

Access the Vote



Arizona Disability Voter Guide



DISABILITY
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ARIZONA

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Do I Have the Right to Vote?

Many people with disabilities are unsure if they are legally allowed to vote. How does voting work for those with guardians, conservators, or a history of mental health treatment or criminal justice involvement?



You can vote in Arizona if you:

- You are a U.S. citizen and live in Arizona.
- You are 18 years old or older by Election Day.
- You have lived in your voting area for 29+ days before Election Day.
- You are registered to vote where you live.



If You Have a Guardian or Conservator

Having a guardian does not automatically remove your right to vote. The only time you may not be able to vote is if the court has specifically said in your guardianship order that you cannot vote.

If you are not sure what your guardianship order says, DRAZ can review it with you. If your voting rights were restricted and you want them restored, you can also ask the court to restore your voting rights.



Mental Health Treatment and Hospitalization

Being in a psychiatric facility, hospital, or on a psychiatric hold does not itself take away your right to vote. If you are hospitalized or in a facility on Election Day and are otherwise eligible and registered to vote, you can vote by requesting a mail-in ballot sent to the facility. You can also ask facility staff to contact the county election office on your behalf to get help from a Special Elections Board.



Felony Convictions

If you have a felony conviction, your voting rights may be restored after completing your sentence. In Arizona, people with only one felony conviction can register to vote once they complete their sentence. For additional felonies, you must apply to have them restored.

My Rights at the Polls

The law gives you rights as a voter with a disability. These rights exist under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Arizona Civil Rights Act, the Rehabilitation Act, and the Help America Vote Act. Poll workers and election officials are required to follow them.

Curbside Voting

If you cannot enter your polling place because of a disability, you can request curbside voting. You do not need to give advance notice, but should look up where curbside voting offered. Drive or get a ride to the polling location, and poll worker team must come to your vehicle with your ballot within a reasonable amount of time. You can vote in your car and return the ballot to the poll workers. Learn more on page 7.

Right to Extra Time

There is no time limit on voting. You are entitled to spend as much time as you need to review and complete your ballot. Poll workers cannot rush you, ask you to hurry, or suggest you come back later. Take your time to understand the ballot and make sure your vote truly represents what you care about. You can also bring any materials that help you remember how you want to vote.

Right to Communicate Your Way & Receive Alternative Formats

Poll workers must work with however you communicate. You may use an AAC device, letter board, written notes, gestures, or any other method. If a poll worker does not understand you, they must find a way to assist you. They cannot turn you away or require you to communicate differently. Accessible polling machines also offer audio and alternative formats.

Right Not to Be Turned Away

You cannot be turned away because of your disability, behavior related to your disability, how you look, or because poll workers are unsure what to do. If a poll worker tells you that you cannot vote, do not leave or get out of line. Ask for a provisional ballot and call the phone numbers on the back of this guide.

Getting Help to Vote

Everyone needs help sometimes, and for some people, that might include during voting. Your vote should always be confidential and free from influence, but you can still get help when you need it.



Who Can Help You

Anyone else you trust, like a family member, friend, caregiver, peer support or case manager, can help you vote. You should be free from pressure from the person who helps. Decisions about voting should be yours.

Your employer cannot help you vote; this protects you from being pressured to vote in a certain way by those with power over your job. An person from your union cannot help you for the same reason. A candidate who is on the ballot is not allowed to help you either.



Specific Situations

- If you **use an AAC device**, you do not need to explain or justify it. Show the poll worker how you communicate and ask for time.
- If you have a **cognitive or intellectual disability**, your helper can read the ballot to you, and help mark your selections. They cannot tell you who or what to vote for. If they select the wrong vote, you can redo your ballot or request a different helper.
- If you **have a psychiatric disability** and are concerned about sensory overload, you can ask for a quiet space to vote, and you have the option to arrange to vote early by mail.

What to Bring to the Polls

To submit your ballot, you must already be registered to vote. If you're not, you can register at the polling location and submit a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot lets you vote while your registration is being verified. Once verified, your vote will be counted.



What Counts as ID

- Photo ID with your name and address (Arizona Drivers license; Government-issued ID; Arizona ID card; Tribal enrollment card)

OR

- TWO non-photo IDs with your name and address (utility bill, bank statement from last 90 days, AZ car registration, Indian census card, property tax bill, tribal enrollment card, vehicle insurance card, or government-issued ID)

OR a combination of these options.



Checklist of Items to Bring

- ☐ Your ID, voter registration info, polling place address
- ☐ AAC device or communication tool, fully charged with backup battery if possible. Backup communication methods (notepad, letter board, printed communication cards).
- ☐ Notes or other materials you have that help you remember how you want to vote.
- ☐ Medications you may need while waiting in line.
- ☐ Mobility aids like a cane, walker, rollator, or wheelchair.
- ☐ Headphones, earplugs, sunglasses, or sensory items.
- ☐ A written list of the accommodations you'll request.
- ☐ Caregiver or assistant, or their contact information in case you need backup support.
- ☐ Portable seat, if standing in line is difficult.
- ☐ Fully charged phone to call for support at the polls if anything goes wrong.
- ☐ Water and snacks.

