

# CIVIL RIGHTS & ADA COMPLIANCE



Wisconsin Council of the  
Blind & Visually Impaired

## OPPORTUNITIES

Prevent discrimination and promote full community inclusion of people with disabilities.

## LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

- Create an ADA-compliant absentee voting option for voters with disabilities who require assistive technology to vote privately and independently. This can be accomplished by expanding the existing process used for overseas and military voters, which allows them to receive a ballot electronically. Extending this option to voters who cannot see, read or mark the ballot independently would allow them to utilize screen reader and marking technologies to cast a private ballot.
- Increase voting access for people with disabilities by adding a question related to the availability of accessible voting equipment to the Polling Place Accessibility Review Program and providing additional state funds for the program to ensure that it's meeting its goals. The number of audits has dropped significantly in recent years. In 2011-2012, 1,614 audits were conducted. During the 2016-2019 reporting period only 444 audits were conducted.
- Enhance poll worker education about the rights of voters with disabilities.



- Promote and ensure accessible voting machines are available and easy to access at all polling places. Share key information about the equipment with clerks and poll workers including how the equipment functions and why it is vital for some voters with disabilities. Ensure that poll workers know how to properly set up and use the equipment to be sure it is available for voters.

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- Work collaboratively with voting partners such as clerks, disability organizations, voter access groups, to do a public education campaign about accessible voting equipment to further demystify it and take a lead in sharing accurate and empowering information.
- Support the Wisconsin Elections Commission in providing education and training to poll workers on the implementation of 2019 Wisconsin Act 48, which created accommodations for voters who are unable to state their name and address for the purposes of voting.

Per federal ADA law, task-based service animals are the only animals having mandatory access to businesses and additional venues of public accommodation.

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