

U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Commissioner Thomas Hicks

**African American Conference on Disabilities
February 26, 2021**

OUR MISSION

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission helps election officials improve the administration of elections and helps Americans participate in the voting process.

About the EAC

- Distributes, administers and audits the use of HAVA funds – Security, COVID
- Adopts voluntary voting system guidelines, certifies voting systems and accredit testing laboratories
- Develops guidance to meet HAVA requirements
- Serves as a national clearinghouse of information on election administration
- Maintains the National Mail Voter Registration Form

About the EAC



2020 ELECTIONS DISABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND SECURITY FORUM

Workshops

- 2020 elections and voters with disabilities
- Ballot-marking devices
- Proven best practices in voting accessibility
- Vote-by-mail
- Paper ballots
- Cutting-edge assistive voting technology, and
- Polling place access

COVID-19 Working Group Resources

Absentee and Vote by Mail

- Vote By Mail/Absentee Voting Timeline
- The Importance of Accurate Voter Data When Expanding Absentee or Mail Ballot Voting
- Helping Voters to Request a Mail-in Ballot
- Managing an Increase in Outbound Ballots
- The Inbound Ballot Process
- Election Education and Outreach for Increased Absentee or Mail Voting
- Electronic Ballot Delivery and Marking
- Ballot Drop Boxes
- Signature Verification and Cure Process

In-Person Voting

- Finding Voting Locations and Poll Workers
- Considerations for Modifying the Scale of In-Person Voting
- Health and Safety at the Polling Place
- Safeguarding Staff and Work Environment from COVID-19

U.S. Election Assistance Commission and Rutgers University

Disability and Voting Accessibility in the 2020 Elections:
Progress made, but obstacles persist for voters with
disabilities

Dr. Lisa Schur, Director, Program for Disability Research

Dr. Douglas Kruse, Director, Program for Disability Research

Survey Description

- National sample based on randomly-selected citizens eligible to vote in 2020 elections
- Total sample size of all participants: 2,569
 - Disability Sample: 1,782
 - Non-disability Sample: 787

Key Results

Voters with disabilities reported the following:

- Difficulty voting: 1 in 9 voters
- Difficulty voting in-person: 18%
- Difficulty voting by mail: 5%
- Voting difficulties most common among people with vision and cognitive impairments.
- Difficulty voting by mail with vision impairments: 22%

Key Results (continued)

- Assistance or problems encountered using mail ballot: 14%
- Voted independently without difficulty: 83%
- Voted by mail or early in-person: ~ 75%
- Voter turnout: 7% lower than people without disabilities of the same age

Contact Us

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