

Health & Human Services Accessibility

HAVA Grants in North Carolina

Gary O. Bartlett
Executive Director

North Carolina State Board of Elections

January 2010

919.715.1827

gary.bartlett@ncsbe.gov

www.sboe.state.nc.us

This was presented at the Winter Conference of the National Association of State Elections Directors (NASED), January, 2010 in Washington, DC.

CONTENTS:

THE ROLE OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS AS TO ACCESSIBILITY	page 2
FEDERAL VOTING ACTS PERTAINING TO ACCESSIBILITY	page 2
VAEHA	page 2
ADA	page 2
NVRA	page 2
HAVA	page 3
HAVA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES GRANTS	page 4
ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF ELECTIONS	page 5
FIGURE 1	page 6
FIGURE 2	page 10
FIGURE 3	page 19
FIGURE 4	page 22
FIGURE 5	page 23
EFFECTIVENESS OF EFFORTS BY THE NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF ELECTIONS	page 24

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A BOARD OF ELECTIONS AS TO ACCESSIBILITY?

- **Requiring Accessible Polling Places:** Polling Sites are required to be accessible. Voters with disabilities may require removal of barriers at polling places or registration sites in order to make the voting program accessible to them.
- **Obtaining Accommodations as to the Voting Procedure:** Voters may need accommodations for a mental or physical disability when actually registering to vote or casting a ballot on a voting system.
- **Ensuring Designation of Voter Registration Agencies and Provision of Voter Registration Assistance:** States designate as voter registration agencies the state-funded offices that provide disability services, such as community mental health centers and vocational rehabilitation agencies. Those agencies provide appropriate registration opportunities and assistance to clients as required by the NVRA.

THE VOTING ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED ACT OF 1984 (VAEHA):

The VAEHA, 42 USC § 1973ee *et seq*, effective January 1, 1986, applies to federal elections (elections where candidates for federal offices are on the ballot). VAEHA requires each political subdivision responsible for conducting elections to assure that all polling sites for federal elections are accessible to voters with disabilities and voters 65 and older.

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1991 (ADA):

Title II of the ADA, 42 USC § 12132, provides that public entities may not exclude or deny qualified individuals with disabilities the benefits of their programs, services or activities. Four regulations are particularly relevant in the context of voting:

- Reasonable modification,
- Criteria that screen out people with disabilities,
- Program Access, and
- Site Selection.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT OF 1993 (NVRA)

Among other things the NVRA, or “motor-voter law,” requires states to designate as voter registration agencies

1. All offices that are primarily engaged in providing disability services and which receive state funds, and
2. All offices that provide public assistance.

These are known as “mandatory” voter registration agencies. Such agencies must make available to their clients voter registration forms and assistance in completing them. Also, they must accept completed applications and transmit them to state elections officials.

HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002 (HAVA)

HAVA deals with making voting systems accessible, making polling places accessible, training poll workers as to accessibility issues, and providing voting information to disabled voters. HAVA distributes to the states Title I funds under 42 USC § 15301 (Section 101 of HAVA) to be used, among other things, for “...(G) Improving the accessibility and quantity of polling places, including providing physical access for individuals with disabilities, providing non-visual access for individuals with visual impairments,...”

42 USC § 15481(a)(3) (Section 301 of HAVA) requires voting systems to be equipped for voters with disabilities, which allows such voters to have the same opportunity for access and participation non-disabled voters have. Also, this statute mandates that every precinct must have at least one (1) accessible voting machine available for use by voters with special needs by January 1, 2006:

- Direct Record Electronic (DRE) – Touchscreen; Audio cue capacity for Visually Impaired voters,
- Optical Scan – Supplemented by Ballot Marking Device (AutoMark)
- Paper Ballots – Not accessible

ACCESS TO VOTING PLACES BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

If a voter cannot access a polling place because of physical barriers, there is no way that the “voting system” located in that location is accessible and provides for the same opportunity for access and participation to person as for other voters as required by 42 USC § 15481(a)(3) (Section 301 of HAVA). Therefore, precincts must provide access on a permanent or temporary basis on election day or one-stop absentee voting. Curbside voting, voting assistance and absentee voting, all required by North Carolina law, offer options that persons with disabilities may use to vote, **but they are not considered substitutes for federal accessibility mandates.**

HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT (HAVA) HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES GRANTS

42 USC § 15421 (Section 261 of HAVA) provides funding for grants administered by the US Department of Health and Human Services (H&HS) to:

1. Make polling places, including the path of travel, entrances, exits, and voting areas of each polling facility, accessible to individuals with disabilities, including the blind and visually impaired, in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) as for other voters; and
2. Provide individuals with disabilities and the other individuals described in paragraph one (1) with information about the accessibility of polling places, including outreach programs to inform the individuals about the availability of accessible polling places and training elections officials, poll workers, and elections volunteers on how best to promote the access and participation of individuals with disabilities in elections for Federal office.

