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
  o Disability Sample: 1,782
  o Non-disability Sample: 787
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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