

Disabilities Law Program
Protection & Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA)

PROPOSED FOCUS AREAS FY25

10/1/2024-9/30/2025

I. FOCUS AREA: THE DLP WILL ENSURE THAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE ACCESS TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

Goal 1

The DLP will work to ensure full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Guidance and support with registering to vote, obtaining a ballot, casting a vote, and accessing polling places.
- Conducting outreach to service providers and facilities to raise awareness and encourage greater access to voting for their clients and residents.

Goal 2

The DLP will work to raise awareness and provide education, training, and assistance to individuals with disabilities that will facilitate and promote their participation in the electoral process. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Education regarding voter registration, providing individuals with disabilities information regarding their legal rights that pertain to voting, and providing assistance to individuals with disabilities who encounter issues accessing the polls on Election Day.
- Education on new methods for voting in Delaware based on recent legislation, ~~including early voting~~ and such as electronic return of ballots.
- Participation in state-wide coalition for voting rights to make accessibility a priority issue and educating policymakers regarding the impact of any legislation on accessibility for voters.
- Participation in community outreach events to educate and raise awareness on voting rights, accessibility, and information resources for voters with disabilities.
- Social media campaigns with key messages and information on elections and voting rights.

Outreach to long-term care facilities to offer education to staff and residents on their voting

rights, methods of voting, and changes in election-related legislation,

Goal 3

The DLP will obtain training and technical assistance on voting issues, including education regarding accessible voting equipment and systems, and emerging technologies that enhance accessibility throughout the voting process. Once educated, the information may be used to inform others of the availability of accessible voting equipment and to encourage its use.


II. FOCUS AREA: THE DLP WILL ENSURE THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND ELECTION WORKERS ARE INFORMED OF AND ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Goal 4

The DLP will offer to participate in the training and education of election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers regarding the rights of the voters with disabilities and best practices in collaborating with individuals with disabilities. Activities may include, but are not limited to:


- Providing training and participating in the development of training and education programs for election officials and poll workers.
- Conducting surveys to assess concerns of voters with disabilities, and sharing the results with candidates, election officials, and/or the public.
- Maintain regular contact with the Dept of Elections throughout the year, to keep lines of communication open and share information on developments as they emerge.

Goal 5

The DLP will assist individuals with disabilities in filing complaints under the State-based administrative grievance procedure required by HAVA and represent individuals with disabilities in any hearing that may be held regarding the  complaint. Where appropriate, DLP will also provide technical assistance or referral services for other avenues for complaints.

Goal 6

The DLP will provide assistance to state and other governmental entities regarding the physical accessibility of polling places, accessibility of alternative voting methods and accessibility of information and websites. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Surveying polling places, identifying potential modifications to make specific polling places accessible, and developing criteria for identifying accessible polling places.
-  Evaluating information and website accessibility and content and evaluating

accessibility and ease of use of alternative voting methods.

- Collecting and providing voter feedback.
- Producing public reports concerning the accessibility of polling places and election related information.