42 USC § 15461 (Section 291 of HAVA) also requires that H&HS give grants to protection and advocacy systems [as defined in Section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 USC § 15002)] of each State “to ensure full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities, including registering to vote, casting a vote and accessing polling places.” Smaller grants will be made available to eligible entities to provide training and technical assistance with respect to the activities carried out under this section.

WHAT THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS (NC SBOE) HAS DONE

In 1997, Mr. Gary Bartlett, the Executive Director of the NC SBOE, sat on the board of the Elections Center. At that time, the Center assisted with training materials and presentations for local boards of elections. From 1998-2002, Mr. Bartlett was the chair of the National Task Force on Accessible Elections. In his capacity as co-chair, Mr. Bartlett helped oversee the creation of an updated guide entitled Voting: A Constitutional Right for All Citizens, which was originally published by the National Organization on Disability.

During that time, under Mr. Bartlett's guidance, the North Carolina State Board of Elections created and produced two videos. The videos can be viewed from the NC SBOE website using the provided links.

- *Accessible Precincts Mean Accessible Elections*
ftp://www.app.sboe.state.nc.us/video/Accessible_Precincts_10min.wmv
<ftp://www.app.sboe.state.nc.us/video/Accessible%20Precincts%2040min.wmv>
- *Ensuring Equal Access for All Voters.*
ftp://www.app.sboe.state.nc.us/video/Ensuring%20Equal%20Access_med_quality.wmv

These videos have been used nationally since 2000. Starting in the late 1990's, the NC SBOE has consistently emphasized accessibility trainings to its local boards of elections and offered trainings to non-profit and advocacy groups as well. Starting in 2004, with the advent of HAVA funding, and continuing:

- Provided a \$1.3 million grant fund to counties for accessibility issues from HAVA Title I monies. An additional \$300,000 in H&HS HAVA funds were also used for this purpose.
- The County Boards of Elections under the direction of the State Board surveyed and photographed every North Carolina polling place as to accessibility needs.
- The surveys were used to make grants to County Boards to improve polling place accessibility.
- The photos were later posted on the State Board's website for use by voters.
- Each polling location used by a county is subject to an accessibility preparations checklist.

(Figure 1)

FIGURE 1: NORTH CAROLINA ACCESSIBILITY PREPARATIONS CHECKLIST

North Carolina Accessibility Preparations Checklist

Administrative Oversight

1. Have pertinent federal laws which affect accessibility been researched for an understanding of requirements? *(Included are The Voting Rights Act, The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act, The National Voter Registration Act of 1993, The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, The Rehabilitation Act of 1993, and HAVA.)* () Yes () No
2. Have individual state requirements been addressed? () Yes () No
3. Are alternative formats available on voter information, sample ballots, and websites? () Yes () No
4. Are forms available in alternative formats? () Yes () No
5. Have specific language requirements been identified? () Yes () No
6. Has staff received training and education on serving voters with special needs? () Yes () No
7. Have resources been identified for ordering special equipment to make polling places accessible? () Yes () No

Polling Place Accessibility

Polling Place Approach

People with disabilities should be able to approach and enter the polling place as freely as everyone else. At least one route of travel should be accessible for everyone, including people with disabilities.

Parking and Drop-Off Areas

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that if parking is provided for non-disabled people, at least one accessible parking space be provided for every 25 regular parking spaces.

1. Does the parking area have spaces designated for disabilities? () Yes () No
 - A. Number of accessible spaces required _____
 - B. Number of accessible spaces available _____
2. Do the accessible spaces measure 12 feet wide, with a 5-foot aisle and 98 inches of vertical clearance? () Yes () No
3. How many of these spaces are van accessible? _____
4. Are the access aisles a part of the accessible route to the accessible entrance? () Yes () No
5. Are the accessible spaces closest to the polling area? () Yes () No
6. Are accessible spaces marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility? () Yes () No
7. Is the parking area paved? () Yes () No If it is not paved how will it be made compliant?
8. Are there notable bumps, cracks or potholes on the pavement that would make it difficult for someone with a disability to maneuver? () Yes () No

Route of Travel

1. Is there a route of travel that does not require the use of stairs? () Yes () No
2. Is the route stable, firm and slip resistant? () Yes () No
3. Is the entrance route at least 36 inches wide, or if the route is an emergency escape route, is it 44 inches wide? () Yes () No
4. Can a person with a visual disability using a cane detect all objects protruding into the route? () Yes () No
5. Do curbs on the route have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs? () Yes () No

Ramps

1. Are there steps to enter the polling place? () Yes () No
If so, are there ramps for persons with disabilities to access the entrance? () Yes () No
2. Are the slopes of ramps no greater than 1:12? () Yes () No
3. Do all ramps longer than 6 feet, or with a rise greater than 6 inches, have railings on both sides? () Yes () No
4. Is the ramp at least 36 inches wide? () Yes () No
5. Are railings sturdy and are the tops of railings between 34 and 38 inches high? () Yes () No
6. Is there an 18-inch extension of the handrail at the top and bottom of the ramp? () Yes () No
7. If the ramp is 30 ft. or more, does it have a resting platform that is at least 60 inches long and as wide as the ramp? () Yes () No
8. Are the ramps non-slip? () Yes () No

