

Disability Rights of West Virginia (DRWV) is the federally mandated protection and advocacy system for people with disabilities in West Virginia. One of DRWV’s grants is PAVA - Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access. The PAVA program allows DRWV to ensure that individuals with disabilities can access full participation in the election process.

Title II of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires state and local governments (public entities) to ensure that people with disabilities have a full and equal opportunity to vote. The ADA’s provisions apply to all aspects of voting, including polling places. People with disabilities must have the opportunity to be full participants in an integrated civic event.

From July 25-26, 2018, DRWV completed exterior accessibility monitoring of all 14 polling sites in Summers County. There are 7 locations where the exteriors can easily be made temporarily accessible by modifying the polling site entrance, designating accessible parking, and/or hanging appropriate signage. There is one site of most concern:

- **Pence Springs Airport**

The table on the following pages lists the ADA standards, if applicable, for each area we surveyed, the issues noted at each site, if any, and suggestions for meeting ADA compliance on election days.

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Bellepoint Lifeline Church: No exterior issues. Per Jerry, voters can enter accessible doors at the back of the building.

Forest Hill VFD: 3 issues. Per Jerry, voters enter double-doors at the front right of the building.

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| Issue 1 | <p>No designated parking. There are no parking spaces designated for accessibility.</p> |
| <p>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements</p> | <p>502.1 Car and van parking spaces shall comply with 502. Where parking spaces are marked with lines, width measurements of parking spaces and access aisles shall be made from the centerline of the markings.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Where parking spaces or access aisles are not adjacent to another parking space or access aisle, measurements shall be permitted to include the full width of the line defining the parking space or access aisle.</p> <p>502.2 Vehicle Spaces. Car parking spaces shall be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum and van parking spaces shall be 132 inches (3350 mm) wide minimum, shall be marked to define the width, and shall have an adjacent access aisle complying with 502.3.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Van parking spaces shall be permitted to be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum where the access aisle is 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum.</p> <p>If more than 25 parking spaces are provided to voters, see 208.2 for the number of accessible parking spaces required.</p> |
| <p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p> | <p>Use accessible signage to designate a parking space on Election Day. If only one space is designated, it must be a van accessible space with aisle. Make sure this space is on the paved portion of the lot.</p> |
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| Issue 2 | Route to voter entry is uneven. From the parking lot to the ramp entrance there is a 1½” rise. |
| 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements | 303.4 Changes in level greater than ½ inch (13 mm) high shall be ramped and shall comply with 405 or 406. |
| Suggestions for ADA Compliance | An angled entry mat/threshold mat could be used to make this part of the route accessible. |
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| Issue 3 | Door hardware is inaccessible. Door hardware is inaccessible due to the handle that requires twisting of the wrist. |
| 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements | 309. 4 Operable parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate operable parts shall be 5 pounds (22.2 N) maximum. 404.2.7 Handles, pulls, latches, locks, and other operable parts on doors and gates shall comply with 309.4. Operable parts of such hardware shall be 34 inches (865 mm) minimum and 48 inches (1220 mm) maximum above the finish floor or ground. Where sliding doors are in the fully open position, operating hardware shall be exposed and usable from both sides. |
| Suggestions for ADA Compliance | Have the door propped open during voting; use a temporary doorbell or ballot call alert system; use a doorknob gripper with levers; or have poll worker stationed at the door. |

Green Sulphur District VFD: No exterior issues. Per Jerry, voters enter the door on the right side of the building.

Hinton Area Elementary School: No exterior issues. Per Jerry, voters enter the main entrance, 2A, at the back of the school.

Hinton Technology Center: 1 issue. Per Jerry, voters enter the main door on Summers Street.