If Something Goes Wrong



If You're Turned Away

Do not leave without voting. Ask for a provisional ballot; you are legally entitled to one regardless of the reason you are being turned away. A provisional ballot is set aside and counted after election officials verify your eligibility to vote. Casting a provisional ballot preserves your vote while the problem is resolved.



If Your Accommodation Is Denied

Ask to speak with the polling place inspector or supervisor. They have more authority than regular poll workers. Repeat your request clearly. You can say: "I am requesting a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act." If the denial continues, cast a provisional ballot, document what happened, and call DRAZ (contact information in the back of this guide).



If a Poll Worker Is Discriminatory or Unprofessional

Write down the poll worker's name or badge number if visible, the time, and exactly what was said or done. You can file a complaint with the Arizona Secretary of State, the Arizona Attorney General's Office, and the U.S. Department of Justice. DRAZ may be able to assist you with the complaint process.



If Your Name Is Not on the Voting Rolls

This can happen due to an error, a recent move, or a registration issue. Ask for a provisional ballot. Bring any proof of registration you have like a confirmation email, registration card, or ID with your current address. Your ballot will be counted after officials can verify your information after the polls close.



After Election Day

If you experienced discrimination in voting because of your disability, you can file formal complaints with the Arizona Secretary of State, the Arizona Attorney General's Office, the U.S. Department of Justice, or pursue legal action. Contact DRAZ to discuss your options.

Other Ways to Vote



Early Voting

Signing up for the Active Early Voting List means a mail-in ballot is automatically mailed to you before every election. You only need to sign up once, but to stay on the List you need to regularly vote. This is especially helpful option if planning ahead is difficult, if your health or circumstances change close to Election Day, or if you prefer the flexibility, time, and privacy of voting at home.



Voting From a Care Facility or Hospital

If you live in a nursing home, group home, assisted living facility, or are hospitalized, contact your county election office as early as possible before Election Day. Ask for a ballot to be sent to your facility address. You can also ask for help from a Special Election Board, which is a team that can bring a ballot to your location for you to vote before Election Day. DRAZ can help coordinate this if you run into barriers.



Steps to Curbside Voting

You do not need to register or do anything special for curbside voting.

- Check that your polling location offers curbside voting.
- Drive or arrange a ride to your polling location on Election Day.
- Stay in your vehicle. Send someone inside to let poll workers know you need curbside voting, use the notification system at the polling location, or call the polling location ahead of time.
- A poll worker team will bring your ballot and any necessary materials to your vehicle.
- Complete your ballot in your vehicle with as much time as you need.
- Hand the completed ballot back to the poll worker team.

You do not need a doctor's note, advance notice, or any documentation.

Scripts for Common Situations

You do not need to explain or disclose your specific disability. These scripts are a starting point, and you can use your own words.

Requesting Curbside Voting

“ I have a disability and I'm not able to enter the building. I need curbside voting please. ”

Bringing an Assistant Into the Booth

“ I have a disability and I need my assistant/helper/caretaker to come with me into the booth to help me vote.”

Getting a Chair or Waiting Inside

“ I have a disability that makes it difficult to wait in line/stand for long periods of time. Can I have a chair? ” or “ I have a disability that makes it difficult for me to regulate my temperature. Can I please wait inside until my turn in line comes up?”

Asking to Vote Even if You're Not Registered

“ I would like to cast a provisional ballot please. ”

Reporting a Problem to a Supervisor

“ I need to speak with the polling place inspector or supervisor please. My accommodation was denied and I would like to resolve this. ”

Asking for Your Ballot to Be Read Aloud

“ I need someone to read my ballot to me out loud. I would like to use the accessible voting machine” or “ I would like a poll worker to assist. ”

If You Made a Mistake on Your Ballot

“ I made a mistake, I would like to receive a new ballot please. ”

If a Braille Ballot or Large Print Ballot

“ I need a Braille ballot/instructions. ” or “ I need a large print ballot/instructions.” or “ I need to use the accessible voting machine.”

Voting Decisions and Notes



Ballot Measure/ Candidate	Voting Decisions/Notes

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Get In Touch

We're here to help protect your rights.

ELECTION DAY VOTER HOTLINE

1-800-927-2260

Available 6am - 7pm on Election Day

Phoenix Office

5025 E. Washington St., Suite 202, Phoenix, AZ 85034
(602) 274-6287

Tucson Office

4539 E. Ft Lowell Rd, Tucson, AZ 85712
(520) 327-9547

center@disabilityrightsaz.org

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Voting Rights
Resources

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