Entrance to Polling Place and Polling Room

Entrance

1. If there are stairs at the main entrance with no ramp or lift, is there an alternative accessible entrance?
() Yes () No
2. Do all inaccessible public entrances have signs indicating the location of the nearest accessible entrance?
() Yes () No
3. Can the alternate entrance be used independently? () Yes () No
4. Is the headroom in the pathway 80 inches or higher from the surface? () Yes () No
5. Does the entrance door have at least 32 inches clear opening? () Yes () No
6. Are there at least 24 inches of clear wall space on the pull side of the door, next to the handle? () Yes () No
7. Is the threshold level (less than ¼ inch high) or beveled (up to ½ inch high)? () Yes () No
8. Are doormats ½ inch high or less and securely installed to minimize tripping? () Yes () No
9. Is there enough space before and after the door to allow for maneuvering space for voters in wheelchairs?
() Yes () No
10. Is the door hardware located no higher than 48 inches from the floor so that someone can reach the knob or lever from a seated position? () Yes () No
11. Is the door handle operable with a closed fist? () Yes () No
12. Can exterior doors be opened without too much force (maximum 8.5 lbs)? () Yes () No
13. If the door has a closer, does it take at least 3 seconds to close? () Yes () No

Horizontal Circulation/Maneuverability within the Space

1. Does the accessible building provide direct access to the polling place? () Yes () No
2. Does the interior accessible route of travel lead to the polling area? () Yes () No
3. Is the interior accessible route to all polling areas at least 36 inches wide? () Yes () No
4. Is there a 5-foot circle or T-shaped space for a person to using a wheelchair to reverse direction when maneuvering within or exiting the polling place? () Yes () No
5. Is the path of travel free from barriers, including removable mats and rugs? () Yes () No
6. Are there protruding objects (such as fire extinguishers) mounted on the wall? () Yes () No
Can these items be relocated so they would not be an obstruction/barrier? () Yes () No
If not, can another object be placed under the item to prevent voters with visual disabilities from running into the protruding objects? () Yes () No

Interior Doors

1. Do interior doors have at least a 32 inch clear opening? () Yes () No
2. Do the doors exiting the polling place and polling rooms, if separate from the entrance, have at least a 32 inch clear opening? () Yes () No
3. On the pull side of the polling place doors, if separate from the entrance, are there at least 24 inches of clear wall space next to the handle so that a person using a wheelchair or crutches can get near to open the door? () Yes () No
4. Can interior doors be opened without too much force (maximum 5 lbs on interior doors)? () Yes () No
5. Are interior door handles 48 inches high or less and operable with a closed fist? () Yes () No
6. Are all interior threshold levels (less than ¼ inch high) or beveled (up to 1.2 inch high)? () Yes () No

Signs

1. Are the signs designating path of travel and/or voting area understandable, visible, and easy to read? () Yes () No
2. Do signs directing voters to the polling room comply with the appropriate requirements for engraved or raised Braille signage? () Yes () No
Do all signs meet legibility requirements regarding contrast and character proportion? () Yes () No
3. Are voting instructions printed in large type conspicuously displayed at each polling place and each permanent registration facility? () Yes () No
4. Are instructions posted at eye level for all voters? () Yes () No
5. Can an individual with limited vision walk up to the sign and read it using a magnifying glass? () Yes () No
6. Are magnifying glasses available? () Yes () No
7. Are there communication devices readily available (such as pen and paper) for hearing impaired and speech impaired voters? () Yes () No
8. Have you provided signature guides for the registration table? () Yes () No

Voting Booth Entrance and Maneuverability

Polling Rooms and Voting Surfaces

1. Are all aisles and pathways in the polling room and to the voting booth at least 36 inches wide? () Yes () No
2. Is there enough space within the polling room to accommodate voting booths that allow a 5 foot circle or T-shaped space for turning a wheelchair completely in and around the voting booth? () Yes () No
3. Is carpeting low-pile, tightly woven, and securely attached around the edges? () Yes () No
4. Are all obstacles in routes within the polling room cane detectible? () Yes () No

Seats, Tables and Counters/Voting Stations

1. Are the tables or countertops of accessible voting surfaces at least 30 inches wide? () Yes () No
2. Are the knee spaces at accessible voting stations at least 27 inches high (from the lowest hardware underneath), 30 inches wide and 19 inches deep? () Yes () No
3. Do the voting booths/tables offer the same level of privacy to voters with disabilities as to all other voters? () Yes () No
4. Are there devices to aid individuals with a visual disability vote (e.g. magnifiers, audio units, Braille ballot sleeves)? () Yes () No

Vertical Circulation: Split and Upper Levels

1. In order to access the polling area and/or the voting booths, must voters travel above ground level?
() Yes () No
2. Are there ramps or elevators to all levels? () Yes () No
3. On each level, if there are stairs and/or elevators between the entrance and voting areas which must be used to access the polling room and/or voting area, is there an accessible route? () Yes () No