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| Issue | <p>No designated parking. There are no parking spaces designated for accessibility.</p> |
| <p>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements</p> | <p>502.1 Car and van parking spaces shall comply with 502. Where parking spaces are marked with lines, width measurements of parking spaces and access aisles shall be made from the centerline of the markings.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Where parking spaces or access aisles are not adjacent to another parking space or access aisle, measurements shall be permitted to include the full width of the line defining the parking space or access aisle.</p> <p>502.2 Vehicle Spaces. Car parking spaces shall be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum and van parking spaces shall be 132 inches (3350 mm) wide minimum, shall be marked to define the width, and shall have an adjacent access aisle complying with 502.3.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Van parking spaces shall be permitted to be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum where the access aisle is 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum.</p> <p>If more than 25 parking spaces are provided to voters, see 208.2 for the number of accessible parking spaces required.</p> |
| <p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p> | <p>Use accessible signage to designate a parking space on Election Day. If only one space is designated, it must be a van accessible space with aisle.</p> |

Jumping Branch School: No exterior issues. Per Jerry, voters enter on both ends of the building; only the Jumping Branch entrance is accessible.

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| Lick Creek Baptist Fellowship Hall: 3 issues. Per Jerry, voters enter the main entrance. | |
| Issue 1 | No designated parking. There are no parking spaces designated for accessibility. |
| 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements | <p>502.1 Car and van parking spaces shall comply with 502. Where parking spaces are marked with lines, width measurements of parking spaces and access aisles shall be made from the centerline of the markings.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Where parking spaces or access aisles are not adjacent to another parking space or access aisle, measurements shall be permitted to include the full width of the line defining the parking space or access aisle.</p> <p>502.2 Vehicle Spaces. Car parking spaces shall be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum and van parking spaces shall be 132 inches (3350 mm) wide minimum, shall be marked to define the width, and shall have an adjacent access aisle complying with 502.3.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Van parking spaces shall be permitted to be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum where the access aisle is 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum.</p> <p>If more than 25 parking spaces are provided to voters, see 208.2 for the number of accessible parking spaces required.</p> |
| Suggestions for ADA Compliance | Use accessible signage to designate a parking space on Election Day. If only one space is designated, it must be a van accessible space with aisle. |
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| Issue 2 | Parking is on an unstable surface. Parking area is uneven gravel and grass. |
| 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements | 302.1 Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant and shall comply with 302. 502.4 Parking spaces and access aisles serving them shall comply with 302. Access aisles shall be at the same level as the parking spaces they serve. Changes in level are not permitted. |
| Suggestions for ADA Compliance | A core-gravel system, pavers, blacktop, or other material ½” thick or less could be used to create a stable surface from route to entrance. |
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| Issue 3 | Route to voter entry is uneven. From gravel area to the ramp entrance there is a 1½” rise. |
| 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements | 303.4 Changes in level greater than ½ inch (13 mm) high shall be ramped and shall comply with 405 or 406. |
| Suggestions for ADA Compliance | An angled entry mat/threshold mat could be used, or if stable material is put over the gravel to create an accessible route from the parking lot, this material could lay even with the ramp entrance. |

Madams Creek Mt. Olivet Church: 3 issues. Per Jerry, voters enter the right front door on the building behind the sanctuary. All picnic tables are removed from path to door.

