

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 7/14/21 1:12 PM
Received: July 14, 2021
Status: Pending_Post
Tracking No. kr3-lu7j-1xiz
Comments Due: July 16, 2021
Submission Type: Web

Docket: NIST-2021-0003
RFI: Promoting Access to Voting

Comment On: NIST-2021-0003-0001
Promoting Access To Voting

Document: NIST-2021-0003-DRAFT-0033
Comment on FR Doc # 2021-12619

Submitter Information

Name: Allie Tubbs
Address:
IA,
Email:

General Comment

I am a disabled person who was scared to vote the first time I was eligible. I knew there was a chance someone at my polling place would question if I had the legal right to vote. I am my own guardian but there was not way I could prove this to my poll worker. Many disabled people are under restrictive guardianships that restrict their right to vote. I knew I had a right to vote but I had no idea how or even if my poll worker had been educated on disabled voters. At my precinct, the accessible voting machine was in a different room tucked away from everyone else. Disabled voters should have the right to be an equal in the voting process. Poll workers must have mandatory training on how to use accessible equipment and how to interact with the disability community. Further, simple accommodations, such as having chairs to avoid pain while waiting in line, should be readily available. Blind voters must be offered an equal opportunity to vote absentee while maintaining their right to a private ballot. All states are mandated to have electronic voting available for UOCAVA voters. Disabled voters deserve this same opportunity. Additionally, many states even allow these digital ballots to be returned electronically. This would make the voting process truly accessible for blind voters. Disabled voters continuously vote less than abled bodied voters because of the perceived and very real barriers. There needs to be increased education for the disabled and abled bodied to decrease the stigma of disability at the voting booths. Voting places must be accessible as well as the absentee voting process. Most importantly, disabled people have to be included as we progress to more accessible elections to understand their individual needs.