly marked, all the doors along the accessible route were not unlocked on Election Day, and that the elevator was not close to that accessible entrance of the building. We also found that the doors along the route could not be opened by individuals with limited dexterity, and that the corridors were not free of obstacles or protrusions.

## **Hi Mount Boulevard School**

WCA found a total of 9 accessibility problems at this site.

**Problems with parking:** Six (6) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that there were no permanent or temporary off-street parking spaces designated for individuals with disabilities and that there was no accessible passenger drop-off area.

**Problems with traveling within the building:** Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. The doors along the route could not be opened by individuals with limited dexterity, there were obstacles or protrusions in the corridors, and the path of travel was not free of stairs or steps, and there was no elevator for an individual to travel to the polling room.

In addition, the surveyor mentioned that the only way for an individual with mobility impairment to vote at this location is to vote curbside. The main entrance of the building was not designated with a "Vote Here" sign, and it was unclear as to where to enter the building. Three other entrances were locked.

## **Fairview Elementary School**

WCA found a total of 8 accessibility problems at this site.

**Problems with the pathways to the building:** Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the accessible route to the building was different from the main route and that it was not clearly marked. We also found that the pathway to the building was not well lit.

**Problems with the entrance to the building:** Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the entrance doors were not wide enough, and that the exterior doors were too heavy.

**Problems with traveling within the building:** Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We also found that all the doors along the accessible route were not unlocked and that the corridors were not free of obstacles and that the rugs and mats were not securely fastened.

**Problems within the voting area:** When assessing the voting booth, the surveyor found that it was not at least 36 inches wide.

The survey submitted to the State Elections Board by the City of Milwaukee Election Commission also identified that the accessible spaces are not nearest to the accessible entrance, and that exterior ramps did not have a curb to prevent someone from slipping off the ramp.

### **Milwaukee French Immersion School**

Two separate surveyors assessed this site for accessibility for WCA. There were variations in their reporting. A total of seven (12) accessibility problems were found between the two surveyors at this site.

**Problems with parking:** A total of eight (8) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey by the surveyors. One surveyor identified that there was no permanent or temporary off-street parking spaces designated as accessible parking, that there were no van accessible spaces, there were no accessible parking spaces near to the accessible entrance, and that there was no accessible passenger drop-off area. The other surveyor found that that the curbs did not have a ramp or cur-cut connecting the parking spaces to an accessible walkway, that the parking spaces were not designated with the symbol of accessibility, and that the parking spaces were not located nearest to the accessible entrance.

**Problems with the pathways to the building:** A total of one (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. They found that the paths of travel were not free of any hazards such as ice, snow, leaves, or other debris.

**Problems with the entrance to the building:** A total of one (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The surveyor found that the doors to the entrance of the building were too heavy.

**Problems with traveling within the building:** A total of two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. They found that the rugs and mats were not securely fastened or removed. It was also identified that the voting area was not directly inside the building or that the main route or accessible route to the voting area was marked.

### **Neeskara School**

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility problems at this site.

**Problems with the entrance to the building:** One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the entrance to the building does not have a ramp or an elevator and is not free of stairs and steps.

**Problems with traveling within the building:** One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the rugs and mats were not securely fastened or removed.

The survey submitted to the State Elections Board by the City of Milwaukee Election Commission also identified that there was no accessible off street parking and no assessable passenger drop off area. In addition, the pathways to the building were not ramped or if there were ramps they were not constructed properly, the threshold to the doors on the interior pathway to the voting area were too high, and there were low hanging objects or an overhang that obstructed the interior pathway to the voting area.

### **West Side Academy**

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility problems at this site.

**Problems with parking:** One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. Although there was a van accessible space, there were not additional accessible spaces that were at least 12 feet wide.

**Problems with traveling within the building:** One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the elevator controls were not less than 56 inches high and/or marked with raised lettering.

### **Washington Park Senior Center**

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility problems at this site.

**Problems with parking:** One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. Although there was a van accessible space, there were not additional accessible spaces that were at least 12 feet wide.

**Problems with traveling within the building:** One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the mats were not securely fastened or removed.

### **Milwaukee School Board**

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility problems at this site.