Stairs

1. In order to access the polling area, must voters travel above the first floor? () Yes () No
2. Do treads have a non-slip surface? () Yes () No
3. Do stairs have continuous handrails on both sides, with a 12 inch handrail extension beyond the top and bottom stairs? () Yes () No

Elevators

1. Does the polling place use elevators in the path of travel to the voting area? () Yes () No
2. Are there both visible and verbal or audible door openings/closings and floor indicators (one tone = up, two tones = down)? () Yes () No
3. Are the call buttons in the hallway no higher than 42 inches? () Yes () No
4. Do the controls outside and inside the cab have raised Braille lettering? () Yes () No
5. Is there a sign in large print and Braille letters on the jamb at each floor indicating the floor level? () Yes () No
6. If an emergency intercom is provided, is it usable without voice communication? () Yes () No
7. Is the emergency intercom identified by Braille and raised letters? () Yes () No

Lifts

1. Does your polling place use lifts in the path of travel to the voting area? () Yes () No
2. Is the lift operational? () Yes () No
3. Can the lift be used without assistance? () Yes () No
4. Are there at least 30 by 48 inches of clear L-shaped space in front of the control panel so that a person in a wheelchair may approach and reach the controls and use the lift? () Yes () No
5. Are controls between 35 and 48 inches high? () Yes () No
6. If the lift is key operated, is there easy access to the key? () Yes () No

Curbside Voting

1. Do you have curbside voting in place? () Yes () No
2. Do you have a poll worker stationed at or near the curbside voting area at all times? () Yes () No
If no, how are poll workers notified upon arrival of the voter needing curbside assistance?

Poll Workers

1. Have poll workers been given training or information on voters with disabilities? () Yes () No
2. Has there been sensitivity training? () Yes () No
3. Can the poll workers demonstrate and operate the available accessibility equipment (including accessibility features on the voting system itself) at the polling place for voters with disabilities? () Yes () No
4. Have poll workers been trained to serve voters with language needs? () Yes () No
What about illiterate voters? () Yes () No

Since 2004 and continuing today, the NC SBOE has awarded over \$1,800,000 in direct grants to 97 counties to improve accessibility to polling locations and accessibility within polling places. The sources of these funds were both the H&HS HAVA funds and Title I HAVA funds. Currently, the NC SBOE only uses the H&HS HAVA funds to fund county grant requests. Grants are made for accessibility aids also. (Figure 2)

FIGURE 2: ACCESSIBILITY GRANT PROGRAM OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS



North Carolina State Board of Elections
Polling Place Accessibility Grants Program
July, 2009



Grant Application Guidelines

The purpose of this grant is to set forth the requirements that must be met by each county seeking use of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funding in order to make all polling places accessible to voters with the full range of disabilities (according to Section 261 of HAVA).

North Carolina has received HAVA DHHS grant funds to be used to make polling places 100% accessible and ADA compliant. These funds will be distributed to the counties based on their grant application and availability of funds. The guidelines and stipulations set forth below must be followed. All funding and expenditures will be subject to state and federal audits.

The funds are to be used to:

- a. Make polling places accessible to individuals with the full range of disabilities (e.g., impairments involving visual, hearing, mobility, dexterity, or elderly) by establishing or improving parking, paths of travel, door hardware, entrances, exits, and voting areas through the use of varied accessibility tools. (e.g., ramps, handrails, magnifying lenses, devices to alert curbside voters)
- b. Provide the same opportunity for access and participation for individuals with the full range of disabilities (e.g., privacy and independence) by implementing solutions that will create equal service and improved sensitivity.

Guidelines

1. Accessibility funds for permanent improvements on buildings or property will generally only be granted for publicly owned buildings/property. Funding for private facility improvement will be considered on a case by case basis based upon the following:
 - a. There is no public solution,
 - b. There is no other suitable private solution,
 - c. The county or a government entity agrees to contribute public funds for use as part of the cost of the proposed accessibility improvements, and
 - d. County Board of Elections and owner agree in a written document that this is a long term solution for at least two federal elections.
2. Funds CANNOT be used for anything other than accessibility.
3. A detailed plan of expenditure needs must be included with the survey.
4. All expenditures must be specific and well documented; a detailed report of all funding will be required, until the money is either spent or returned.
5. Under no circumstances are these funds to be supplanted from the County Board of Elections budget by the county governing body or budget office.
6. Counties who provide matching funds to make permanent changes will be given priority in grant approvals.



