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Promoting Access To Voting

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Submitter Information

Name: Richard Acree
Address:
Brentwood, TN, 37067
Email:
Phone:

General Comment

1. Describe concerns regarding accessing the right to vote privately and independently for people with disabilities. Too many time we can read about election polling places that are non-compliant with the ADA. ADA Compliance should start at the top, at the State level, at State facilities and within State organizations, then trickle down to County and local municipalities, including election polling places, using a strict State level enforcement policy. Once State and local governments get their ADA act in order, then enforcement of private entities can go forward with additional enthusiasm.
2. Describe effective strategies, techniques, and technologies for addressing the barriers faced by voters with disabilities throughout the voting process. An effective strategy is vigorous enforcement of ADA laws using third-party inspectors, not in-house inspectors, to verify strict enforcement of the ADA laws. This is not hard, it just has to have a high level of enforcement.
3. Describe barriers that people with disabilities encounter in getting useful information about the voting process.
4. Describe barriers that people with disabilities encounter with ballots, and in getting useful information about the items on the ballot.
5. Provide recommendations for improving voter access for people with disabilities. Periodic inspection of polling places using third-party independent ADA inspectors.
6. Identify what has had the most impact enabling people with disabilities to vote privately and independently. Unfortunately, lawsuits.

7. Identify gaps that remain in making voting accessible to people with disabilities. Poor enforcement of the existing ADA laws. We don't need any additional ADA laws. We frequent periodic inspections and strict enforcement.
8. Describe barriers that people with disabilities encounter with completing online forms for the voting process.
9. Describe barriers that people with disabilities encounter in getting useful information about their eligibility to vote.
10. Describe barriers that people with disabilities encounter with registering to vote.
11. Describe barriers that people with disabilities encounter using technology for the registration or voting process, whether online, in person, or via mail.
12. Describe the availability of accessible voting equipment.
13. Describe barriers that people with disabilities encounter with voting by mail.
14. Describe security considerations relevant to existing and potential technologies used by people with disabilities in the voting process.
15. Describe barriers that people with disabilities face at polling locations. Certainly there are many to include parking, exterior and interior routes, protruding objects, doors, counters, and toilet rooms.
16. Describe the accessibility of polling places. Many are poor.
17. Identify areas where poll worker training can address barriers experienced by people with disabilities. Poll working training is needed to teach poll workers why they cannot re-arrange elements such as trash cans, signs, and some furniture because their actions may compromise a route for disabled individuals or a circulation route for vision-impaired.
18. Identify areas where clearer or better policies can address barriers experienced by people with disabilities. Top down strict enforcement of ADA laws starting at the State level.
19. Describe any barriers that people with disabilities face to voting that disproportionately impact communities of color, persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.
20. Of the concerns and barriers noted, identify the most serious and impactful barriers faced by voters with disabilities throughout the voting process. Physical barriers at the election polling places.

Attachments

Top 10 ADA Issues