

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Promoting Access To Voting

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## General Comment

I am an individual but I have been a member of the National Federation of the Blind of Pennsylvania for almost 30 years and was a chapter president for over 20 years.

In the last election, as a blind person, I had to ask a sighted person to read the identifying number on my state identification card. I was very happy to be able to vote by mail because where I am to vote is some distance and there are no sidewalks and significant traffic so I refuse to walk there. I appreciated Democracy Live which made it easy to cast my vote. Luckily, I have a printer so I was able to print my ballot although I am concerned for other blind people who do not have a printer.

Unfortunately, again after my ballot was printed, I had to seek sighted help to make sure I had the envelope correct and signed in the correct place. I wish I could have submitted my ballot online making it much easier for myself and many other blind people.

In the past my voting place was closer. I learned to be assertive when I went to my polling place. I had to ask for the earphones and wait until they found them. I also had to ask for a chair because voting on my knees was hard when they gave me no chair.

I am a senior and have been voting for many years. I liked voting from home the most. It was great to vote in the comfort of my home and not worry that I was timing up a machine because it takes me longer to vote using the voice program provided. I truly believe that as more blind people learn that they can vote from home on an electronic device, more blind and visually impaired people will vote more frequently. Furthermore, I believe that a good number of us baby boomers will choose to vote electronically as we age.