COUNTY GRANT APPLICATION FORM

For Accessible Polling Places

July, 2009 Version

COUNTY NAME: _____ NO. PRECINCTS: _____

PHONE: _____ Email _____

PERSON COMPLETING APPLICATION: _____

PERMANENT ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

(Only for public buildings)

Polling Location	Proposed Improvement	Cost

(Continue on additional pages if needed)

TEMPORARY ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Product	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Total Cost
Parking Signage			
Directional Signage			
Other Signage			
Portable Ramps (list sizes)			

Product	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Total Cost
Threshold Ramps (list sizes)			
Handrails			
Door Hardware			
Curbside Assistance Alert			
Path of Travel (planks for gravel lots, etc)			
Offset Hinges (to widen doors)			
Doorstops (to prop interior doors open)			
Other (please list)			

(Continue on additional pages if needed)

INTERIOR/VOTING PROCESS ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Product	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Total Cost
Magnifying Glasses			
Accessible Tables			
Hearing Aids			
Curtains/Privacy Aids			
Other (please list)			

(Continue on additional pages if needed)

A report of expended funds must be provided to the State Board of Elections. Provide the name of the County Financial Officer responsible for the accounting of funds:

COUNTY FINANCIAL OFFICER PHONE EMAIL

COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS CHAIR DATE



PRECINCT GRANT FORM

Polling Place Accessibility

PRECINCT NAME (list ENRS name): _____

COUNTY: _____

PERSON COMPLETING FORM: _____

TITLE OF PERSON COMPLETING FORM: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

PRECINCT ITEMIZATION OF REQUEST

Proposed Improvement (brief description)	Quantity	Cost

(Continue on additional pages if needed)

SIGNATURE (OF PERSON COMPLETING FORM)

DATE



**North Carolina State Board of Elections
Polling Place Accessibility Grants Program**



July, 2009

Grant Application Agreement

The purpose of this grant is the use of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Health and Human Services funding in order to make all polling places accessible to voters with the full range of disabilities (according to Section 261 of HAVA).

_____ County has been given a grant of _____ based upon the information contained in your grant application.

The grant funds are to be used to:

- a. Make polling places accessible to individuals with the full range of disabilities (e.g., impairments involving vision, hearing, mobility, dexterity, or elderly) by establishing or improving parking, paths of travel, door hardware, entrances, exits, and voting areas through the use of varied accessibility tools. (e.g., ramps, handrails, magnifying lenses, devices to alert curbside voters) as per the proposals in your grant application.
- b. Provide the same opportunity for access and participation for individuals with the full range of disabilities (e.g., privacy and independence) by implementing solutions that will create equal service and improved sensitivity as per the proposals in your grant application.

These grant funds can be used only for the purpose for which the grant was awarded, and used only as requested in your grant request. If there is a need to spend these funds for accessibility purposes other than the way described in your grant application, you must contact the State Board office prior to the expenditure of such funds for approval of the proposed spending.

The source of the grant you have received is an EAID H&HS HAVA grant. Both the State Board of Elections and you have HAVA responsibilities both as to spending the funds for their intended purposes and tracking such expenditures for audit purposes as set out below. By accepting this grant, you agree to document all expenditures by noting dates, purposes, and locations. In addition, receipts must be obtained for all such expenditures. Receipts should be submitted with your Financial Report, due 90 days after the date of this agreement. Your records may or may not be subject to audit.

Acceptance of the grant funds and the signature below of the county board chairperson is an agreement to spend such funds as per your grant application, this document, and to abide by the audit requirements of HAVA.

Date

Chairperson, _____ County Board of Elections

SEC. 902. AUDITS AND REPAYMENT OF FUNDS.

(a) Recordkeeping Requirement.--Each recipient of a grant or other payment made under this Act shall keep such records with respect to the payment as are consistent with sound accounting principles, including records which fully disclose the amount and disposition by such recipient of funds, the total cost of the project or undertaking for which such funds are used, and the amount of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources, and such other records as will facilitate an effective audit.

(b) Audits and Examinations.--

(1) Audits and examinations.--Except as provided in paragraph (5), each office making a grant or other payment under this Act, or any duly authorized representative of such office, may audit or examine any recipient of the grant or payment and shall have access for the purpose of audit and examination to any books, documents, papers, and records of the recipient which in the opinion of the entity may be related or pertinent to the grant or payment.

(2) Recipients of assistance subject to provisions of this section.-- The provisions of this section shall apply to all recipients of grants or other payments under this Act, whether by direct grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this Act or by subgrant or subcontract from primary grantees or contractors under this Act.

(3) Mandatory audit.--In addition to audits conducted pursuant to paragraph (1), all funds provided under this Act shall be subject to mandatory audit by the Comptroller General at least once during the lifetime of the program involved. For purposes of an audit under this paragraph, the Comptroller General shall have access to books, documents, papers, and records of recipients of funds in the same manner as the office making the grant or payment involved has access to such books, documents, papers, and records under paragraph (1).

(4) Special rule for payments by general services administration.--With respect to any grant or payment made under this Act by the Administrator of General Services, the Election Assistance Commission shall be deemed to be the office making the grant or payment for purposes of this section.

(5) Special rule.--In the case of grants or payments made under section 251, audits and examinations conducted under paragraph (1) shall be performed on a regular basis (as determined by the Commission).