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| Issue 1 | <p>No designated parking. There are no parking spaces designated for accessibility.</p> |
| <p>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements</p> | <p>502.1 Car and van parking spaces shall comply with 502. Where parking spaces are marked with lines, width measurements of parking spaces and access aisles shall be made from the centerline of the markings. EXCEPTION: Where parking spaces or access aisles are not adjacent to another parking space or access aisle, measurements shall be permitted to include the full width of the line defining the parking space or access aisle.</p> <p>502.2 Vehicle Spaces. Car parking spaces shall be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum and van parking spaces shall be 132 inches (3350 mm) wide minimum, shall be marked to define the width, and shall have an adjacent access aisle complying with 502.3.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Van parking spaces shall be permitted to be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum where the access aisle is 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum.</p> <p>If more than 25 parking spaces are provided to voters, see 208.2 for the number of accessible parking spaces required.</p> |
| <p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p> | <p>Use accessible signage to designate a parking space on Election Day. If only one space is designated, it must be a van accessible space with aisle. Designate parking on the paved parking pad near the building.</p> |
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| Issue 2 | Route to voter entry is unstable. From the paved parking pad to the building, a portion of the route is made of loose gravel, mud, and grass. |
| 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements | 302.1 Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant and shall comply with 302. |
| Suggestions for ADA Compliance | A core-gravel system, pavers, blacktop, or other material ½” thick or less could be used to create a stable surface from route to entrance. |
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| Issue 3 | Door hardware is inaccessible. Door hardware is inaccessible due to the handle that requires twisting of the wrist. |
| 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements | 309. 4 Operable parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate operable parts shall be 5 pounds (22.2 N) maximum. 404.2.7 Handles, pulls, latches, locks, and other operable parts on doors and gates shall comply with 309.4. Operable parts of such hardware shall be 34 inches (865 mm) minimum and 48 inches (1220 mm) maximum above the finish floor or ground. Where sliding doors are in the fully open position, operating hardware shall be exposed and usable from both sides. |
| Suggestions for ADA Compliance | Have the door propped open during voting; use a temporary doorbell or ballot call alert system; use a doorknob gripper with levers; or have poll worker stationed at the door. |

Pence Springs Airport: 5 issues. Per Jerry, voters enter the middle door on the front of the building.

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| Issue 1 | <p>No designated parking. There are no parking spaces designated for accessibility.</p> |
| <p>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements</p> | <p>502.1 Car and van parking spaces shall comply with 502. Where parking spaces are marked with lines, width measurements of parking spaces and access aisles shall be made from the centerline of the markings.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Where parking spaces or access aisles are not adjacent to another parking space or access aisle, measurements shall be permitted to include the full width of the line defining the parking space or access aisle.</p> <p>502.2 Vehicle Spaces. Car parking spaces shall be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum and van parking spaces shall be 132 inches (3350 mm) wide minimum, shall be marked to define the width, and shall have an adjacent access aisle complying with 502.3.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Van parking spaces shall be permitted to be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum where the access aisle is 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum.</p> <p>If more than 25 parking spaces are provided to voters, see 208.2 for the number of accessible parking spaces required.</p> |
| <p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p> | <p>Use accessible signage to designate a parking space on Election Day. If only one space is designated, it must be a van accessible space with aisle.</p> |
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| Issue 2 | Portion of route to voter entry is unstable. The sidewalk path that leads from the parking area to the building's sidewalk has a ramped area that is made of broken concrete. |
| 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements | 302.1 Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant and shall comply with 302. |
| Suggestions for ADA Compliance | The broken concrete could be removed and a small curb ramp, or other material ½" thick or less, could be used to create a stable surface from route to entry sidewalk. |
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| Issue 3 | Ramped area where sidewalks join is too steep. The slope of broken concrete between the two sidewalks has an 8.8% grade. |
| 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements | 405.2 Ramp runs shall have a running slope not steeper than 1:12 (8.3%). |
| Suggestions for ADA Compliance | The broken concrete could be removed and a small curb ramp, or other material ½" thick or less, could be used to create a stable surface from route to entry sidewalk. |
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| Issue 4 | Stoop and threshold rise are too high. The door stoop has a 3 ½” rise and the threshold has a 2” rise. |
| 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements | 404.2.5 Thresholds, if provided at doorways, shall be ½ inch (13 mm) high maximum. Raised thresholds and changes in level at doorways shall comply with 302 and 303. |
| Suggestions for ADA Compliance | A threshold plate could be installed, or an angled entry mat/threshold mat could be used to make entry accessible. |
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| Issue 5 | Door hardware is inaccessible. Door hardware is inaccessible due to the handle that requires twisting of the wrist. |
| 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements | 309. 4 Operable parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate operable parts shall be 5 pounds (22.2 N) maximum. 404.2.7 Handles, pulls, latches, locks, and other operable parts on doors and gates shall comply with 309.4. Operable parts of such hardware shall be 34 inches (865 mm) minimum and 48 inches (1220 mm) maximum above the finish floor or ground. Where sliding doors are in the fully open position, operating hardware shall be exposed and usable from both sides. |
| Suggestions for ADA Compliance | Have the door propped open during voting; use a temporary doorbell or ballot call alert system; use a doorknob gripper with levers; or have poll worker stationed at the door. |

Pipestem Volunteer Fire Department: 3 issues. Per Jerry, voters enter standard-sized door on the front right of the building.

