

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 February 5, 2020, we completed exterior accessibility monitoring of all precincts in Braxton 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](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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<b>Braxton County Jamboree Building</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	Unstable gravel parking facility surface.

<p><b>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements</b></p>	<p><b>302.1</b> Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant and shall comply with 302.  <b>Advisory 302.1</b> General. A stable surface is one that remains unchanged by contaminants or applied force, so that when the contaminant or force is removed, the surface returns to its original condition. A firm surface resists deformation by either indentations or particles moving on its surface. A slip-resistant surface provides sufficient frictional counterforce to the forces exerted in walking to permit safe ambulation.</p>
<p><b>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</b></p>	<p>Parking facility should be paved (level to existing pavement), or a mobility mat should be temporarily installed on election day at designated accessible parking locations, with accessible entrance route from parking area.</p>

<p><b>Burnsville Community Center</b></p>	
<p><b>Issue</b></p>	<p>Incomplete handrail system with lack of barriers and extensions.</p>
<p><b>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements</b></p>	<p><b>405.8</b> Handrails. Ramp runs with a rise greater than 6 inches (150 mm) shall have handrails complying with 505.  <b>405.9.2</b> 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><b>505.2</b> Where Required. Handrails shall be provided on both sides of stairs and ramps.</p> <p><b>505.10</b> Handrail Extensions. Handrail gripping surfaces shall extend beyond and in the same direction of stair flights and ramp runs in accordance with 505.10.</p> <p><b>505.10.1</b> 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>
<b>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</b>	Handrail system should continue through duration of ramp run, with extensions and barriers also constructed.

<b>Chapel Community Building</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	Incomplete handrail system, debris on entrance route/parking facility, and unlevel transition from parking facility to ramp.
<b>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements</b>	<p><b>302.1</b> Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant and shall comply with 302.</p> <p><b>Advisory 302.1</b> General. A stable surface is one that remains unchanged by contaminants or applied force, so that when the contaminant or force is removed, the surface returns to its original condition. A firm surface resists deformation by either indentations or particles moving on its surface. A slip-resistant surface provides sufficient frictional</p>

	<p>counterforce to the forces exerted in walking to permit safe ambulation.</p> <p><b>303.4</b> Changes in level greater than ½ inch (13 mm) high shall be ramped and shall comply with 405 or 406.</p> <p><b>405.8</b> Handrails. Ramp runs with a rise greater than 6 inches (150 mm) shall have handrails complying with 505.</p> <p><b>405.9.2</b> 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><b>505.2</b> Where Required. Handrails shall be provided on both sides of stairs and ramps.</p> <p><b>505.10</b> Handrail Extensions. Handrail gripping surfaces shall extend beyond and in the same direction of stair flights and ramp runs in accordance with 505.10.</p> <p><b>505.10.1</b> 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>
<p><b>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</b></p>	<p>Handrail system should be completed to ADA specifications. Debris should be cleared from parking facility transition to entrance route, and transition area should be paved</p>

<b>Copen Community Building</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	Unstable entrance route from parking facility.
<b>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements</b>	<b>302.1</b> Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant and shall comply with 302. <b>Advisory 302.1</b> General. A stable surface is one that remains unchanged by contaminants or applied force, so that when the contaminant or force is removed, the surface returns to its original condition. A firm surface resists deformation by either indentations or particles moving on its surface. A slip-resistant surface provides sufficient frictional counterforce to the forces exerted in walking to permit safe ambulation.
<b>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</b>	As grass on route to ramp may become overgrown and/or muddy, area should be paved or mobility mat leading to parking facility should be provided on election day.

<b>Cutlip's United Methodist Church</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	Unstable gravel parking facility surface, incomplete exterior handrail system and lack of interior handrail system.
<b>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements</b>	<b>302.1</b> Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant and shall comply with 302. <b>Advisory 302.1</b> General. A stable surface is one that remains unchanged by contaminants or applied force, so that when the contaminant or force is removed, the surface returns to its original condition. A firm surface resists deformation by either



	<p>indentations or particles moving on its surface. A slip-resistant surface provides sufficient frictional counterforce to the forces exerted in walking to permit safe ambulation.</p> <p><b>405.9.2 Curb or Barrier.</b> 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><b>505.2 Where Required.</b> Handrails shall be provided on both sides of stairs and ramps.</p> <p><b>505.10 Handrail Extensions.</b> Handrail gripping surfaces shall extend beyond and in the same direction of stair flights and ramp runs in accordance with 505.10.</p> <p><b>505.10.1 Top and Bottom Extension at Ramps.</b> 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>
<p><b>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</b></p>	<p>Parking facility should be paved, or a mobility mat should be temporarily installed on election day at designated accessible parking locations, with accessible entrance route from parking area. Exterior handrail system should be completed, and interior handrail system should be constructed to ADA specifications.</p>

