



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

Susan J. Beals
Commissioner

March 20, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Julie Triplett, disAbility Law Center of Virginia
Julie.Triplett@dlev.org

Dear Julie Triplett,

Thank you for the opportunity for the Virginia Department of Elections to provide comment on the disAbility Law Center of Virginia's 2023 polling place accessibility survey.

The Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT) and Virginia's elections community are committed to ensuring that all qualified voters have equal access to cast their ballots. In 2023, the disability Law Center of Virginia (dLCV) provided ELECT with the results of their 2022 survey of polling place accessibility, showing the need for improved accessibility. In response, ELECT took steps to provide increased training and resources to Virginia's general registrars and local electoral boards. These efforts included but were not limited to:

- Improvements to ELECT's website for screen reader compatibility
- Accessibility training for general registrars and local electoral boards
- Updated and revised guidance documents and forms

The dLCV's 2023 survey of polling places of the 2023 November General Election demonstrated that improvements were made in several areas such as:

- From 80% to 92% of sites surveyed had appropriate curbside voting signs
- From 82.5% to 87% of sites surveyed had accessible parking closest to the entrance
- From 87% to 88% of sites surveyed had accessible pathways leading to the entrance
- From 79% to 86% of sites surveyed had accessible doors

While there are always ways to improve accessibility, ELECT feels confident that voters will find their polling places and ELECT's website more accessible in 2024. Thus, ELECT will continue to monitor accessibility both internally and externally, and is committed to making the following efforts over the next year:

- ELECT will provide quick reference accessibility resource lists for general registrars and local Electoral Boards
- ELECT will make efforts to increase the accessibility of its online training courses
- ELECT will explore opportunities to increase voter materials on accessibility such as posters and pamphlets
- ELECT has invited dLCV to conduct a presentation at the Virginia Elections Workshop conference in July 2024

Accessibility remains a top priority for ELECT and local election officials in providing accurate, fair, open, and secure elections to the citizens of the Commonwealth. ELECT looks forward to future collaborations with dLCV.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Beals". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Beals

Commissioner, Virginia Department of Elections