

ACCESSIBILITY & CIVIL RIGHTS



Wisconsin Council of the
Blind & Visually Impaired

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

BUDGET ITEMS

Broadband Access:

WCBVI supports initiatives to expand broadband access across Wisconsin. This will ensure that residents with vision loss can access telehealth, delivery services, work and other technology-based services.

Accessible Government Websites:

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) has made progress recently working with state agencies to make their websites accessible. However, the State Senate and Assembly websites remain inaccessible to users with vision impairment. This severely inhibits our ability to monitor legislation and participate actively in the lawmaking process. The Council urges the Legislature to provide funding to remedy this problem and bring the legislative websites into compliance with accessibility standards.

Accessible Polling Place Supply Program and Polling Place Reviews:

Continue to fund program that enables municipal clerks to order supplies such as magnifiers, signature guides, accessible parking stall signs, etc. Continue to fund training for staff from Elections Commission and partner agencies to assess polling place accessibility.

"It's time for discrimination, intentional or not, against people with vision loss to end. Every public and private institution in the state needs to adjust how they operate to bring about a genuinely inclusive society."

- Denise Jess

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

Accessible Absentee Ballot Option:

Enact legislation to create an ADA-compliant absentee voting option for voters with disabilities who require access technology to vote privately and independently. Use 2019 Assembly Bill 861/Senate Bill 794—which would have allowed overseas and military voters to vote absentee by electronic submission—as a model for legislation requiring implementation of accessible absentee ballots that could be completed electronically.

State IDs for the GoWild System

Allows the DNR to use state-issued identification cards to validate residency for the purpose of purchasing recreational licenses.