

Date Printed: 06/16/2009

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JTS Box Number: IFES\_77  
Tab Number: 41  
Document Title: DC Elections Board Lists Provisions for  
Elderly and Handicapped Voters  
Document Date: 1988  
Document Country: United States --  
District of Columbia  
Document Language: English  
IFES ID: CE02622



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GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS  
DISTRICT BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004-3084

NEWS RELEASE

From the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics  
Contact: Leona Agouridis, 727-2525

October 14, 1988

**D.C. ELECTIONS BOARD LISTS PROVISIONS FOR ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED VOTERS**

D.C. Board of Elections Director Emmett H. Fremaux, Jr. today outlined provisions available to increase voting accessibility for senior citizens and handicapped persons in the November 8th Presidential Election. Services available for elderly and disabled voters include absentee voting, curbside voting, and assistance in voting--in addition to voting accessibility improvements at D.C. polling sites to accomodate voters with physical limitations.

"Since the last presidential election in 1984," Fremaux noted, "the District has greatly expanded its services to elderly and disabled voters. Senior citizens and handicapped persons who have not voted recently will find some favorable changes at their polling site this Election Day."

Each of the District's 140 sites now has designated handicapped parking, wheelchair accessible voting booths, and large-print voting instructions and magnifying glasses for the vision-impaired. Wheelchair ramps have been installed at 64 polling sites, and curb cuts have been constructed at 57 locations as part of a major program to make D.C. polling places barrier-free. For the Presidential election, 120 of 140 voting sites are wheelchair accessible.

- M O R E -

SERVICES FOR VOTERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

Assistance in Voting is available for registered voters who for some reason (arthritis, vision impairment, or reading difficulty, for example) have difficulty casting a ballot. Under D.C. law, voters may request assistance either from a pollworker or from a person of the voter's own choice.

Curbside Voting is available for voters who are driven to the polling site but cannot enter the building because of physical limitations. When notified that a voter would like to "vote curbside", a pollworker will bring a ballot and voting punch to the car and assist the voter as needed.

Absentee Voting is also available for voters who cannot make it to their polling place because of age or disability. To request an absentee ballot, a voter--or assistant--should write to the Board of Elections. **The written request must reach the agency by November 1st** and must include the voter's name, D.C. address, mailing address (if different), reason for voting absentee, and the voter's signature (or mark).

Pamphlets detailing services for elderly and handicapped voters (enclosed) are available for distribution. For more information, the public should call 727-2525 (TDD for the Hearing Impaired: 639-8916).