

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 August 26-27, 2019, we completed exterior accessibility monitoring of all precincts in Greenbrier County. Most 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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Alderson Community Building	
Issue	Ramp rails lack barriers and 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>505.2 Where Required. Handrails shall be provided on both sides of stairs and ramps.</p> <p>505.10 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>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	Barriers should be provided at the base of ramp rails, and rails should receive bottom extensions.

Clifton Presbyterian Church	
Issue	Debris between parking facility and entrance route.
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	<p>302.1 Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant and shall comply with 302.</p> <p>Advisory 302.1 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>
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Debris should be kept clear in transition from parking facility to entrance route.

Clintonville Community Building	
Issue	Unstable parking facility surface and debris on entrance route, as well as high threshold.
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	<p>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.</p> <p>302.1 Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant and shall comply with 302.</p> <p>Advisory 302.1 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>303.4 Changes in level greater than ½ inch (13 mm) high shall be ramped and shall comply with 405 or 406.</p> <p>404.2.5 Thresholds. 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.</p>
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Parking facility should be paved, or mobility mat should be provided on election day to create stable parking surface. Debris should be cleared from base of ramp. Ramp length/angle should be adjusted to alleviate high threshold.

Organ Cave Community Building	
Issue	Unstable gravel parking facility surface.
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	<p>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.</p> <p>302.1 Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant and shall comply with 302.</p> <p>Advisory 302.1 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>
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Parking facility should be paved, or mobility mat should be provided on election day to create stable parking surface. Ramp should be extended and raised at top, to alleviate threshold issue. The optimal solution would be moving the polling site to the fire house next door (as seen in photograph).

Rainelle City Hall	
Issue	A curb ramp is not provided on most direct route from accessible parking to entrance.
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	<p>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.</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>
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	A curb ramp should be provided adjacent to accessible parking, on most direct route to entrance.

Ronceverte Lions Recreation Center	
Issue	Unstable gravel parking facility surface and debris between parking and entrance route.
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	<p>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.</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>302.1 Floor and ground surfaces shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant and shall comply with 302.</p> <p>Advisory 302.1 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>
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Parking facility should be paved, or mobility mat should be provided on election day to create stable parking surface. Debris should be cleared and/or gap between parking and entrance route should be paved. The optimal solution would be moving the polling site to the fire house next door (as seen in photograph).

Several temporary solutions have been offered for making polling sites across Greenbrier 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

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.