



2020 General Election – Voters with Disabilities

In consultation with Pierce County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (Pierce County) and the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities (City of Tacoma), Pierce County Elections has improved disability access in time for the Nov 3 General Election.

Public Transportation

Earlier this year, the crosswalk between the **Route 57 Pierce Transit** stop and the Pierce County Annex was significantly improved. Improvements included striping, ramps, and a concrete pad for access to the pedestrian call button.

At the beginning of this voting period – October 16 - the last missing link of sidewalk between the **Route 3 Pierce Transit** stop and the Pierce County Annex was completed. This final step makes the election center completely accessible.

Pierce County Elections coordinated with **Pierce Transit's Specialized Transportation** program to educate shuttle drivers and integrate shuttles into the voter services drive-thru (Oct 31, Nov 2, and Nov 3).

Shuttles will drop off riders at the Annex South Entrance. Riders will enter the front lobby and be greeted by security and employees. They will be escorted a very short distance (100 feet) to a private area to receive a full range of voter services. They will be able to wait safely in the lobby until their shuttle arrives for pick up.

Accessible Voting Unit

Accessible Voting Units (AVU) will be available in the Election Center (2501 S. 35th Street) as well as the Pierce County Annex (2401 S. 35th Street) to ensure "no wrong door" and maximum convenience for voters living with disabilities.

Voters have the opportunity to mark their ballots privately and independently using assistive ballot marking devices. These devices have a variety of accessibility options including audio, large font, color contrast, touch screen input and tactile input to assist voters in marking a ballot.

This accessible equipment is available in the Pierce County Election Center during normal business hours, 18-days prior to every election. The AVUs are sanitized after every use.

To reduce exposure to crowds, Pierce County has an optional reservation system for AVU use. Scheduled appointments can be made for October 31, November 2, or 3, to by-pass the crowds.

Appointment Scheduling

1 SELECT SERVICE

Choose one or several services

- Assistance for Voters w/ Disability
- Media: Breaking news (tips, rumors, eye witness reports)
- Media: COVID – Pandemic effects on elections
- Media: Cybersecurity / Election Security
- Media: Other
- Media: Updates on election (turnout, ballots left to count, possible recounts)

2 SELECT DATE AND TIME

3 CONTACT DETAILS

Schedule an appointment by [clicking here](#) or visit our website www.PierceCountyElections.org, scroll to “Assistance,” and click “Voters Living with a Disability.” We send an email with a confirmation code. When you arrive at the Pierce County Annex, let a Pierce County employee or security guard know you have a scheduled appointment. They will walk with you to the AVU in a private area.

[American Sign Language \(ASL\) Video Relay](#)

Pierce County Elections recently acquired a Language Line Video Relay that provides on-demand translation. ASL is now available by video relay at the voting center.

[Promoting the Vote](#)

Pierce County has produced this actionable PDF for insertion on websites and digital distribution. With one click, access the AVU reservation system, find a ballot drop box, or visit our assistance page.

VOTERS LIVING WITH A DISABILITY

AVU

ACCESIBLE VOTING UNITS

Voters can mark their ballots privately using an assistive device. These devices have a variety of accessibility options including:

- ★ Audio
- ★ Large font
- ★ Color Contrast
- ★ Touch screen input
- ★ Tactile input to assist voters in marking a ballot.

Video relay for American Sign Language readily available.

For other accessible voting options, contact us for further assistance.

✉ Elections@PierceCountyWa.gov

☎ (253) 798-VOTE (8683)

VOTES

PIERCE COUNTY

RESERVATIONS FOR AVU USE

This accessible equipment is available in the Pierce County Election Center during normal business hours 18 days prior to every election. We encourage voters to plan their in-person visit early in that 18 day period to avoid the crowds or schedule an appointment to skip the lines.

Scheduled appointments are available for the Saturday and Monday prior to Election Day, as well as Election Day.

CLICK HERE TO SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT

You will receive an email with a confirmation code. Let the drive-thru staff know you have a scheduled appointment and they will direct you to a voting unit.

For election specific ballot drop box and voting center map:

CLICK HERE

For more information and additional assistance.

CLICK HERE

DRIVE-THRU SERVICES

Saturday, **October 31** 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Monday, **November 2** 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, **November 3** 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

PARATRANSIT VOTERS

Voters arriving via paratransit should be dropped off at the Pierce County Annex, not the Election Center.

Electronic Ballots

Washington State offers an online ballot marking option at www.VoteWa.gov. Screen readers help voters read, mark, and print their ballots and print the ballot return envelope.

Electronic Return of Ballots

Pierce County offer electronic ballot return through OmniBallot, a program of Democracy Live. OmniBallot entirely bypasses to need to handle pens and paper, as well as travel to a ballot drop box. The ballot is marked online and returned to Pierce County Elections through a secure online portal.

At this time, Washington State law limits electronic return of ballots to UOCAVA voters (Uniformed and Overseas Voters).

Pierce County has solicited the Secretary of State to recognize electronic ballot return as a reasonable accommodation for voters living with a disability. We have specifically requested an emergency rule or waiver to reduce COVID exposure for our medically fragile voters. However, at this time, electronic ballot return remains limited to UOCAVA voters.