**Problems with traveling within the building:** Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We also found that the doors along the route could not be opened by individuals with limited dexterity and that the rugs were not securely fastened and could be hazardous.

### **Locust Court Polling Place**

WCA found total of one (1) accessibility problems at this site.

**Problems with parking:** One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the accessible parking spaces were not nearest to the accessible entrance of the building.

The survey submitted to the State Elections Board by the City of Milwaukee Election Commission also identified that the stairs along the pathways to the building were not ramped or if there were ramps they were not constructed properly.

## Additional Information on Milwaukee Polling Sites

The city of Milwaukee has over 200 polling places. From the data submitted to the State Elections Board by the City of Milwaukee Election Commission, 80 of the polling sites were surveyed<sup>1</sup>.

Of the 80 surveys conducted, 71% of the polling sites had one or more problems, and 36% had five or more problems. The polling sites with the highest number of problems as identified by the City of Milwaukee Election Commission were LaFollette School (31 problems), Doerfler Elementary (16 problems), Pulaski Park (16 problems), Story School (12 problems), Townsend (11 problems), Lyons Park (11 problems), and Tiefenthaler (10 problems)<sup>2</sup>.

### Analysis of the Most Serious Problems

To further assist Milwaukee to identify which polling sites have the most serious problems, we identified the questions on the survey that we feel are the most likely to prevent an individual with mobility impairments from being able to vote (see Attachment A). The questions that are most critical on the survey are questions that identify if there is off-street accessible parking available (including van accessible spaces); if the parking lot is paved; if there are proper curb cuts and ramps connecting pathways and stairs and steps are ramped; if all necessary doors are unlocked and able to be opened without assistance or if personal assistance is provided, and if the voting equipment and surfaces are low enough to vote for individuals to use<sup>3</sup>.

The polling sites listed below all have critical physical accessibility problems. It should not be inferred, however, that the other surveyed sites do not also have critical problems that seriously limit or preclude access to the polling site. This list is meant to identify what polling locations are *most likely* to have serious problems.

We found that 50 of the 81 polling sites surveyed by the City of Milwaukee Board of Election Commissioners had one or more potentially critical problems. These sites are:

55+ Center	Madison University H. S.
81 <sup>st</sup> Street School	Manitoba School
95 <sup>th</sup> Street School	Marshall High School
Academy of Accelerated Learning	Morse Middle School

<sup>1</sup> Two separate surveys were completed for Edison Middle School. The data for both surveys was analyzed below; however, it was counted once for the purpose of calculating percentages.

<sup>2</sup> There were inconsistencies with the survey data that was submitted to the State Elections Board by the City of Milwaukee Board of Election Commissioners. For example, there were data fields in the database that were not filled in, implying that the questions were not answered by the surveyors. In addition, there were instances when the surveyor answered "not applicable," when an answer to this question should intuitively make sense. It is therefore recommended that the surveys be reviewed for accuracy and inconsistencies.

<sup>3</sup> The questions on the State Elections Board Accessibility Survey used in this analysis were Section I, question numbers 1, 2, and 5; Section II question numbers 1, 5, and 7; Section III question numbers 1, 4, and 6; Section IV question numbers 2, 4, and 5; and Section V question numbers 4 and 5.

Arlington Court  
 Audubon Middle School  
 Auer Ave  
 Bryant Elementary  
 Burbank School  
 Byron Kilbourn School  
 Cannon Park  
 Craig Montessori  
 Doerfler Elementary  
 Edison Middle School  
 Emerson School  
 Enderis Playground  
 Garfield  
 Grantosa Drive School  
 Hopkins Street School  
 Kagel Elementary  
 Keenan Health Center  
 LaFollette School  
 Lancaster Elementary  
 Locust Court Housing  
 Lyons Park Pavilion

Neeskara  
 O.W. Holmes  
 Old Browning (aka Congress-ECC)  
 Palmer Elementary School  
 Phillis Wheatley Elementary School  
 Pulaski Park Pavilion  
 Riverside High School  
 Rufus King High School  
 Samuel Clemens  
 Shepherd of the Ridge Lutheran  
 Spanish Immersion School  
 St. James U.M.C  
 Starms Discovery  
 Story School  
 Thoreau School  
 Tiefenthaler Park Pavilion  
 Townsend  
 West Side Academy  
 Wisconsin African American  
 Women's Center  
 Zablocki School

We applied the same criteria to the data collected by WCA surveyors and found that 5 polling sites had one or more potentially critical problems. The polling sites include Hi Mount, Milwaukee French Immersion School, Franklin Pierce, Neeskara, and the Milwaukee School Board.

