



Intellectual Disabilities and Information Processing Difficulties

- Solution rarely rests entirely in technology
- Favor simultaneous visual and auditory information
- Often co-occur with other disability or access issues
- Carry significant stigma
- May not be self-identified as disabilities
- Are not necessarily associated with access needs by poll workers
- Poll workers may also have information processing difficulties

Information Processing Difficulties

What Are They?

- ☑ Cognitive Impairments (formerly “mental retardation)
- ☑ Dementia
- ☑ Reading Disabilities
- ☑ Attentional Difficulties
- ☑ Language Processing Difficulties
- ☑ Executive Function Difficulties
- ☑ Anxiety
- ☑ Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- ☑ Anything else that interferes with processing to print and electronic materials

Potential Impacts on Voting

- Pre-election information (candidates and issues)
- Voter registration (rights and processes)
- Navigating the polling place
- Using an accessible voting machine
- Navigating the ballot
- Write-ins
- Understanding the ballot
- Voting the ballot

Possible Solutions

- ☑ Clear and simple language for all information
- ☑ Special publications/posters on rights and accommodations
- ☑ Large and clear signage throughout the polling place, including outside (from the curb or street)
- ☑ Easy-to-use audio that synchronizes with the screen or paper ballot
- ☑ Simple and consistent ballot navigation
- ☑ Photographs of candidates on the ballot
- ☑ Accessible and available sample ballots
- ☑ Place to keep sample ballot visible while voting
- ☑ Hospitable, well-trained poll workers
- ☑ Opportunities to practice ahead of time



For more information...

...about voting and information processing difficulties, or about our other projects, please contact us or visit our website:

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...about the Research Alliance for Accessible Voting, visit:

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