(6) Special rules for audits by the commission.--In addition to the audits described in paragraph (1), the Election Assistance Commission may conduct a special audit or special examination of a recipient described in paragraph (1) upon a vote of the Commission.

(c) Recoupment of Funds.--If the Comptroller General determines as a result of an audit conducted under subsection (b) that--

(1) a recipient of funds under this Act is not in compliance with each of the requirements of the program under which the funds are provided; or

(2) an excess payment has been made to the recipient under the program,
the recipient shall pay to the office which made the grant or payment involved a portion of the funds provided which reflects the proportion of the requirements with which the recipient is not in compliance, or the extent to which the payment is in excess, under the program involved.



STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

6400 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6400

GARY O. BARTLETT
Executive Director

Mailing Address:
P.O. BOX 27255
RALEIGH, NC 27611-7255
(919) 733-7173
FAX (919) 715-0135

Financial Report for HHS Grant

Submit a separate report for each precinct/polling place. All Reports are due no later than 90 days after the Grant Acceptance Agreement.

County _____ Precinct Name: _____
Total # of Precincts in county _____ Polling Place Name: _____
Street: _____
City, State, Zip: _____

Please complete all of the information requested and write N/A if not applicable to your county.

- 1) How much HHS Accessibility funding did you receive? _____
- 2) Did you receive any accessibility funding or contributions from any other sources? _____
If so, list the source and the amount _____
- 3) Have all HHS Grant funds been expended? _____
 - a. If not, how much has been spent? _____
 - b. And how much is remaining? _____
(If there are unspent funds, send a check for that amount to State Board of Elections no later than 12/30/08)
- 4) Have all repairs and/or purchases been completed? _____
- 5) Is this precinct location compliant after use of funds? _____
- 6) How many precincts in all are compliant after use of funds? _____

Comments: _____

Financial Report, page 2

[illegible]

* Please attach receipts for all purchases.