### ***Milwaukee Public Schools Data***

The Milwaukee Public Schools identified forty schools that they have chosen not to make accessible. We found that twenty-five of these schools are also polling sites. These polling sites include:

Auer Avenue  
 Burdick  
 Carleton  
 Cass Street  
 Doerfler  
 Fernwood  
 Franklin  
 Garfield

Humbolt Park  
 Kagel  
 Keefe  
 LaFollette  
 Maryland Avenue  
 Morgandale  
 Riley  
 Thirty-Eighth Street<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> As you are aware, WCA has a client who votes at the Thirty-Eighth Street School. In our letter to Lisa Artison, Executive Director of the City of Milwaukee Board of Election Commissioners dated October 11, 2004, we identified significant problems faced by our client at this polling site. Specifically, according to our client's informal survey, the building requires voters to climb several marble stairs once in the building. The voting equipment is located on a stage in the auditorium, and an individual must descend a step ramp in the auditorium and climb stairs to get on the stage where the voting takes place.

Garden Homes  
Green Bay Avenue  
Hampton  
Hartford Avenue  
Hopkins

Townsend  
Trowbridge  
Vieau  
Zablocki

Milwaukee Public Schools also identified twelve schools that are not currently accessible, but that they plan to make accessible in the future. Of this list, three of the schools are polling sites. These polling sites include Edison, Eighty-First Street, and Grant.

### **Analysis of Low Cost and Easily Correctible Problems**

Many of the problems identified by the City of Milwaukee surveyors are problems that are typically low cost and/or easy to fix. We chose the questions from the survey that we felt met this criterion<sup>5</sup>. Based on our analysis, the following polling sites had problems that could be addressed quickly and easily. We used both the data submitted to the State Elections Board by the City of Milwaukee Election Commissioners and the WCA data completed by volunteer surveyors.

1. Polling sites that need the designated assessable spaces clearly and visibly marked:

LaFollette School	Madison University H.S.
Doerfler Elementary School	Phillis Wheatley Elementary
Pulaski Park Pavilion	Auer Avenue
Townsend	Byron Kilbourn
Tiefenthaler Park Pavilion	Bell Middle School
Old Browning (aka Congress ECC)	Wisconsin African American
Neeskara	Women's Center
Milwaukee French Immersion School* <sup>6</sup>	Hi Mount Boulevard*

2. Polling sites where the pathways to the building are not free of overhanging objects:

LaFollette School  
55+ Center

3. Polling sites where the accessible route to the building is different from the primary route and is not clearly marked:

LaFollette School	Edison Middle School
Doerfler Elementary School	Kagel Elementary School
Pulaski Park Pavilion	Auer Avenue

<sup>5</sup> The questions on the State Elections Board Accessibility Survey used in this analysis were Section I, question number 6; Section II, question numbers 3, 9, 10, and 11; Section III, question number 6; Section IV question numbers 1, 2, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 15; Section V, question numbers 1, 2, 4, and 5.

<sup>6</sup> An asterisk sign (\*) designates a polling site that was identified by a WCA volunteer surveyor as having the problem.