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| Issue 1 | <p>No designated parking. There are no parking spaces designated for accessibility.</p> |
| <p>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements</p> | <p>502.1 Car and van parking spaces shall comply with 502. Where parking spaces are marked with lines, width measurements of parking spaces and access aisles shall be made from the centerline of the markings.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Where parking spaces or access aisles are not adjacent to another parking space or access aisle, measurements shall be permitted to include the full width of the line defining the parking space or access aisle.</p> <p>502.2 Vehicle Spaces. Car parking spaces shall be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum and van parking spaces shall be 132 inches (3350 mm) wide minimum, shall be marked to define the width, and shall have an adjacent access aisle complying with 502.3.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Van parking spaces shall be permitted to be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum where the access aisle is 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum.</p> <p>If more than 25 parking spaces are provided to voters, see 208.2 for the number of accessible parking spaces required.</p> |
| <p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p> | <p>Use accessible signage to designate a parking space on Election Day. If only one space is designated, it must be a van accessible space with aisle. Make sure this space is on the paved portion of the lot.</p> |
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| Issue 2 | Route to voter entry is uneven. There is a 1½” rise from the parking lot to the ramp entrance. |
| 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements | 303.4 Changes in level greater than ½ inch (13 mm) high shall be ramped and shall comply with 405 or 406. |
| Suggestions for ADA Compliance | An angled entry mat/threshold mat could be used to make this part of the route accessible. |
| | |
| Issue 3 | Door hardware is inaccessible. Door hardware is inaccessible due to the handle that requires twisting of the wrist. |
| 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements | 309. 4 Operable parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate operable parts shall be 5 pounds (22.2 N) maximum. 404.2.7 Handles, pulls, latches, locks, and other operable parts on doors and gates shall comply with 309.4. Operable parts of such hardware shall be 34 inches (865 mm) minimum and 48 inches (1220 mm) maximum above the finish floor or ground. Where sliding doors are in the fully open position, operating hardware shall be exposed and usable from both sides. |
| Suggestions for ADA Compliance | Have the door propped open during voting; use a temporary doorbell or ballot call alert system; use a doorknob gripper with levers; or have poll worker stationed at the door. |

Summers County Hospital Conference Room: No exterior issues.
Per Jerry, voters enter the door on the left side of the hospital, just before the loading dock.

Talcott School: No exterior issues. Per Jerry, voters enter the main entrance.

Upland--Summers County Volunteer Fire Department: 3 issues.
Per Jerry, voters enter the door on the right side of the building. During the summer, fire doors are open for access.

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| Issue 1 | <p>No designated parking. There are no parking spaces designated for accessibility.</p> |
| <p>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements</p> | <p>502.1 Car and van parking spaces shall comply with 502. Where parking spaces are marked with lines, width measurements of parking spaces and access aisles shall be made from the centerline of the markings.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Where parking spaces or access aisles are not adjacent to another parking space or access aisle, measurements shall be permitted to include the full width of the line defining the parking space or access aisle.</p> <p>502.2 Vehicle Spaces. Car parking spaces shall be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum and van parking spaces shall be 132 inches (3350 mm) wide minimum, shall be marked to define the width, and shall have an adjacent access aisle complying with 502.3.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Van parking spaces shall be permitted to be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum where the access aisle is 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum.</p> <p>If more than 25 parking spaces are provided to voters, see 208.2 for the number of accessible parking spaces required.</p> |
| <p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p> | <p>Use accessible signage to designate a parking space on Election Day. If only one space is designated, it must be a van accessible space with aisle.</p> |
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| Issue 2 | Route to voter entry is unstable. There is a 2'x3' unavoidable, mud and grass area in the route from the paved parking area to the voter entrance. |
| 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements | 302.1 Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant and shall comply with 302. |
| Suggestions for ADA Compliance | This portion could be paved, pavers, or other material ½" thick or less could be used to create a stable surface from route to entrance. |
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| Issue 3 | Threshold rise is too high. Threshold at voter entry has a 2" rise. |
| 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements | 404.2.5 Thresholds, if provided at doorways, shall be ½ inch (13 mm) high maximum. Raised thresholds and changes in level at doorways shall comply with 302 and 303. |
| Suggestions for ADA Compliance | A threshold plate could be installed, or an angled entry mat/threshold mat could be used to make entry accessible. |