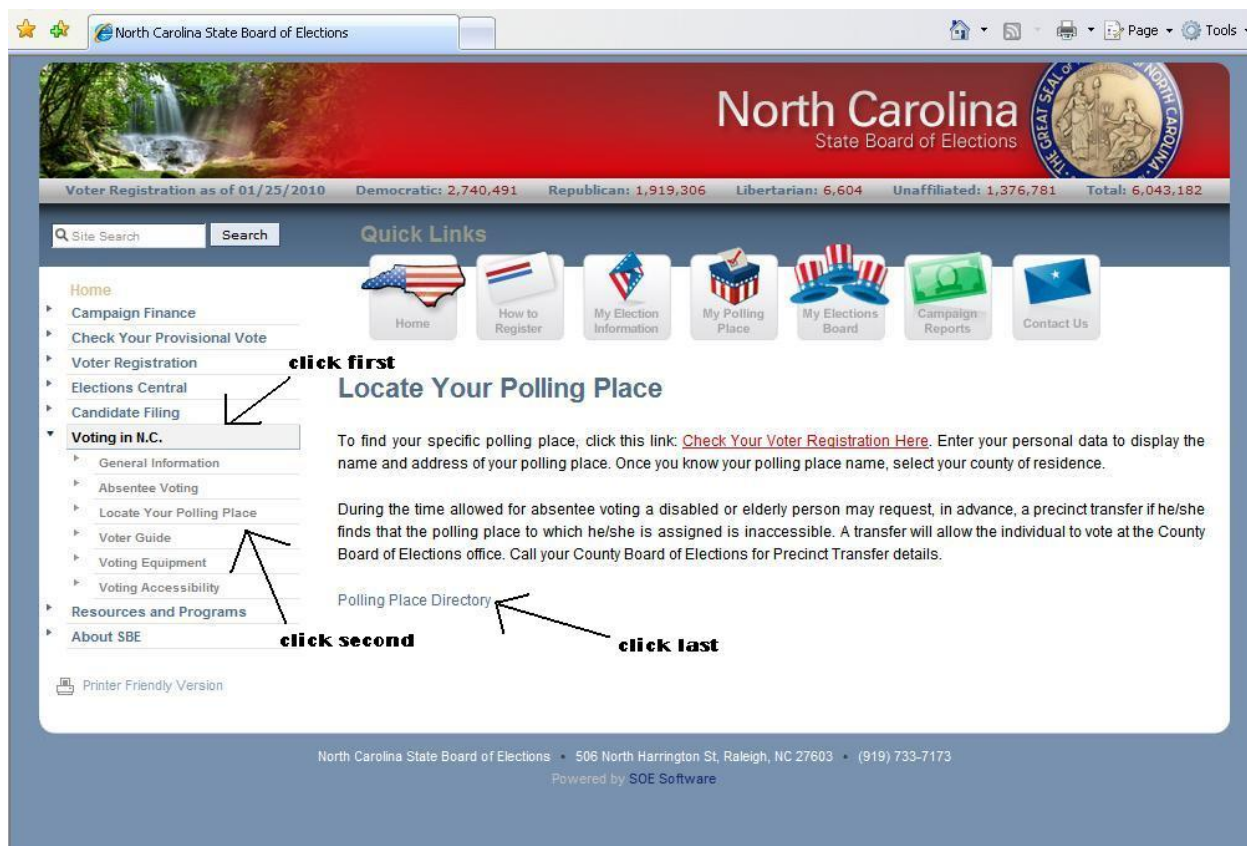
CBE Director's Name

CBE Director's Signature

Date _____

Placed on the NC SBOE website (www.sboe.state.nc.us) under the link “Voting in NC” are the required digital pictures of every polling place in North Carolina regarding pathways to the location, accessibility from outside, and accessibility within each polling site. Voters can click on these photos when they locate their precincts to better plan their voting trip around accessibility issues. That link is http://www.app.sboe.state.nc.us/webapps/pollingplace_search/. (Figure 3)

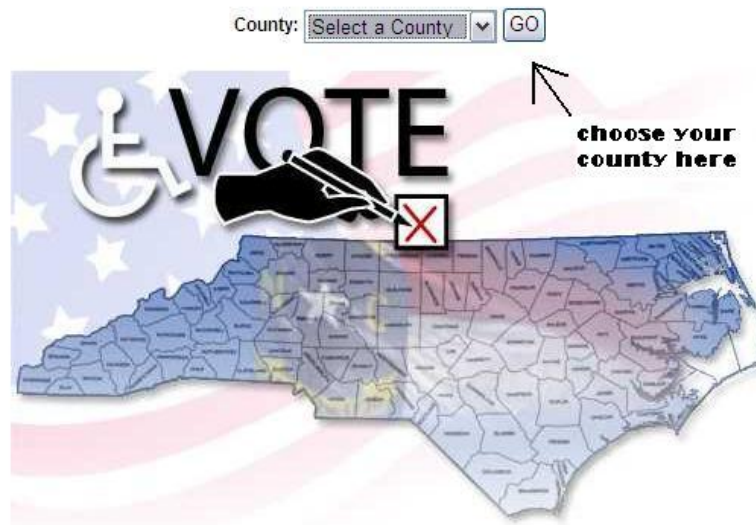
FIGURE 3: POLLING PLACE PHOTOGRAPHS ON THE NC SBOE WEBSITE



Accessibility North Carolina Polling Places

To find your polling place, click this link ["Find Your Polling Place Here"](#).
Enter your personal data to display the name and address of your polling place. Once you know your polling place name, select your county of residence.

During the time allowed for absentee voting a disabled or elderly person may request, in advance, a precinct transfer if he/she finds that the polling place to which he/she is assigned is inaccessible. A transfer will allow the individual to vote at the County Board of Elections office. Call your County Board of Elections for Precinct Transfer details.



If you do not know your specific polling location, the link "Find Your Polling Place Here" will give you that information.

Here, you will choose your county of residence and follow the directions to choose your precinct and polling location.

In the example used in the following pictures, Wake County was chosen.

The pictures you will see when you do this exercise will be photographs of your polling location in your county.

This screen will show a photo of your County Board of Elections office, the street address, phone and email contact information, and the hours of operation.

If you have questions about your polling location, staff at the County Board of Elections office will be happy to assist you.

WAKE COUNTY

Precinct:

Please select a polling place to view photographs and details of individual polling places in this county.

Call your county board of elections office for polling place details.

Enter your precinct name here

Wake County Board of Elections

337 S Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
Phone: 919-856-6240
Fax: 919-856-5864
Email: WAKE.boe@ncmail.net
Business Hours: M-F (8:30-5:15)



Wake County Board of Elections Office

[Return to Accessibility North Carolina](#)

WAKE COUNTY

Click on a thumbnail to view a larger image.

HOLLY SPRINGS CULTURAL Precinct: 06-08 CENTER

300 W BALLENTINE ST
HOLLY SPRINGS, NC 27540



**address of your
polling location**

**clicking on
each picture
will give you
a larger
image to
study.**



EXTERIOR



ENTRANCE



INTERIOR PATHWAY



ENCLOSURE



PARKING AND PATHWAY

[Return to County Page](#)

