

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 Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA). The PAVA grant program allows DRWV to ensure that individuals with disabilities can access full participation in the election process.

Title II of the Americans 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.

On May 28-30, 2019, we completed exterior accessibility monitoring of all precincts in Boone County. The majority of the polling sites in the county are accessible or can easily be made temporarily accessible designating accessible parking, hanging appropriate signage, and/or keeping doors opened. As such, the following ADA codes have been referenced below.

206.2.1 Site Arrival Points. At least one accessible route shall be provided within the site from accessible parking spaces and accessible passenger loading zones; public streets and sidewalks; and public transportation stops to the accessible building or facility entrance they serve.

216.6 Where not all entrances comply with 404 (Doors, Doorways, and Gates), entrances complying with 404 shall be identified by the International Symbol of Accessibility complying with 703.7.2.1. Directional signs complying with 703.5 that indicate the location of the nearest entrance complying with 404 shall be provided at entrances that do not comply with 404

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.

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. 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.

502.6 Identification. Parking space identification signs shall include the International Symbol of Accessibility complying with 703.7.2.1. Signs identifying van parking spaces shall contain the designation “van accessible.” Signs shall be 60 inches (1525 mm) minimum above the finish floor or ground surface measured to the bottom of the sign.

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

Before further review, please take time to browse the Standards to gain a better understanding of the issues addressed. The tables on the following pages list the ADA Standards and ADA Title II regulations, if applicable, for each area we monitored, the issues noted at each site, if any, and suggestions for meeting ADA compliance on election days.

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Ashford Elementary School	
Issue	Surface of designated accessible parking is unstable.
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	Accessible parking area and route should be paved to create a stable surface from parking facility to entrance.

Boone County Health Department	
Issue	Unstable surface in accessible parking area and in front of ramp. Current location of accessible parking could cause ramp to be blocked. Ramp is without handrails on both sides.
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. Advisory 505.1 General. Handrails are required on ramp runs with a rise greater than 6 inches (150 mm) (see 405.8) and on certain stairways (see 504). 505.2 Where Required. Handrails shall be provided on both sides of stairs and ramps. 505.3 Continuity. Handrails shall be continuous within the full length of each stair flight or ramp run.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Access aisle should be created next to curb ramp and landing (502.2) to prevent blocking ramp access. Handrails should be built according to ADA Standards on both sides of ramp.

Brookview Elementary School	
Issue	Ramp not provided to connect designated accessible parking area to primary entry route.
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	On election day, temporary accessible parking should be designated adjacent to entrance in passenger loading zone. Otherwise, a ramp should be built to connect currently designated accessible parking to entry route.

Danville Community Center	
Issue	Lack of interior handrail. Existing handrail does not extend entire length of ramp run and handrail extension not provided.
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	<p>405.9.2 Curb or Barrier. A curb or barrier shall be provided that prevents the passage of a 4 inch (100 mm) diameter sphere, where any portion of the sphere is within 4 inches (100 mm) of the finish floor or ground surface.</p> <p>505.2 Where Required. Handrails shall be provided on both sides of stairs and ramps.</p> <p>505.3 Continuity. Handrails shall be continuous within the full length of each stair flight or ramp run.</p> <p>505.10.1 Top and Bottom Extension at Ramps. Ramp handrails shall extend horizontally above the landing for 12 inches (305 mm) minimum beyond the top and bottom of ramp runs. Extensions shall return to a wall, guard, or the landing surface, or shall be continuous to the handrail of an adjacent ramp run.</p>
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Interior handrail should be built, and both handrails should extend to length of ramp run and beyond with extension piece.

Lory Baptist Church	
Issue	Handrails do not extend the length of ramp and feature no extensions.
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	<p>405.9.2 Curb or Barrier. A curb or barrier shall be provided that prevents the passage of a 4 inch (100 mm) diameter sphere, where any portion of the sphere is within 4 inches (100 mm) of the finish floor or ground surface.</p> <p>505.3 Continuity. Handrails shall be continuous within the full length of each stair flight or ramp run.</p> <p>505.10.1 Top and Bottom Extension at Ramps. Ramp handrails shall extend horizontally above the landing for 12 inches (305 mm) minimum beyond the top and bottom of ramp runs. Extensions shall return to a wall, guard, or the landing surface, or shall be continuous to the handrail of an adjacent ramp run.</p>
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Both handrails should extend to length of ramp run and beyond with extension piece.

Madison Middle School	
Issue	Lack of handrails on route from parking facility to entrance.
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	505.2 Where Required. Handrails shall be provided on both sides of stairs and ramps.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Handrails should be built on either side of ramp, to ADA Standards specifications, including extensions.

Morrisvale Community Center	
Issue	Height of door threshold restricts access.
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	A threshold ramp should be installed to create accessible entrance.

Peytona Church of Christ	
Issue	Lack of interior handrail along duration of ramp run. Existing exterior handrail does not extend entire length of ramp run and handrail extensions not provided. Transition of parking facility to ramp landing is too steep.
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. 505.2 Where Required. Handrails shall be provided on both sides of stairs and ramps. 505.3 Continuity. Handrails shall be continuous within the full length of each stair flight or ramp run. 505.10.1 Top and Bottom Extension at Ramps. Ramp handrails shall extend horizontally above the landing for 12 inches (305 mm) minimum beyond the top and bottom of ramp runs. Extensions shall return to a wall, guard, or the landing surface, or shall be continuous to the handrail of an adjacent ramp run.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Interior handrail should be extending the length of ramp run, and both handrails should extend to length of ramp run at ramp base and beyond with extension pieces. Transition between parking facility and ramp landing should be patched to remove abrupt level change.

Racine Community Center	
Issue	Insufficient ramp from optimal accessible parking area to primary entrance route.
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	Ramp should be repaired or rebuilt, and accessible parking should be designated on either side of ramp with area in front of ramp serving as access aisle (as not to be blocked by parked vehicle).

Ramage Elementary School	
Issue	Unstable surface area from parking facility to ramp landing. Lack of handrails on ramp.
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. 405.8 Handrails. Ramp runs with a rise greater than 6 inches (150 mm) shall have handrails complying with 505. 505.2 Where Required. Handrails shall be provided on both sides of stairs and ramps.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Parking facility in front of ramp landing should be repaved or patched to create stable surface. Handrails should be installed above brick ramp barriers.

Whitesville Junior High School	
Issue	Lack of ramps at entrances.
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	Ramps should be installed in transition from entry routes to doorway landings (both images). Additional ramp should be built or installed in transition from parking facility to entry route (right image).

Several temporary solutions have been offered for making polling sites across Lincoln 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 pick-up and drop-off of the ramps are required. Enclosed is a brochure with information for contacting WVATS.

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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.