

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.

From April 23-25, 2019, we completed exterior accessibility monitoring of all 66 precincts in Cabell 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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A. D. Lewis Community Center	
Issue	Lack of ramp barrier at base of handrails and lack of rail extensions at landings.
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. Inside handrails on switchback or dogleg stairs and ramps shall be continuous between flights or runs.</p> <p>505.4 Height. Top of gripping surfaces of handrails shall be 34 inches (865 mm) minimum and 38 inches (965 mm) maximum vertically above walking surfaces, stair nosings, and ramp surfaces. Handrails shall be at a consistent height above walking surfaces, stair nosings, and ramp surfaces.</p> <p>505.10.2 Top Extension at Stairs. At the top of a stair flight, handrails shall extend horizontally above the landing for 12 inches (305 mm) minimum beginning directly above the first riser nosing. Extensions shall return to a wall, guard, or the landing surface, or shall be continuous to the handrail of an adjacent stair flight.</p> <p>505.10.3 Bottom Extension at Stairs. At the bottom of a stair flight, handrails shall extend at the slope of the stair flight for a horizontal distance at least equal to one tread depth beyond the last riser nosing. Extension shall return to a wall, guard, or the landing surface, or shall be continuous to the handrail of an adjacent stair flight.</p>
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Affix barriers along length of rail bases to deter wheel or cane hooking around vertical polls. Extend rail edges on landings.

Altizer Elementary School	
Issue	Width and direction of rain grate slots at base of ramp.
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	302.3 Openings. Openings in floor or ground surfaces shall not allow passage of a sphere more than ½ inch (13 mm) diameter except as allowed in 407.4.3, 409.4.3, 410.4, 810.5.3 and 810.10. Elongated openings shall be placed so that the long dimension is perpendicular to the dominant direction of travel.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	On election day, cover grate with compliant mat or board. Otherwise, apply new grate with elongated openings perpendicular to direction of travel.

Barnett Center	
Issue	Unstable parking surface/route to 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. 302.3 Openings. Openings in floor or ground surfaces shall not allow passage of a sphere more than ½ inch (13 mm) diameter except as allowed in 407.4.3, 409.4.3, 410.4, 810.5.3 and 810.10. Elongated openings shall be placed so that the long dimension is perpendicular to the dominant direction of travel.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Parking facility should be patched or repaved.

Central City Elementary School	
Issue	Threshold rise is noncompliant (1”).
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	Provide a small wedge/ramp for accessibility.

Community of Grace United Methodist Church	
Issue	1) Unstable surface (brick pavement) and lack of curb ramp closest to accessible parking; 2) voter entrance too narrow
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	<p>302.3 Openings. Openings in floor or ground surfaces shall not allow passage of a sphere more than ½ inch (13 mm) diameter except as allowed in 407.4.3, 409.4.3, 410.4, 810.5.3 and 810.10. Elongated openings shall be placed so that the long dimension is perpendicular to the dominant direction of travel.</p> <p>303.4 Changes in level greater than ½ inch (13 mm) high shall be ramped and shall comply with 405 or 406.</p> <p>404.2.3 Clear Width. Door openings shall provide a clear width of 32 inches (815 mm) minimum. Clear openings of doorways with swinging doors shall be measured between the face of the door and the stop, with the door open 90 degrees. Openings more than 24 inches (610 mm) deep shall provide a clear opening of 36 inches (915 mm) minimum. There shall be no projections into the required clear opening width lower than 34 inches (865 mm) above the finish floor or ground. Projections into the clear opening width between 34 inches (865 mm) and 80 inches (2030 mm) above the finish floor or ground shall not exceed 4 inches (100 mm).</p>
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Curb ramps must be provided on route to entrance from accessible parking. Both entrance doors should remain propped open with no center bar to provide compliant access width.

Department of Transportation	
Issue	Proximity of Accessible Parking
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	208.3.1 Parking spaces complying with 502 that serve a particular building or facility shall be located on the shortest accessible route from parking to an entrance complying with 206.4
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Use parking spaces across from entrance to supplement accessible parking to replace currently designated accessible parking furthest from entrance, as these spots lie further from entrance than those directly across from entrance.