<b>Falls Mill (Fall Run) Community Building</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	Unstable gravel parking facility surface, incomplete interior handrail system and lack of exterior handrail system.
<b>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements</b>	<p><b>302.1</b> Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant and shall comply with 302.</p> <p><b>Advisory 302.1</b> General. A stable surface is one that remains unchanged by contaminants or applied force, so that when the contaminant or force is removed, the surface returns to its original condition. A firm surface resists deformation by either indentations or particles moving on its surface. A slip-resistant surface provides sufficient frictional counterforce to the forces exerted in walking to permit safe ambulation.</p> <p><b>405.9.2</b> 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><b>505.2</b> Where Required. Handrails shall be provided on both sides of stairs and ramps.</p> <p><b>505.10</b> Handrail Extensions. Handrail gripping surfaces shall extend beyond and in the same direction of stair flights and ramp runs in accordance with 505.10.</p> <p><b>505.10.1</b> 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</p>

	to a wall, guard, or the landing surface, or shall be continuous to the handrail of an adjacent ramp run.
<b>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</b>	Parking facility should be paved, or a mobility mat should be temporarily installed on election day at designated accessible parking locations, with accessible route to ramp run. Interior handrail system should be completed, and exterior handrail system should be constructed to ADA specifications.

<b>Heaters Community Building</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	Unstable gravel parking facility surface, unlevel transition to entrance route, and incomplete handrail system.
<b>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements</b>	<p><b>302.1</b> Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant and shall comply with 302.</p> <p><b>Advisory 302.1</b> General. A stable surface is one that remains unchanged by contaminants or applied force, so that when the contaminant or force is removed, the surface returns to its original condition. A firm surface resists deformation by either indentations or particles moving on its surface. A slip-resistant surface provides sufficient frictional counterforce to the forces exerted in walking to permit safe ambulation.</p> <p><b>303.4</b> Changes in level greater than ½ inch (13 mm) high shall be ramped and shall comply with 405 or 406.</p> <p><b>405.9.2</b> Curb or Barrier. A curb or barrier shall be provided that prevents the passage of a 4 inch (100</p>

	<p>mm) diameter sphere, where any portion of the sphere is within 4 inches (100 mm) of the finish floor or ground surface.</p> <p><b>505.2</b> Where Required. Handrails shall be provided on both sides of stairs and ramps.</p> <p><b>505.10</b> Handrail Extensions. Handrail gripping surfaces shall extend beyond and in the same direction of stair flights and ramp runs in accordance with 505.10.</p> <p><b>505.10.1</b> 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>
<p><b>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</b></p>	<p>Parking facility should be paved (level to existing pavement), or a mobility mat should be temporarily installed on election day at designated accessible parking locations, with accessible route from parking area to ramp landing. Exterior handrail system should be completed, and interior handrail system should be constructed to ADA specifications.</p>

<p><b>Ireland Community Building</b></p>	
<p><b>Issue</b></p>	<p>Unstable gravel parking facility surface.</p>
<p><b>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible</b></p>	<p><b>302.1</b> Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant and shall comply with 302.  <b>Advisory 302.1</b> General. A stable surface is one that remains unchanged by contaminants or applied</p>

<b>Design Requirements</b>	force, so that when the contaminant or force is removed, the surface returns to its original condition. A firm surface resists deformation by either indentations or particles moving on its surface. A slip-resistant surface provides sufficient frictional counterforce to the forces exerted in walking to permit safe ambulation.
<b>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</b>	Parking facility should be paved, or a mobility mat should be temporarily installed on election day at designated accessible parking locations, with accessible entrance route from parking area.

<b>Strange Creek Masonic Lodge</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	Unstable gravel parking facility surface and grass/gravel entrance route leading to steps, all of which make entrance/route inaccessible by ADA standards.
<b>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements</b>	<p><b>302.1</b> Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant and shall comply with 302.</p> <p><b>Advisory 302.1</b> General. A stable surface is one that remains unchanged by contaminants or applied force, so that when the contaminant or force is removed, the surface returns to its original condition. A firm surface resists deformation by either indentations or particles moving on its surface. A slip-resistant surface provides sufficient frictional counterforce to the forces exerted in walking to permit safe ambulation.</p>

	<b>303.4</b> Changes in level greater than ½ inch (13 mm) high shall be ramped and shall comply with 405 or 406.
<b>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</b>	Parking facility should be paved, or a mobility mat should be temporarily installed on election day at designated accessible parking locations, with accessible entrance route from parking area to paved step landing. Step should be covered by ADA compliant ramp, accordingly.

Several temporary solutions have been offered for making polling sites across Calhoun 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.

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](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.