

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 October 15-17, 2019, we completed exterior accessibility monitoring of all precincts in Harrison 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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Coon's Run Baptist Church	
Issue	Incomplete exterior handrail with no extension and barrier, as well as a lack of interior handrail system.
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>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). Handrails are not required on walking surfaces with running slopes less than 1:20. However, handrails are required to comply with 505 when they are provided on walking surfaces with running slopes less than 1:20 (see 403.6). Sections 505.2, 505.3,</p>

	<p>and 505.10 do not apply to handrails provided on walking surfaces with running slopes less than 1:20 as these sections only reference requirements for ramps and stairs.</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. 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. 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>
<p>Suggestions for ADA Compliance</p>	<p>The exterior rail should continue for the duration of the ramp run, with a barrier and extension also being added. An interior handrail system should be constructed.</p>

Issue	Unstable gravel parking facility surface and entrance route before reaching sidewalk.
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 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.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	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.

Life Builders Fellowship Church	
Issue	Unstable gravel parking facility surface and entrance route.
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 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.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	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.

Lost Creek Community Building	
Issue	Unstable gravel parking facility surface and entrance route.
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 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.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	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. Otherwise, Lost Creek VFD (shown above) would provide suitable alternate polling site.

Maple Lake Clubhouse	
Issue	Currently, there is no safe, accessible entrance route to ramp, as parking facility is not directly next to building and individuals must walk up street to building's accessible entrance. Ramp rails lack extensions.
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Requirements	<p>502.3 Access Aisle. Access aisles serving parking spaces shall comply with 502.3. Access aisles shall adjoin an accessible route. Two parking spaces shall be permitted to share a common access aisle.</p> <p>502.3.1 Width. Access aisles serving car and van parking spaces shall be 60 inches (1525 mm) wide minimum. 502.3.2 Length. Access aisles shall extend the full length of the parking spaces they serve.</p> <p>502.3.3 Marking. Access aisles shall be marked so as to discourage parking in them.</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. 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	On election day, accessible parking should be designated on street, on either side of ramp, with an

	unblocked access aisle in front of ramp landing. Ramp rail extensions should continue over landing.
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Monroe Chapel United Methodist Church	
Issue	Unstable gravel parking facility surface 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> <p>502.3 Access Aisle. Access aisles serving parking spaces shall comply with 502.3. Access aisles shall adjoin an accessible route. Two parking spaces shall be permitted to share a common access aisle.</p> <p>502.3.1 Width. Access aisles serving car and van parking spaces shall be 60 inches (1525 mm) wide minimum. 502.3.2 Length. Access aisles shall extend the full length of the parking spaces they serve.</p> <p>502.3.3 Marking. Access aisles shall be marked so as to discourage parking in them.</p>

Suggestions for ADA Compliance	Parking facility should be paved, or a mobility mat should be temporarily installed on election day at designated accessible parking locations, with unblocked access aisle leading to already paved entrance route.
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Pine Bluff Community Building	
Issue	Lack of exterior rail extension and barrier, as well as lack of interior handrail system.
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. 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. 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</p>

	nosing. Extension shall return to a wall, guard, or the landing surface, or shall be continuous to the handrail of an adjacent stair flight.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	The exterior rail should be continue for the duration of the ramp run, with a barrier and extension also being added. An interior handrail system should be constructed.

Reynoldsville Baptist Church	
Issue	Lack of exterior handrails leading to parking facilities, and existing handrails lack barriers and bottom 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. 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. 505.10.3 Bottom Extension at Stairs. At the</p>

	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.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	The interior handrails require extensions and barriers. Exterior handrail systems should also be constructed.

Sycamore United Methodist Church	
Issue	Unstable gravel parking facility surface.
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 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.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	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.

Ten Mile Baptist Church

Issue	Lack of handrail system.
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>505.1 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. 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). Handrails are not required on walking surfaces with running slopes less than 1:20. However, handrails are required to comply with 505 when they are provided on walking surfaces with running slopes less than 1:20 (see 403.6). Sections 505.2, 505.3, and 505.10 do not apply to handrails provided on walking surfaces with running slopes less than 1:20 as these sections only reference requirements for ramps and stairs.</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. 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</p>

	shall return to a wall, guard, or the landing surface, or shall be continuous to the handrail of an adjacent ramp run. 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.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	A handrail system should be constructed on both sides of the ramp area.

Van Horn Annex Building	
Issue	Unstable gravel parking facility surface.
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 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.
Suggestions for ADA Compliance	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.
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Wallace United Methodist Church	
Issue	Surface cracks and debris on entrance route.
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>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	Cracks in pavement on most direct route to entrance should be repaired, and debris should be removed.

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