

What is MPAS?

Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc. (MPAS) is the independent, private, nonprofit organization designated by the governor of Michigan to advocate for and protect the rights of people with disabilities in Michigan. MPAS services include information and referral, short-term assistance, selected individual and legal representation, systemic advocacy, monitoring, and training.

The Protection and Advocacy for Voter Access (PAVA) program resides within MPAS.

The logo for Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc. (MP&AS) features the letters "MP&AS" in a bold, serif font, centered within a light blue diamond shape.

Protection and Advocacy for Voter Access

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Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc.

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**MICHIGAN
PROTECTION & ADVOCACY
SERVICE, INC.**

"Protecting the Rights of Persons With Disabilities"

Revised 3/9/08

Your Vote is Your Voice

Historically, people with disabilities have voted at a much lower rate than the general population. This



is due to many factors, some of which include prejudice and physical barriers blocking access to polling places.

Thanks to the passage of the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** in 1990, and the **Help America Vote Act (HAVA)** in 2002, these traditional barriers are coming down.

Equal, Open, and Accessible Voting for all

In order to achieve an **inclusive** and **equal voting standard** for all fifty states, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) includes the following stipulations:

- Every polling place in the country must have at least one voting device that allows voters, regardless of disability, to cast their ballots privately and independently
- All polling places must be physically accessible in a manner compliant with

the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility guidelines

- Protection and advocacy systems throughout the country must work to ensure full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities, including **registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places**

Know Your Voter Rights

Power lies in the strength of numbers. This power will never be fully realized,



and your collective voice will never be heard, until you decide to act. Begin by knowing your rights.

As a person with a disability, you have a right to:

- Access your public polling place
- Cast a secret ballot
- Have someone of your choosing assist you in the voting booth
- Request assistance from a poll worker at your polling place
- Request and cast an absentee ballot

Protection and Advocacy for Voter Access (PAVA)

Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service (MPAS) is the protection and advocacy system designated to protect the rights of persons with disabilities in Michigan. **Protection and Advocacy for Voter Access (PAVA)** resides within MPAS and is uniquely qualified to address specific voting issues. There is no charge for our services.

Contact PAVA with your voting concerns or questions at 800.288.5923 when:

- You need assistance when registering to vote
- You have questions about voter rights
- You encounter harassment or discrimination by an election official
- Your polling place is not accessible
- You have not been provided with the opportunity to vote in an accessible format