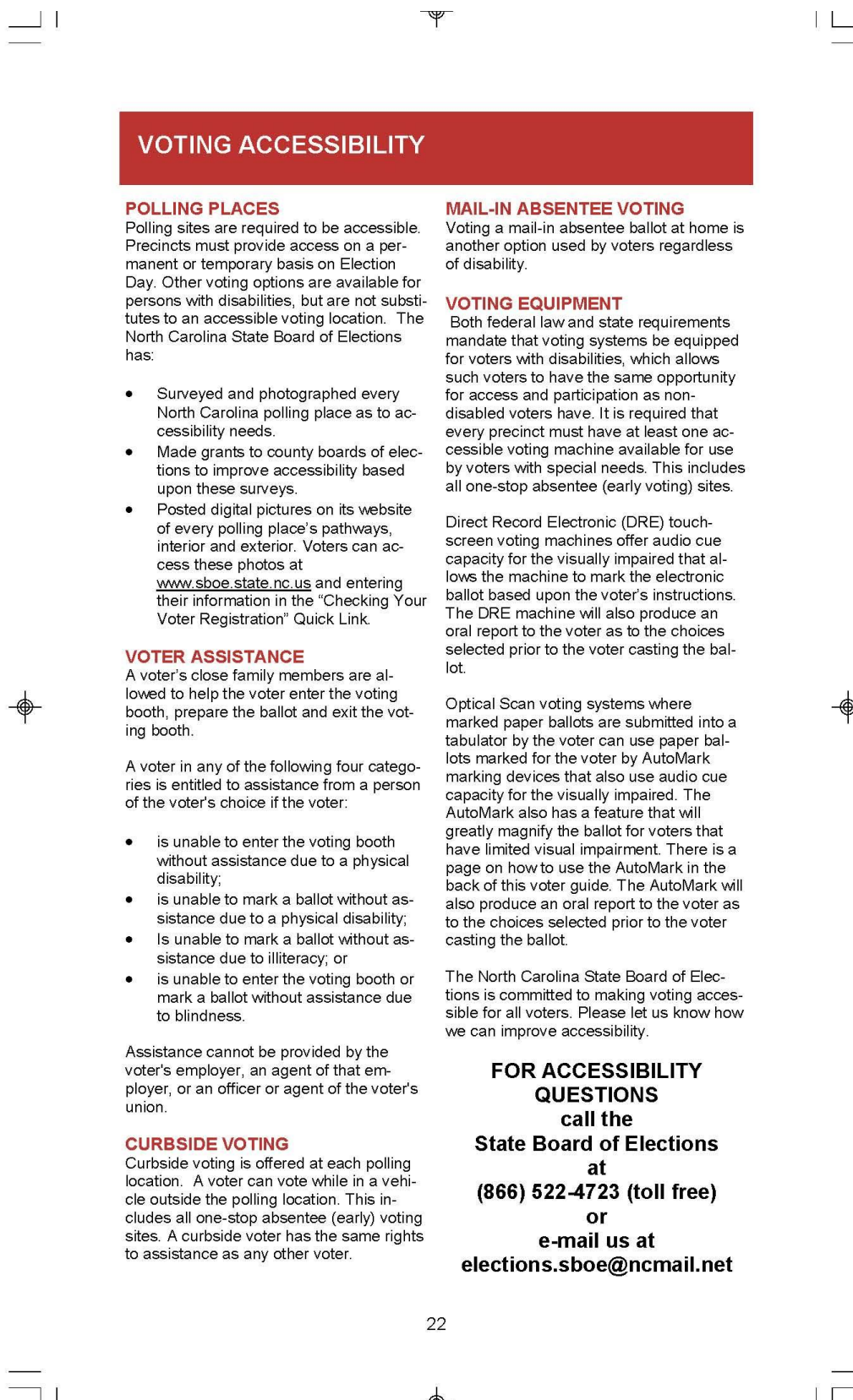
Each of the above images gives a view of the path a person would travel to vote at this particular precinct. By clicking on the images, you can study each aspect close-up prior to the day you go to cast your ballot.

In 2007 and 2008, the NC SBOE conducted five (5) workshops in various locations across the state to present issues as to accessibility, have Q&A sessions, and to demonstrate the accessibility features of voting systems. Disability associations, advocacy groups and media were invited. This was funded by H&HS grants. However, the turnout for these workshops was disappointing even though great effort was made to contact interested parties and publicize the events.

Voting accessibility training is included in the required county poll worker trainings. Additionally, accessibility training is conducted in at least one of the quarterly statewide training sessions for county election directors and staff. These trainings have been supplemented by three (3) voting accessibility training videos produced by the NC SBOE in 2001. Those videos now are used in many parts of the country.

A full page on voter accessibility has been included in the past two (2) NC Voter Guides, which are sent to around four (4) million NC households. The cost of the extra page was paid for by H&HS HAVA funds. (Figure 4)

FIGURE 4: VOTING ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION IN THE NC VOTER GUIDE:



Also, there is a Voter Accessibility information page on the NC SBOE website, <http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/content.aspx?id=57>. (Figure 5) The NC SBOE has established a close and cooperative relationship with Disability NC, the P&A for the disabled in our state. They are allowed to inspect polling locations and make suggestions for improving accessibility.

FIGURE 5: ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION FOUND ON THE NC SBOE WEBSITE:



EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NC SBOE EFFORTS ON VOTER ACCESSIBILITY IN NC

- **Most Effective:** Direct Grants to counties, allowing them to make immediate improvements to accessibility of polling locations
- **Very Effective:** Cooperation with the disability P&A for our state, Disability Rights North Carolina
- **Effective:** Required poll worker training
- **Effective:** Accessibility pictures of polling locations and voting accessibility information page on our website
- **Effective:** Direct grants to counties for accessibility aids
- **Effective:** Accessibility information in the NC Voter Guide
- **Least Effective:** Workshops