

Mason County Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee Plan



Mason County Elections

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Mason County

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee Plan

In the interest of improving access to voting and voting materials for community members, especially those with disabilities, the Auditor's Office Elections Department and the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee shall take the following steps:

Voting Center, Accessible Voting Unit (AVU), and Ballot Drop Boxes

Voting Center

Mason County conducts all elections by mail. The elections department will be designated as a Vote Center where ballots are issued and where the Accessible Voting Unit (AVU) for individuals with disabilities will be available.

The voting center provides accessibility, privacy and voting independence. The Auditor's Office Election Department meets Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and is accessible to individuals with a full-range of disabilities.

Accessible Voting Unit (AVU)

The Clear Access voting device is the designated AVU for Mason County. It is located in the Auditor's Office Election Department – Vote Center to increase the opportunity for citizens with disabilities to be able to fully participate in the voting process. The Clear Access AVU is available at the Voting Center during business hours, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, beginning at least eighteen days prior to every election and until 8:00 p.m. on election night.

Ballot Boxes

Mason County currently has 12 ballot drop boxes installed throughout the county. Many boxes are either drive-thru or ADA accessible.

Committee members will continue to suggest and review future locations for installing additional ballot drop box locations throughout Mason County.

Ballot drop-box locations:

- **Mason County Offices**, Building 1, 411 N Fifth St, Shelton
 - Box 1-located in the alley-Drive-thru
 - Box 2-located on Pine Street
 - Box 3-Inside the Vote Center
- **Allyn**, Port of Allyn, 18560 E State Route 3, Allyn
- **Belfair**, Timberland Library, 23081 NE State Route 3, Belfair - Drive-thru
- **Dayton**, Fire District No. 16 Station, 4650 W Dayton Airport Rd, Shelton-Drive-thru

- **Grapeview**, Horton Community Center, 4350 Grapeview Loop Rd, Grapeview
- **Hoodsport**, Hood Canal Visitor Center, 150 N Lake Cushman Rd, Hoodsport
- **Kamilche**, Fire District No. 4 Station, 3660 SE Old Olympic Hwy, Shelton
- **Shelton**, Shelton Family YMCA, 3101 N Shelton Springs Rd, Shelton- Drive-thru
- **Skokomish**, Twin Totems Store, 19390 US-101, Skokomish (next to bus stop)
- **Union**, Chevron Station, 1031 E McReavy Rd, Union

Education and Voter Outreach (as staffing allows)

- Prior to every election, the Elections Department will prepare a Voters' Pamphlet that is mailed to every household in the county and is available online and provides information about the voting process including how to get assistance and information about the local candidates and measures on the ballot.
- Provide information regarding our Clear Access voting device (AVU) by posting pertinent information on the Elections website and in the voters' pamphlet.
- Periodically send letters, brochures and visit appropriate organizations in Mason County informing and educating them of the availability of accessible voting for the disabled and demonstrate how the AVU works.
- Visit local agencies and attend events to demonstrate and provide information to the community on voting services for our disabled citizens – Mason County Senior Activities Center, North Mason HUB Center, Exceptional Foresters, Inc., Community Lifeline, KWA Home Care, Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging, etc.
- Improve options for voting to those who are currently homeless or displaced.
- Improve voting opportunities for citizens in the Hispanic Community.
- Conduct registration drives throughout Mason County.
- Encourage others in our community to join the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- Provide large print ballots to voters who are visually impaired – when requested.
- Continue to work with the local League of Women Voters on conducting voter registration drives.
- Implement an annual *Get Out the Disability Vote Week* to include registration events at appropriate locations around the county. This will include public service announcements informing the community of the accessible voting options

available to Mason County residents. This will coincide with the National Disability Voter Registration Week (which is part of the REVUP), sponsored by the American Association of People with Disabilities.

Transportation

- Mason County Elections will provide information about available transportation options to ensure all voters that are underserved and with disabilities have access to voting services.

Definitions:

Accessible Voting Unit (AVU)- voting equipment that allows voters with disabilities to vote as privately and independently as possible.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability

Help America Vote Act (HAVA)- is a United States federal law which passed in 2002. HAVA mandates that all states and localities upgrade many aspects of their election procedures, including their voting machines, registration processes and poll worker training.

Register Educate Vote Use your Power Campaign (REVUP)- is a campaign through the American Association of People with Disabilities' (AAPD) which aims to increase the political participation of the disability community while also engaging candidates and the media on disability issues. REVUP stands for Register! Educate! Vote! Use your Power