Story School  
 Tiefenthaler Park Pavilion  
 Old Browning (aka Congress ECC)  
 Burbank School  
 Franklin Pierce School\*  
 Fairview Elementary\*

Spanish Immersion School  
 Rufus King High School  
 Bryant Elementary  
 Wisconsin African American  
 Women's Center

4. Polling sites where the walkways are not well lit:

Emerson School  
 Kagel Elementary School  
 55+ Center  
 Holler Park Pavilion  
 Franklin Pierce\*  
 Fairview Elementary\*

5. Polling sites where the pathways to the building were not free of hazards such as ice, snow, leaves, and other debris:

LaFollette School  
 Holler Park Pavilion  
 Milwaukee French Immersion School\*

6. Polling sites where the entrance doors are too heavy, do not have automatic openers, and where there are no provisions made for a poll worker to assist people who require assistance:

LaFollette School  
 Doerfler Elementary School  
 Pulaski Park Pavilion  
 Story School  
 Lyons Park Pavilion  
 Morse Middle School  
 Burbank School  
 Edison Middle School  
 Emerson School  
 Ninety-Fifth Street School  
 Kagel Elementary  
 Manitoba School  
 Madison University High School  
 Milwaukee French Immersion\*

Phillis Wheatley Elementary  
 Auer Avenue  
 Eighty-First Street School  
 Enderis  
 Spanish Immersion School  
 Audubon Middle School  
 Shepard of the Ridge  
 Hopkins Street School  
 Riverside High School  
 Craig Montessori  
 Stars Discovery  
 Thoreau School  
 Fairview Elementary\*  
 Franklin Pierce\*

7. Polling sites where the route to the voting area is not directly inside the building and the accessible route is not marked:

LaFollette School  
 Kagel Elementary  
 Marshall High School  
 Franklin Pierce\*  
 Milwaukee French Immersion School\*

8. Polling sites where the doors along the accessible route were locked on election day:
- Morse Middle School
  - Burbank School
  - Franklin Pierce\*
  - Fairview Elementary\*
9. Polling sites where the corridors were not free of obstacles or protrusions:
- Doerfler Elementary School
  - Story School
  - Lyons Park Pavilion
  - Morse Middle School
  - Edison Middle School
  - Audubon Middle School
  - Franklin Pierce\*
  - Hi Mount Boulevard\*
  - Fairview Elementary\*
10. Polling sites where the interior route to the voting area were not free of hanging objects or overhangs lower than 80 inches from the floor:
- Morse Middle School
  - Neeskara
  - Arlington Court
  - Stuart Elementary
11. Polling sites where the rugs and mats were not securely fastened or removed:
- |                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Story School                    | Byron Kilbourn School |
| Ninety-Fifth Street School      | Audubon Middle School |
| Zablocki School                 | Holler Park Pavilion  |
| Academy of Accelerated Learning | Shepard of the Ridge  |
| Eighty-First Street School      | Bryant Elementary     |
| Milwaukee French Immersion*     | Neeskara*             |
| Washington Park Senior Center*  | Fairview Elementary*  |
| Milwaukee School Board*         |                       |
12. Polling sites where the instructions for voting were not posted in printed 18 point font:
- Old Browning (aka Congress-ECC)
  - Neeskara
13. Polling sites where there was not sufficient unobstructed space in the polling area for reasonable movement of voters in wheelchairs:
- Lyons Park Pavilion
  - Endres

14. Polling sites where there was not a voting area where an individual in a wheelchair could reach all the necessary parts of the voting equipment:

Pulaski Park Pavilion  
Lyons Park Pavilion  
Palmer Elementary School  
Enderis

15. Polling sites where the voting tables or counters were not low enough for an individual who uses a wheelchair:

Pulaski Park Pavilion  
Lyons Park Pavilion

## **Plan for Compliance**

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. § 5.25(4)(a)) require that polling sites must be accessible to people with disabilities. In order to meet these requirements, we propose that the following plan be formally adopted and followed by the City of Milwaukee Board of Election Commissioners.

1. On February 15, 2005, all of the polling sites that have not already been surveyed in the City of Milwaukee and reported to the State Elections Board, be assessed for accessibility using the State Elections Board Accessibility Survey. In addition, the results of the surveys must be reported to the State Elections Board by March 5, 2005.
2. By April 5, 2005 all of the items listed under "Analysis of Low Cost and Easily Fixable Problems" should be corrected. In addition, all of the low cost and easily correctible items on the surveys completed by the City of Milwaukee Board of Election Commissioners on February 15, 2004 should also be corrected.
3. A plan should be created to address all of the accessibility problems identified by the surveys for every polling site in the City of Milwaukee with the deadline that **all polling site problems will be corrected by April 2006.**