First Presbyterian Church	
Issue	Unstable parking surface and route to 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. 302.3 Openings. Openings in floor or ground surfaces shall not allow passage of a sphere more than ½ inch (13 mm) diameter except as allowed in 407.4.3, 409.4.3, 410.4, 810.5.3 and 810.10. Elongated openings shall be placed so that the long dimension is perpendicular to the dominant direction of travel.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Area should be patched and/or repaved to create a stable surface.

Highlawn Elementary School	
Issue	1) Ramp access and parking not provided closest to entrance; ramp either not provided or needs repaired; 2) Cracks in surface on route to entrance.
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	<p>208.3.1 Parking spaces complying with 502 that serve a particular building or facility shall be located on the shortest accessible route from parking to an entrance complying with 206.4.</p> <p>302.3 Openings. Openings in floor or ground surfaces shall not allow passage of a sphere more than ½ inch (13 mm) diameter except as allowed in 407.4.3, 409.4.3, 410.4, 810.5.3 and 810.10. Elongated openings shall be placed so that the long dimension is perpendicular to the dominant direction of travel.</p> <p>303.4 Changes in level greater than ½ inch (13 mm) high shall be ramped and shall comply with 405 or 406.</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. 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>
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Regarding accessible parking and location, parking space should be provided in compliance with 502.2 and 208.3.1. Currently, accessible parking spaces are located down each side of street with no access aisles (1). Cracks along surface of route should be repaired (2), and ramps should be created along closet route from accessible parking (1). Rear entrance (3) could be designated primary entrance to alleviate several issues.

Huntington City Hall	
Issue	Curb ramp away from accessible parking and entry route.
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	406.5 Location. Curb ramps and the flared sides of curb ramps shall be located so that they do not project into vehicular traffic lanes, parking spaces, or parking access aisles. Curb ramps at marked crossings shall be wholly contained within the markings, excluding any flared sides.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Curb ramps should be built nearer accessible parking spaces, as closest ramp must be approached via alleyway.

Huntington Middle School	
Issue	Blocked curb ramp due to access aisle location.
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	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. 502.7 Relationship to Accessible Routes. Parking spaces and access aisles shall be designed so that cars and vans, when parked, cannot obstruct the required clear width of adjacent accessible routes.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	The curb ramp should be located perpendicular to the access aisle where it meets the walkway. Presently, any vehicle parked in the accessible space prevents access.

Meadows Elementary School	
Issue	Cracks in parking facility and route to entrance.
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	302.3 Openings. Openings in floor or ground surfaces shall not allow passage of a sphere more than ½ inch (13 mm) diameter except as allowed in 407.4.3, 409.4.3, 410.4, 810.5.3 and 810.10. Elongated openings shall be placed so that the long dimension is perpendicular to the dominant direction of travel.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Parking facility and route should be patched or repaved.

Odd Fellows Lodge	
Issue	Inadequate ramp and lack of rails, with no access aisle to keep route open.
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	505.1 General. Handrails provided along walking surfaces complying with 403, required at ramps complying with 405, and required at stairs complying with 504 shall comply with 505. 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. Inside handrails on switchback or dogleg stairs and ramps shall be continuous between flights or runs.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Due to ramp rise, rail must be provided on each side of ramp for safe access. Access aisle route should be created in line with ramp.

Senior Life Enrichment Center	
Issue	Proximity of accessible parking to curb ramp and unstable surface
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	<p>208.3.1 Parking spaces complying with 502 that serve a particular building or facility shall be located on the shortest accessible route from parking to an entrance complying with 206.4.</p> <p>302.3 Openings. Openings in floor or ground surfaces shall not allow passage of a sphere more than ½ inch (13 mm) diameter except as allowed in 407.4.3, 409.4.3, 410.4, 810.5.3 and 810.10. Elongated openings shall be placed so that the long dimension is perpendicular to the dominant direction of travel.</p>
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Front entrance walkway needs curb ramp from street (1). Curb ramp is away from accessible parking and best route. This might not be an issue if rear accessible entrance is marked as primary entrance on election day. If rear entrance (2) is primary entrance on election day, gaps in parking facility to entry route must be patched/paved.

Several temporary solutions have been offered for making polling sites across Cabell 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 Center for Excellence in Disabilities West Virginia Assistive Technology System (WVATS) 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.

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.