



Aug 1st 2026

Dear Director,

Disability Rights Florida (DRF) is the state's federally mandated Protection and Advocacy system benefiting individuals with disabilities through the provision of free-and-confidential legal and advocacy services. Our organization receives funding through nine federal grants, including the Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA) grant specified in 52 U.S.C. §§ 21061-21062. This grant authority is provided for in the Help America Vote Act of 2002, to "ensure full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities, including registering to vote, casting a vote and accessing polling places."

As in past election cycles, DRF is finalizing its planning to participate in accessibility reviews of polling sites around the state as part of ongoing efforts to promote and increase barrier-free voting access for individuals with disabilities. Our federal mandate to do these surveys, as we and other Protection and Advocacy Agencies have done for years, comes from our federal Protection and Advocacy for Voter Access Grant (PAVA) which is a subset of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, and in part reads:

52 USC Section 21061(a) – In addition to any other payments made under this part, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall pay the protection and advocacy system (as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000) (42 USC 15002) of each State to ensure full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities, including registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places. In providing such services, protection and advocacy systems shall have the same general authorities as they are afforded under subtitle C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 USC 15041 et seq.).

During the upcoming General Election, Disability Rights Florida will be working with Common Cause Florida and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in conducting poll site surveys to increase our capacity to survey additional polling locations, to reduce duplication of efforts, and to collect usable data to assist Supervisors of Elections in making their polling locations fully accessible. This program will be fully integrated with the Florida Election Protection Coalition's 2026 field program, and the program and volunteers will be managed by Common Cause Florida. Additionally, as with previous cycles, DRF will have staff doing poll site surveys as well.

All volunteers and staff will receive mandatory training from DRF in conducting poll site assessments for accessibility. Volunteers and staff must cross the 150 foot no solicitation line and go as far as the polling location entrance to properly evaluate polling locations but are fully trained regarding impermissible activities within the no solicitation zone. Volunteers and staff will also receive training regarding prohibitions on entering or photographing polling rooms/voting areas in compliance with s. 102.031(3), Florida Statutes and s. 102.031(5), Florida Statutes.

Volunteers will complete these reviews using the same survey that DRF staff will, which has been sent to you previously. As you will note, this instrument seeks generalized feedback regarding a range of



accessibility features (parking, pathways, ramps, elevators, and other building features). By design, this instrument does not ask respondents to provide precise measurements and does not directly incorporate technical elements of either the [2010 ADA Standards for Technical Design](#) or the [Department of Justice's ADA Checklist for Polling Places](#). Instead, Disability Rights Florida is seeking to assess how these accessibility measures function on a site-by-site basis. This will be invaluable information for our organization as we continue to engage counties and jurisdictions on the importance of elections accessibility through offers of poll worker education, trainings and related outreach including coordination of equipment demonstrations, townhall events, and other direct voter engagement efforts. Additionally, we are hoping to share the data from completed surveys with county and state officials as appropriate in an effort to further ensure equitable access to the electoral process for voters with disabilities.

As you will hopefully also note, the attached instrument does not ask respondents to secure entry into "any polling room or polling place where the polling place is also a polling room" in compliance with s. 102.031(3), Florida Statutes. Instead, as mentioned above, the instrument strictly elicits responses pertaining to accessibility features outside of polling rooms.

As in previous years, our organization sincerely looks forward to opportunities to collaborate with the Division and individual jurisdictions on important and meaningful efforts to continue to increase elections access for our constituents with disabilities in the state, and we would be pleased to discuss this planning further with your offices if there are any questions or concerns you have – my own full contact information appears below. We appreciate your efforts during this election cycle and in the coming years to focus visibility upon, and provide opportunities for, voters with disabilities in the state.

Sincerely,

Laura-Lee Minutello

Senior Public Policy Analyst

Disability Rights Florida