West End City Garage: 2 issues. Per Jerry, voters enter the standard-sized door on the front of the building. During warm weather, the garage door is also open for voters.

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| Issue 1 | <p>No designated parking. There are no parking spaces designated for accessibility.</p> |
| <p>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements</p> | <p>502.1 Car and van parking spaces shall comply with 502. Where parking spaces are marked with lines, width measurements of parking spaces and access aisles shall be made from the centerline of the markings.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Where parking spaces or access aisles are not adjacent to another parking space or access aisle, measurements shall be permitted to include the full width of the line defining the parking space or access aisle.</p> <p>502.2 Vehicle Spaces. Car parking spaces shall be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum and van parking spaces shall be 132 inches (3350 mm) wide minimum, shall be marked to define the width, and shall have an adjacent access aisle complying with 502.3.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Van parking spaces shall be permitted to be 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum where the access aisle is 96 inches (2440 mm) wide minimum.</p> <p>If more than 25 parking spaces are provided to voters, see 208.2 for the number of accessible parking spaces required.</p> |
| <p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p> | <p>Use accessible signage to designate a parking space on Election Day. If only one space is designated, it must be a van accessible space with aisle.</p> |
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| Issue 2 | Door hardware is inaccessible. Door is inaccessible due to knob handle that requires twisting of the wrist. |
| 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements | 309.4 Operable parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate operable parts shall be 5 pounds (22.2 N) maximum. 404.2.7 Handles, pulls, latches, locks, and other operable parts on doors and gates shall comply with 309.4. Operable parts of such hardware shall be 34 inches (865 mm) minimum and 48 inches (1220 mm) maximum above the finish floor or ground. Where sliding doors are in the fully open position, operating hardware shall be exposed and usable from both sides. |
| Suggestions for ADA Compliance | Have the door propped open during voting; use a temporary doorbell or ballot call alert system; use a doorknob gripper with levers; or have poll worker stationed at the door. |

Several temporary solutions have been offered for making polling sites across Summers County accessible, and many of these solutions can easily be found online or at your local hardware store. An additional resource is West Virginia University's Center for Excellence in Disabilities WVATS (West Virginia Assistive Technology System) program. This program has portable ramps to loan for free, although pickup and drop-off of the ramps are required. Enclosed is a brochure with information for contacting WVATS.

The **2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Designs** referenced in this report can be found online at:
https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADAStandards/2010ADAStandards_prt.pdf

Four other valuable resources have been included for your reference:

- ADA Checklist for Polling Places

- The Americans with Disabilities Act and Other Federal Laws Protecting the Rights of Voters with Disabilities
- Solutions for Five Common ADA Access Problems at Polling Places
- ADA Quick Tips Tax Incentives

The ADA requires that public entities ensure that people with disabilities can access and use all voting facilities. Because a mix of public and private facilities are used as polling places, public entities may ensure Election Day accessibility of a polling place by using low-cost, temporary measures, such as portable ramps or door stops, rather than making permanent modifications to a building. If temporary measures will not fix a barrier, and public entities are unable to make a permanent modification to fix the barrier, then the public entity must look for an alternative, accessible polling place.