Accessibility & the PCEA report: Thoughts and Perspectives on AVTI Research
EAC/NIST webinar
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Research Alliance for Accessible Voting Consortium

http://www.accessiblevoting.org/

- The Association of Adaptive Technology Programs
- The Center for Accessible Information
- Carnegie Melon Silicon Valley
- Clemson University
- The Election Center/National Association of Election Officials
- The Missouri Disability Vote Project
- Rutgers University
- The Tennessee Disability Coalition
- The University of California at Berkley Computer Science Division
Accessible Elections

• The disability community is very pleased with the president's commission on election administration recommendation.
• The PCEA recommends that disability be baked into every part of the election process.
  – accessibility is not an add-on; it is a foundation
• Election administration and disability access must be based on hard data – not anecdotes, theory, or ideology
• Elections are like disabilities, in that they are constantly changing
EAC research conducted by Dr. Juan Gilbert established Voter Pass, a major recommendation of the President's Commission on Election Administration.
Poll worker training
Paraquad Election Day Picture Guide

Using the Electronic Voting Machine

**AccuVote**
This is the Electronic Voting Equipment at your precinct. It is set up for all voters and has features that improve accessibility.

**Accessibility Equipment**
The AccuVote comes with headsets and a keypad, which are used during audio voting.

**Initiate Ballot**
To start the voting process, insert the voter’s card into the slot shown here.

**Start Up Screen**
When the ballot is loaded, this screen appears. Notice the options at the bottom of the screen.

**High Contrast**
If a voter requests high contrast, press “High Contrast” on the bottom right of the screen.

**Large Print**
If a voter requests large print, press “Large Text” on the bottom left of the screen.

**Adjust Screen Tilt**
If the voter complains of glare on the screen or requests the screen be tilted, adjust the screen by pressing the button on the back bar and lifting the screen up.

**Proper Space**
When setting up the machine, make sure there is ample space between the machine and the wall for maneuvering.

**Selecting Contest**
To move between contests, select the “Next” button on the bottom right side of the screen.

**Select/De-Select Candidate**
To select and de-select candidates, just touch the name of the candidate you wish to select.

**Review/Summary of Ballot**
When a voter is finished moving through the ballot, a summary screen will appear. Use the arrows to review choices.

**Changing a Vote**
If a voter wished to change their vote in one or more contests, they will push “Reject Ballot.” All ballot choices will still be selected; the voter can change votes in the contest of their choice.

**Cast a Ballot**
After filling out a ballot, press “Cast Ballot” to officially record votes.

**Confirmation**
A confirmation screen will appear when ballot has been cast successfully.
Use simplified language

• Instead of using these:
  – Select 1 out of the following 4
  – Select 2 out of the following 5

• Use these:
  – Pick 1 of the following 4
  – Pick 1 of the following 5
Future Research

• Election officials need a "coupon" so a local university can provide objective assistance and data for the unique administrative needs

• Examples:
  – "Help me develop an RFP"
  – "Help me train my poll workers"
  – "How much office and storage space do I need?"
Ideas for future accessible voting research

1. Ways to make mail-in voting accessible
2. Ways to make voting machine magnification easy to use
3. Polling research comparing the voting experiences of people with disabilities to the able-bodied
4. Tools to help election administrators keep their websites accessible including plain language
5. Online Tools to help improve the polling place efficiency
6. Tools to assist election officials in making all election materials accessible and comprehensible
7. An interactive online tool to train poll workers on the accessible equipment and disability etiquette
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