



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS
EXECUTIVE

LINDA V. PARKER
DIRECTOR

For release: 27 October 2008

Contacts:

Trevor Coleman, Director of Communications
Office: 313-456-3790 Cell: 517-712-5812

Harold Core: Director of Public Affairs
Lansing: 517-241-3986

FACT SHEET

Voters With Disabilities

As part of an aggressive voter education campaign the Michigan Department of Civil Rights issues the below facts to clarify the voting rights and responsibilities of voters with disabilities in Michigan.

You cannot be denied the right to vote because of your disability. The Michigan Persons With Disabilities Civil Rights Act forbids denying an individual the full and equal enjoyment of the services, facilities, and privileges of a public service because of a disability or because of the use by an individual of adaptive devices or aids. The Michigan Department of Civil Rights will investigate allegations that persons were refused the right to vote because of their disability or because they were denied the use of devices or other assistance to enable them to vote. Contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at 1-800-482-3604 or visit <http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr>.

You cannot be denied the right to vote because your disability prevents you from signing your name. If your disability prevents you from signing your name to a registration to vote or absentee ballot application contact your local clerk to discuss your options. If your local clerk refuses to allow another option, you may contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at 1-800-482-3604 for assistance.

You do not need a driver's license in order to vote. Obtaining and bringing a personal ID is the fastest and easiest way to vote, but you can also vote by signing an affidavit if you don't have ID with you.

Poll workers will assist you if you require assistance with voting due to your disability. You cannot be denied the right to vote because accessible equipment is not available to allow you to vote. In addition, you can bring anyone you choose (except representatives of your employer or labor union) to help you in the voting booth.

You cannot be denied the right to vote because the location of the poll is not accessible. If you cannot gain physical access to your polling place due to your disability, you have the right to ask a poll worker to bring a ballot out to the curb. If you know in advance that your polling place is not accessible, you have the right to call your local clerk and request a polling place that is accessible.

You have a right to request voting related publications or other information related to voting in accessible formats. Contact your local clerk's office or the Michigan Bureau of Elections at 1-800-292-5973 and request that they make their voting related information available in an accessible format.

Persons With Disabilities are eligible to vote via Absentee ballots. Absentee ballot applications can be downloaded from <http://www.michigan.gov/vote> or requested from your city or township clerk's office. Complete the form and mail or deliver it to your city or township clerk before 2:00PM, on Saturday November 1, 2008. You have until 8:00 PM on Election Day to complete the ballot and return it to the clerk's office. Only you, a family member or person residing in your household, a mail carrier, or election official is authorized to deliver your absentee ballot. The signature on the ballot must match the registration signature and signature on the application for the absentee ballot.